On 28th May, 2022, AU Heads of State and Government held the 16th Extraordinary Summit on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes in Government (UCG) in Malabo, where they assessed persistent threats and evaluated current response mechanisms.

The summit considered two pertinent reports: that of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of Algeria, the AU Champion on the Fight Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa, and the report of President Paul Biya of Cameroon, as the Peace and Security Council (PSC) Chairperson for May 2022. The Assembly noted with concern the persistent threats of terrorism and violent extremism, including the proliferation of foreign terrorist fighters and armed groups in all five geographic regions of the continent.

The Assembly requested the AU Commission to urgently develop practical modalities for the operations of the AU Ministerial Committee on Counter-Terrorism, to be submitted for consideration by the Executive Council in June/July 2022. The Assembly took note of the Chairperson of the Commission's report on Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCG) as well as the Accra Declaration. The latter was a product of the Reflection Forum on story continues on pg.2
African leaders convened an Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference on 27th May, 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, to address humanitarian challenges confronting the continent. These include protracted conflicts across various regions, the extreme weather events and economic shocks stemming from climate change, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a statement delivered at the summit, AU Commission Chairperson, HE Moussa Faki Mahamat, indicated that 113 million people in the 15 most-affected countries in Africa are awaiting emergency assistance.

In identifying solutions to these problems, African leaders deliberated on adaptation and resilience-building through post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD) programmes in the context of the security and development nexus. Member states and partners pledged US$174,472,000, of which US$138,812,000 will be used to establish the African Humanitarian Agency.

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were also called on to develop regional emergency response plans. Early warning and response capacities of AU member states will also be built for prevention, adaptation and mitigation in the face of climate change disasters.

AU MEMBER STATES REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES

Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa held from 15th to 17th March, 2022 in Accra, Ghana. Subsequently, the Assembly requested the PSC to establish a UCG sub-committee and to reactivate the Sub-Committee on Sanctions.

The Assembly also requested the AU Commission to work with the RECs/Regional Mechanisms (RMs) to expedite the finalisation of AU guidelines for the amendments of national constitutions, and to report to the Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January/February 2023.

The AU Commission was directed to urgently review the implementation of the African Governance Architecture and the African Peace and Security Architecture, and to continue providing technical support to member states towards building sustainable democratic governance, justice, peace and development through the implementation of the AU Transitional Justice Policy. The Assembly also directed the AU Commission and the African Peer Review Mechanism to remodel the Third Africa Governance Report – 2023 Edition to also reflect issues related to UCG.

There were calls for stronger punitive measures against UCG beyond a condemnation of coups and the suspension of member states. This included combating terrorist financing, and addressing the issue of foreign fighters and mercenaries. Member states were urged to demonstrate the political will to implement AU decisions effectively.

Upon conclusion of the UCG summit, the Assembly appointed HE João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço as AU Champion for Reconstruction and Building Peace.
AU BOOSTS KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FOR REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY - I-RECKE IS LAUNCHED

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, HE Moussa Faki Mahamat, represented by the Deputy Chairperson HE Monique Nsanzabaganwa, launched the Inter-Regional Knowledge Exchange (I-RECKE) on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention. An initiative of the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security led by Commissioner Bankole Adeoye, the launch took place on the margins of the 41st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 4th Mid-year Coordination Meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, on 16th July, 2022 and was subsequently endorsed by the Summit.

The I-RECKE is a knowledge-sharing platform designed to promote knowledge exchange on conflict prevention and early warning between the AU Commission, RECs and RMs to promote lesson learning and facilitate early response.

The I-RECKE aims to bring together Africa’s multilateral institutions and the community of practice in conflict prevention, response and peacebuilding. In this way, it seeks to enhance strategic coherence and coordination to promote the effective and efficient implementation of the continent’s key frameworks for governance, peace and security.

In the keynote address, HE Dr Monique Nsanzabaganwa, the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission, noted that the launch of the I-RECKE enables the AU to sharpen its tools for dealing with the complex challenges that currently confront the continent. She described the I-RECKE as a relevant addition to the repertoire of tools that the Commission can draw on to obtain the knowledge required for smart decision-making and policies.
PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA APPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF THE FIFTH PANEL OF THE WISE

The Executive Council, at its 41st Ordinary Session, appointed Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka of South Africa as a member of the Fifth Panel of the Wise for a three-year mandate. Starting from February 2022, HE Dr Mlambo-Ngcuka represents the Southern African region.

