African Union 2012 High Level Retreat of Special Envoys and Mediators

TRANSFORMING THE AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY CONTEXT IN THE NEXT DECADE:
APPRaisal AND OPPORTUNITIES

5-6 NOVEMBER 2012

Cairo, Egypt

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday, 5 November September 2012

09:00 – 10:00 OPENING SESSION:

Opening Remarks:  H.E. Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner, Peace and Security
Chair of the Union, Benin
Chair of the AU Peace and Security Council for the month of November 2012, Gambia

H.E. Mr. Nabil El Arabi, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (TBC)

Keynote Addresses:  H.E. Mme. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson, African Union Commission
H.E. President Mohamed Morsi, Egypt (TBC)

Projection of the documentary: “10 Years in the quest for Peace and Security in Africa”
10:00 – 10:20  Group picture and coffee break

10:20 - 12:00  PLENARY SESSION: TEN YEARS OF AFRICAN UNION EFFORTS IN THE PROMOTION OF PEACE AND SECURITY: LEADERS’ REFLECTIONS
This session will include reflections from former Presidents (among the visionaries that were behind the establishment of the AU) on the AU’s work from its inception to present day. The focus will be on examining whether the AU has lived up to the vision and goals that underpins its establishment in 2002. This session will result in some very useful reflections on the African Union’s peace and security trajectory.

12:00 – 13:30  PLENARY SESSION: AFRICA 360°: AN OVERVIEW OF 21st CENTURY CONFLICT TRENDS, DYNAMICS AND CHALLENGES
This session will provide an overview of the nature, dynamics and consequences of conflicts in contemporary Africa, with the aim of reflecting on the combination of structural and proximate factors underlying the persistent occurrence of violent conflicts and crises on the continent. Using case-studies from the last decade, the session will explore conflict profiles, actors and dynamics with the aim of outlining possible scenarios for the decade ahead. While the number of “wars” has decreased, the continent has nonetheless remained unstable owing to the continued occurrence of multiple forms of “crises.”

The session will also assess the challenges faced in consolidating peace, preventing conflict relapses, and mobilizing support for post-conflict reconstruction and development.

13:30 – 14:30  Lunch

14:30 - 16:30  PARALLEL SESSIONS: HARNESSING NEW APPROACHES TO RESOLVE THE 21st CENTURY CONFLICT TRENDS IN AFRICA: SELECT CASES
Comprising of five parallel breakout sessions, this aspect of the programme agenda will continue the exploration of possible conflict scenarios for the decade ahead by focusing the discussion on a number of select case-studies. The session is expected to examine in greater detail and in more specific ways examples of “manifest conflicts” that have become more prevalent in the past ten years, including not only major armed conflicts in their internal and transnational dimensions, but also the increasing prevalence of violence occurring at sub-state levels (community level, societal level). Discussants, including academics, will look critically at existing trends and dynamics within those conflicts, and will identify proactive policies that can create preconditions for stability.

Specific cases will be analysed in this session, and these are:

**Case 1: Governance Challenges and State Collapse:** The task of creating viable, strong and efficient states remains one of the major complications in many African states. The
2011 African Union High-Level Retreat held in Cairo identified poor governance as one of the impediments to sustainable peace in Africa. In this session, the focus would be on the nexus between governance challenges, state fragility and conflict. This discussion should present how state fragility and collapse becomes a conflict driver or enabler by paying attention to the Mali case study. Speakers will also focus on the responses to state failure and poor governance. The analysis should assist towards embellishing the African Union’s approaches to conflict analysis, mapping, response and intervention in the context of a limited governance landscape.

**Case 2: Terrorism and the Transnational Dimension of Conflict:** The focus here is on the transnational dimensions of conflict, and the subsequent policy and action responses. Discussants will examine examples of transnational crimes including drug trafficking and money laundering. Transnational crime can be both criminal and political, and has become a major security risk by fuelling conflicts and facilitating the consolidation of regional networks of insecurity, including terrorism. Apart from analysis of the responses of the African Union and the RECs to this eminent threat, this session will examine how African governments frame transnational crime and terrorism. This session will engage participants in adopting a holistic perspective about the dynamics and specifics of terrorism and transnational crime, which in return will allow for a better understanding of complexities of these concept when applied to the African context. Discussants will be expected to address the issue through providing recommendations on peacemaking and peacebuilding approaches to address this issue. Furthermore, the speakers will highlight the interaction of different actors e.g. identity groups, movements, “rebels”, smugglers, “bandits” etc; and how sometimes these are not only interconnected, but are also in a continuous state of flux.

**Case 3: Contemporary Secessionist Movements:** The focus here will be on the evolving phenomenon and trend in recent years by some communities to secede and seek independence from countries/states to which they would have officially belonged. Secessions pose additional challenges to the AU’s efforts of promoting peace and security on the continent. Discussants will focus the normative and practical implications of secession, juxtaposed to the ideals of self-determination. Ultimately, the discussants will aim to provide recommendations on the AU response to this emerging trend.

**Case 4: Challenges of Statebuilding and Post-conflict Peacebuilding:** The focus here is on the challenges after peace agreements have been signed. It is noted that most agreements collapse within five years. Challenges of a post-conflict state include limitations in statebuilding as well as continued violence in post conflict countries (e.g. banditry in Burundi, internal clashes in South Sudan, etc.). Discussions on intergroup violence and communal conflict will be central in this session. Such conflicts include violence that occurs at community, group and inter-personal levels (resource/scarcity related, pastoralist conflicts, societal riots, identity-based violence, religious based violence, etc). Although these conflicts occur at the local level, they carry with them the very real potential of escalation posing therefore a serious threat to the broader peace agenda. The session will review approaches to addressing statebuilding and post-conflict peacebuilding challenges with reference to few select cases (e.g. Jonglei State in South Sudan).
Case 5: Challenges of Civil-Military Relations in Emerging African Democracies:
Essentially, the focus is to touch on an issue that has often been overlooked, i.e. the transformation challenges confronting some of the ex-liberation movements, to include Envoys and colleagues who are located in those states that are transiting--such as South Sudan--where a former liberation movement is now attempting to transform itself into a political party within a multiparty democratic framework--and to begin to consider stable CMR..? This discussion then benefits these case studies on what to expect and what challenges to anticipate now and over the next few years.