HE Dr Mlambo-Ngcuka served as South Africa’s Deputy President from 2005 to 2008. She was subsequently appointed United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women from 2013 to 2021. During her tenure at the UN, she has worked tirelessly on programmes and policies to reduce inequality, and established flagship initiatives such as the HeForShe campaign for men and boys to champion gender equality. HE Dr Mlambo-Ngcuka also successfully mobilised a historic $40 billion for women and girls worldwide. She is a founder and leader of the Umlambo Foundation, which is dedicated to improving education and digital literacy training for educators.

The Panel of the Wise, which is a critical pillar of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), is a consultative body of the African Union mandated to provide opinions to the Peace and Security Council on issues relevant to conflict prevention, management, and resolution. This critical pillar is composed of the following eminent personalities that has been completed by the appointment of Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka. H.E. Domitien Ndayizeye, Chair of the Panel (Central Africa), Hon. Lady Justice Effie Owuor (Eastern Africa), H.E. Amr Mahmoud Abu Zaid Musa (Northern Africa), H.E. Babacar Kante (Western Africa), and H.E. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (Southern Africa).

SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE, SAFETY AND SECURITYADOPTS KEY DECISIONS FOR AU PEACE MISSIONS

Two major child protection policies were adopted by the AU STCDSS during its Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting, namely the Policy on the Integration of Child Protection in the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the Policy on Child Protection in African Union Peace Support Operations (AU PSOs). Through these policies, the AU is renewing support from member states to ensure the protection of children’s rights and welfare – as enshrined in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

The policies provide a normative basis for mainstreaming child protection in the peace and security agenda. They also inform how PSOs can contribute to preventing violations against children and promote accountability against perpetrators in a mission area.

Furthermore, the Africa Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflicts (AP CAAC), which was inaugurated in September 2021, has been operationalised. AP CAAC brings together individual AU ambassadors committed to engaging and sustaining advocacy for the protection of children in conflict and humanitarian situations on the continent. The Platform is co-chaired by Ambassador Jainaba Jagne, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of The Gambia to the AU and Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

**AU CONDEMNS TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST ATMIS**

Barely a month after the transition from the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), the al-Shabaab terrorist group launched an attack against the Burundian Forward Operating Base in the Middle Shabelle region, south-west of Mogadishu. The attack occurred on 3 May 2022. The AU strongly condemned the deadly attack, which resulted in significant human and material losses. It expressed condolences to the government and people of Burundi, and paid tribute to the Burundi National Defence Force personnel, and all troop- and police-contributing countries to ATMIS, of their continued commitment and courage.
RAPIDLY CHANGING WEATHER PATTERNS NOT ONLY CAUSE FLOODS, DROUGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, BUT ALSO DRIVE THE ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE, INTENSIFICATION OF CONFLICTS AND FUEL TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIMES BASED ON THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. AFRICA CONTRIBUTES UNDER 4% OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS GLOBALLY, BUT REMAINS THE MOST VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS.

In light of these trends, the Committee of African Heads of State and Government of the AU PSC added its support to developing a Common African Position on climate change. This will enable Africa to speak with one voice and act from a unified position. It will also aid the activities of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change as they engage international partners on honouring pledges and commitments to promote Africa's green transformative agenda. This includes through financial support, technology transfer and development, education and capacity building and training.

As Africa prepares to host the November 2022 UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (CoP 27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022, it is expected that a new climate regime would be pursued to aid Africa's adaptation and mitigation efforts. This new regime is expected to address greenhouse gas emissions and be legally binding, clear and enforceable, as well as scientifically sound.

In seeking resilience and addressing fragility, early warning/response and conflict prevention efforts must be reinforced towards Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2030.

Other efforts to be undertaken include bolstering capacities for humanitarian disaster risk-reduction, promoting food security, enhancing natural resource management, promoting sustainable environmental practices, and implementing the AU PCRD programme.

The AU Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution held a consultative meeting on the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by 2030, from 6 to 8 June 2022, in Lusaka, Zambia.

The three-day session, organised by the AU Commission and co-hosted with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, brought together participants from the AU Commission, the RECs/RMs, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation, the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa, the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Institute for Security Studies. The meeting further agreed on the establishment of an AU-RECs/RMs Steering Committee to follow up and coordinate activities on the Silencing the Guns initiative and adopted its working modalities.

TOWARDS THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, NOVEMBER 2022, SHARM-EL SHEIKH

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TOWARDS THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, NOVEMBER 2022, SHARM-EL SHEIKH
1. **AU deploys needs assessment team to South Sudan**

The AU Commission deployed a team of experts from 20 to 26 March 2022 as part of a trilateral AU-UN-Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) needs assessment team at the request of the Government of South Sudan. This was also in line with PSC Decision PSC/PR/COMM.2/1060 (2022) from its 1060th Meeting, held on 25 January 2022. The main goal was to put together a joint support framework to consolidate peace in the country and prevent a relapse into violence.

The trilateral team, which included legal experts, met with political actors, international partners, civil society, the media and other key stakeholders. The team submitted a final draft report to the AU Commission on 20 May 2022. Some aspects of the report were considered by the PSC on 11 July 2022.

2. **AU Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) operationalised**

An AU Commission delegation deployed to Cairo, Egypt, from 24 May to 2 June 2022 to assess the set-up and configuration of a temporary office and initiate the procurement of equipment. The mission was conducted in line with AU Assembly Decision 756 (XXXIII), adopted in February 2020, in which the Assembly of Heads of State and Government directed the Commission to expedite the operationalisation of the centre.

As part of its core mandate, the centre will provide technical support towards the implementation of the AU PCRD Policy Framework. It also serves as the AU’s specialised technical agency for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of PCRD programmes and projects in member states emerging from conflicts. The centre will work closely with the AU Commission and other stakeholders to mobilise resources and follow up on the implementation of the six pillars of the AU PCRD Policy Framework. Staffing for the centre is underway.

AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, and Assistant Foreign Minister of Egypt for African Organizations and Communities, Ambassador Soha Gendi, officially launched the centre in December 2021.

Commissioner Bankole on a working visit to South Africa from 4–9 May 2022. Commissioner Bankole was also received by Defence Minister Thandi Modise, and had sessions with AU Organs/Institutions based in South Africa.

Pre-Election High-Level Mission to Lesotho from 27 June – 1 July, led by Justice Effie Owuor, Member, AU Panel of the Wise. The mission met with key national stakeholders as well as development partners. A similar mission, led by the Chair of the Panel, was earlier fielded to Kenya.
The Sahel is facing grave threats, including terrorism, climate change, humanitarian disasters and unconstitutional changes of government. These are worsened by the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges have necessitated strategic and innovative responses. Despite efforts deployed by the AU and RECs/RMs at regional and national levels, the region continues to experience complex political, security and humanitarian problems.

The AU, in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the UN, continue with efforts towards a return to constitutional and civilian-led order. At the time of writing, the ECOWAS Summit had endorsed roadmaps for Burkina Faso and Mali.

Other efforts include a Joint Strategic Assessment of Security and Governance in the region by the AU, UN, ECOWAS and G5 Sahel. This high-level panel, chaired by Niger’s former President Mahamadou Issoufou, aims to chart a holistic security and development framework to promote peace and stability in the Sahel. Similarly, the PSC authorised the deployment of transition monitoring mechanisms for Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso, as joint frameworks to provide updates to the PSC for further responses.

ADDRESSING SECURITY THREATS IN THE SAHEL

The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission to Libya, Wahida Ayari, continues to support mediation efforts in the country. In particular, these efforts are aimed at implementing the AU High-Level Committee on Libya’s Roadmap and the Berlin Conference conclusions.

Given the complex political, security and economic situation, rebuilding national cohesion and unity remains critical for restoring Libya’s political stability. The African Union Liaison Office (AULO) in Libya, in cooperation with the UN, continues to support the efforts of the Presidential Council to promote a rights-based national reconciliation process. The office backs local reconciliation and mediation initiatives at the community level.

The AU-EU-UN Tripartite Task Force on the Situation of Stranded Migrants and Refugees in Libya continues to support the Libyan government in promoting safe migration. Voluntary evacuation flights for stranded African migrants in Libya remain operational.

On 6 April 2022, the Republic of the Congo’s Foreign Affairs Minister and the Chief of Staff of the AU Commission Chairperson conveyed a letter to the UN Secretary-General, from President Denis SassouNguesso of the Republic of the Congo, Chairperson of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya. The letter expressed a request for UN support in organising the National Reconciliation Forum.

NORTH AFRICA: LIBYA

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PROMOTING BORDER GOVERNANCE AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

Every year on 7 June, AU member states observe African Border Day (ABD). This year, the AU Border Programme, in collaboration with the Economic Communities of Central African States (ECCAS) Commission and representatives from Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, commemorated the 12th edition of the ABD at Meyo-Kyé/Kyé-Ossi, the border shared among the three countries, from 23 to 24 June.