16:00 – 16:30 Tea Break

16:30-18:00 PLENARY SESSION: REPORT BACK FROM DAY ONE’S PARALLEL SESSIONS

19.30 Dinner with Keynote Speakers

Tuesday, 6 November 2012

09:00 – 10:30 PLENARY SESSION: TEN YEARS OF THE AFRICAN UNION EFFORTS IN THE PROMOTION OF PEACE AND SECURITY

This session will discuss the evolution of the AU Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), designed to promote peace and security in Africa, in the context of the 10th anniversary of the AU. In particular, this session will focus on assessing APSA’s prospects and challenges in the past 10 years. The discussants will review APSA’s mechanisms and provide recommendations towards strengthening the architecture. Discussants will further provide an updated discussion (particularly going beyond the APSA 2010 Assessment Study to providing new information on more recent developments). The session also will provide an opportunity to review the recently launched African Solidarity Initiative (ASI). Launched at the 19th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, in July 2012, one of the core objectives of ASI is to promote African self-reliance as a key dimension for enhanced and effective development of the continent driven by the motto: ‘Africa helping Africa’.

10:30- 11:00 Coffee break

11:00- 12:30 PLENARY SESSION: PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEACE: REFLECTIONS ON AU COLLABORATION WITH RECS, THE UN, THE EU, AND OTHER PARTNERS

This session will examine the role that partnerships bring in building AU’s capacity towards peace and security. In particular this session will approach the topic through an assessment of AU’s relations with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the
United Nations (UN) and other international partners such as the European Union. Speakers will focus on several recent developments particularly between the AU, RECs and the UN. The outcome will be a critical assessment of the challenges and opportunities that partnerships bring to Africa, and to provide recommendations on how to strengthen collaboration between different international, regional and sub-regional organisations.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Parallel Session I: Mediating for Peace in Today's World: Lessons from Peacemakers in 21st Century Africa

This session offers the opportunity for peacemakers to share their experiences on mediating peace in Africa. Selected mediators will discuss the role of mediation in promoting and strengthening peace in Africa. Mediators from the African Union (Special Envoys and members of the Panel of the Wise), UN and RECs will share the stage with academics to discuss the rationale of mediation, its potentials. Discussants will analyse the political environment and recent developments in Africa, while reflecting upon the role of mediation in 21st Africa. The session will also focus on the challenges for successful mediation processes, paying attention to the need for leveraging the potential for mediation especially in supporting other conflict transformation processes such as peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development.

Parallel Session II: The Role of the Private Sector in Conflict Management and Post Conflict Reconstruction

Business enterprises, especially multinational corporations (MNCs), have often been associated with driving or enabling conflict, especially in situations where valuable natural resources are at stake. This session will analyse the other dimension of business, i.e. the role of business in preventing and mitigating conflict. Additionally, discussants will focus on the rationale and outcome of business involvement in peace processes. Specific examples regarding business’ intervention in peace and security will be examined.

Parallel Session III: Track II Diplomacy: The Role of Civil Society in Promoting Peace and Security in Africa

This session is informed by the outcome of the 2011 AU High-Level Retreat held in Cairo, Egypt. One of the recommendations was to support the role of civil society in promoting governance, peace and security. Civil society has been acknowledged by the African Union as an important participant in policy influence and implementation towards achieving sustainable peace in the continent. The Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) is a mechanism through which civil society can at least interact with the organs of the AU. The session will focus on efforts by Track II participants including religious leaders, community based organisations and solidarity movements, in supporting the AU and RECs calls for peace. Discussants, from African civil society
organisations will take stock of initiatives of civil society in promoting and strengthening efforts towards building sustainable peace in Africa.

15:30-15:45 Tea/Coffee Break

15:45 -16:30 PLENARY: RESPONDING TO PEACE AND SECURITY THREATS: TOWARDS MORE INFORMED POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS

Moderators from the parallel sessions which would have discussed core threats to peace and security in 21st century Africa will give feedback on the presentations in their respective sections. This will allow for more forward-looking discussions on the Africa Union’s responses and roles in the 21st century.

16:30-18:30 PLENARY SESSION: REFLECTIONS FROM THE LEADERS: ENVISIONING THE AU FROM 2012 GOING FORWARD

Current Presidents/Distinguished Personalities will reflect on past and current experiences of the AU in promoting peace and security in the continent. Discussions will be presented in a way that will lead with the view of crafting Africa-wide strategies that can relate existing principles and instruments to the transnational conflict dynamics and their many feed-back loops. Speakers will also analyse strategies which can create the preconditions for what may be labeled “structural” or “dynamic stability” in a transnational environment, i.e. a situations which enables legitimate actors at various spatial levels of government to deal with rapid social change and a variety of interlinked political, economic and social challenges without resorting to violent means.

It is envisaged that the Distinguished speakers in this session will also focus on several issues including the role of member states in promoting peace and security in their countries, region and in the continent at large.

Additionally, this session is expected to acknowledge the work conducted by individual/organisations for their innovative and resilient approaches in the last decade towards strengthening peace and security.

18:30 PLENARY SESSION: CONCLUDING REMARKS (WITH PRESS/MEDIA)

THE END