A regional sensitisation workshop was organised in collaboration with ECCAS member states from 25 to 26 April 2022, in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo. Participants agreed to coordinate efforts in the development and implementation of border strategies, as well as delimitation/demarcation exercises, at the national, regional and continental levels.

The workshop recommendations will feed into an action plan for the joint monitoring and implementation of the AU Border Governance Strategy (AU BGS).

AU COMMEMORATES THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN RWANDA

The AU, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Rwanda to the AU, commemorated the 28th anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda at the AU Headquarters on 7 April 2022. Held under the theme ‘Remember-Unite-Renew’, the event aimed to commemorate those who lost their lives, show solidarity with victims and survivors, and redouble efforts to ensure that such tragedy never happens again in Rwanda or elsewhere in Africa.

AUC Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat underlined Rwanda’s ‘incredible fortitude to ensure reconciliation and reconstruction’. He paid a special tribute to the Rwandese people ‘for their incomparable resilience’.

Ambassador Hope Tumukunde Gasatura of Rwanda said:

‘We must bear responsibility for proactive legislative, institutional, and educational measures to ensure that the seeds of genocide – division, hatred, and discrimination – are not allowed to germinate anywhere in Africa.’

She reiterated the request of the AU PSC for the AU Commission Chairperson to expedite the appointment of a Special Envoy on the Prevention of Genocide and Hate Crimes.

The event, held in a hybrid format, was attended by the AU Commission, representatives of the AU member states and the diplomatic corps based in Addis Ababa, the UN, other intergovernmental organisations, as well as civil society institutions.

The PAPS Department and the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the AU continued to lead activities in commemorating the 100 Days of #Kwibuka28. This included a jointly organised symposium on 16 June 2022 with the Institute for Peace and Security Studies to promote accountability and prevent the ideology of hate, genocide and hate crimes.
The 35th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in February 2022 appointed the second cohort of African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAPs), endorsed by the PSC, following a rigorous selection process.

The AYAPs, whose mandate began in February 2022, participated in induction training organised by the Youth for Peace Africa Programme from 14 to 18 March 2022 in Zimbabwe. The AYAPs are mandated to serve a two-year, non-renewable term, during which they will promote the meaningful participation of youth at all levels of peacebuilding.

The five AYAPs represent the five AU geographic regions. Since assuming office, they have participated in high-level youth, peace and security (YPS) sessions, including PSC open sessions on YPS and the Bujumbura Continental Dialogue on Youth. During the PSC 1067th session, the Council adopted some of the AYAPs’ recommendations, including a proposal for an empirical study on the nexus between migration, youth, peace and security in Africa.

The AYAPs facilitated the hybrid continental dialogue on YPS in Bujumbura under the patronage of Burundi’s President Évariste Ndayishimiye. This culminated in the Bujumbura Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security. The declaration builds on the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security and its 10-Year Implementation Plan to foster meaningful youth engagement in continental peace efforts. It was adopted by the 1080th meeting of the PSC, which was held on 25 April 2022 with the participation of the AYAPs.

For more information related to the Bujumbura Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security in Africa, visit https://bit.ly/3PgBzeH
AU PSC reflection on youth, peace and security in Africa - youth inclusion in peace and security, as well as capacitating the youth through various initiatives.

The African Union Peace and Security Council held a meeting on Youth, Peace and Security on 25 April 2022. The AU PSC urges African youth to play a critical role in the AU peace, security and development agenda.

Open session on Living Together in Peace – towards the attainment of the pan-African vision of ‘An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena’.


Field Mission to Burundi – AU solidarity with the governments and peoples of the countries of the Great Lakes Region.

The AU PSC conducted a field mission to the Great Lakes Region, which includes Bujumbura/ Burundi, from 20 to 22 June 2022. The mission was intended to follow up on the state of implementation of the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region to promote stability and prosperity.

Field Mission to Somalia – taking stock of the political, security and humanitarian developments in the country.

The AU PSC conducted a field mission to Somalia from 27 to 29 July 2022 to expedite the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan. The PSC also emphasised the need for adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).

UPCOMING PAPS EVENTS

29-31 AUG.
Cairo, Egypt

Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization (AU-STC. No.8)

25-27 OCT.
Tangier, Morocco

AU Policy Conference on the Nexus between Peace, Security and Development

1-3 NOV.
Abuja, Nigeria

Lessons Learning Forum on Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF).
With the support of the Training for Peace Programme