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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1361ST MEETING

14 AUGUST 2026
ADDIS-ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1361 (2026)

COMMUNIQUE



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1361st meeting held on 14 August 2026 on: Consultation with the African Governance Architecture (AGA) African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and the Permanent Representatives (PRC) Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance (HRDG);

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling Articles 3 and 4 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which emphasize the promotion of democratic principles, popular participation, good governance, human and peoples' rights, and sustainable peace; and **also recalling** Articles 3(f) and 7(m) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, which mandate the PSC to support democratic practices, good governance, the rule of law, and conflict prevention;

Further recalling Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.304 (XV)] adopted by the 15th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held on 27 July 2010, which provided the mandate for the establishment of a Pan African Architecture on Governance, which was subsequently established as the African Governance Architecture (AGA), as a platform for dialogue between and among stakeholders; and all its previous decisions on the joint engagement with the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance (HRDG), and the African Governance Architecture–African Peace and Security Architecture (AGA-APSA) Platform; **as well as** Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1295 (2025)] adopted by Council at its 1295th meeting held on 8 August 2025; and Communiqués [PSC/PR/COMM.1095 (2022)] and [PSC/PR/COMM.1098 (2022)], which institutionalized the annual engagement between the PSC, the PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG, and the AGA-APSA Platform;

Recognizing that governance deficits, democratic backsliding, violations of human rights, and weaknesses in constitutional order remain some of the underlying fundamental and structural root causes, drivers and factors that give rise to violent conflict and instability on the continent;

Acknowledging that democratic governance, human rights, peace, and security are mutually reinforcing and require coordinated, integrated, and preventive approaches;

Also acknowledging the importance of strengthening synergies among AU Organs, Institutions, Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), and other stakeholders in advancing the AU governance, peace, security and development agenda;

Mindful of the strategic importance of the African Union's 2028 Theme of the Year, "Promoting Human Rights, Democracy and Governance to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063 in Africa," as an opportunity to accelerate collective efforts towards strengthening democratic governance and sustainable peace;

Taking note of the opening remarks by H.E. Dr. Ambassador Mohamed Khaled, Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the AU (AU) and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of August 2026, the introductory Statement by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; as well as the statements by H.E. Ambassador Willy Nyamitwe, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Burundi and the First Vice Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance (HRDG) and by H.E. Ambassador Jevin Pillay, Vice Chairperson of the AGA-APSA Platform and Permanent Representative of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to the AU; and

Acting Under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:**A. On implementation process**

1. **Underscores** the continued relevance of the annual joint engagement between the PSC, the PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG, and the AGA-APSA Platform as a mechanism for enhancing coordination, policy dialogue, and collective action;
2. **Takes note** of and **welcomes** the progress made on the implementation of the previous decisions on PSC as provided in the implementation matrix on AGA-APSA Platform and PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights Democracy and Governance Consultations and **commends** the AU Commission, through the PSC Secretariat and the AGA-APSA Secretariat and **requests** to continue facilitating coordination, monitoring progress, and reporting on the implementation of outcomes arising from the annual joint engagements;
3. **Acknowledges** progress made on strengthening the nexus between governance, human rights, democracy, peace, security and development on the continent, and **commends** Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) and the AU Commission on the efforts deployed to this effect;
4. **Strongly commends** the progress in implementation of Agenda 2063 regarding the 53% implementation rate for the 10-year implementation plan (from 39%) attributed to achievements in governance reforms, institutional strengthening, public sector accountability, policy harmonization, and human capital development;
5. **Welcomes** the assumption, by the PSC, of the Chairpersonship of the AGA-APSA Platform at both the Political and Technical Levels for the period 2026–2028, as an opportunity to strengthen institutional coherence, promote the ‘One AU Approach’ and enhance collaboration between governance and peace and security actors;
6. **Takes note** of the importance of enhancing early response to early warning and **welcomes** the finalization of the prototypes and principles of the AU Model on Trigger Mechanism for Early Warning and Early Action, as well as its supporting technical tools, such as Risk and Threat Mapping tool, to be validated by the Peace and Security Council and the upcoming Extraordinary Summit in Luanda;
7. **Stresses the importance** of meaningful participation of women and youth in peace, security governance and development processes and **welcomes** the successful organization and conclusions of the 5th AU Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security and Women, Peace and Security under the leadership of H.E. President Evariste Ndayishimiye, AU Chairperson and AU Champion for Youth, Peace and Security Agenda;
8. **Takes note** of and **supports** the ongoing preparation of the Draft Concept Note and Action Plan for the implementation of the AU 2028 Theme of the Year and emphasizes the importance of the PSC, the PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG, and the AGA-APSA Platform to provide coordinated political and institutional support towards its successful implementation;
9. **Encourages** Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify and domesticate the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) and other AU normative instruments; to ensure effective implementation and to fulfil their reporting obligations and, in this respect, **commends** the submission, by the Republic of Cameroon, of its national assessment Report and **encourages** other Member States to also do the same;

B. On the actions to be undertaken

10. **Decides** to institutionalize “One AU Approach” to human rights, democracy, governance, peace and security that moves beyond coordination towards jointly analysing risks, aligning priorities, mobilising collective action and delivering coordinated responses to deliver tangible results for Member States;
11. **Calls for** the PSC, in its capacity as Chairperson of the AGA-APSA Platform for the period 2026–2028, in coordination with PRC Sub Committee on HRDG and AGA-APSA Platform Members, to provide strategic leadership in advancing the ‘One AU Approach’ and strengthening collaboration among AU Organs, Institutions, Member States, RECs/RMs, and relevant stakeholders on governance, human rights, peace, security and development priorities;
12. **Urges** the PSC, the PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG, and the AGA-APSA Platform to identify and implement concrete joint actions beyond the annual engagement, including through enhanced information sharing, joint analysis, policy dialogue, and coordinated responses to governance challenges and risks that undermine peace and stability on the Continent;
13. **Encourages** Member States to implement decisions of AU Human Rights Organs, including the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR), the African Court on Human and People’s Rights (AfCHPR) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), and strengthen ratification and domestication of human rights treaties and conventions, including the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights establishing the ACHPR and the AfCHPR while ensuring rehabilitation, reintegration, psycho-social support and accountability for children affected by armed conflict, including former child soldiers and victims of abductions and sexual violences.
14. **Requests** the AGA-APSA Platform, the PRC Sub Committee on HRDG, working in collaboration with the PSC and other relevant AU Organs and Institutions, RECs/RMs and critical stakeholders, to further strengthen engagement with citizens, particularly women and youth, as well as civil society organizations, academia, think tanks, and the media, in advancing democratic governance, human rights, peace, security and development in Africa;
15. **Calls upon** the AU Organs and Institutions, Member States, RECs/RMs and partners to mobilize the necessary political will, technical, financial, and human resources to support the implementation of the 2028 Theme of the Year and related flagship initiatives, including strengthening the institutional and operational capacity of the AGA-APSA Secretariat;
16. **Directs** the AU Commission, in cooperation with Member States, to submit an Annual Report on the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, AGA/ APSA and other AU normative instruments and frameworks;
17. **Agrees** to convene the next annual consultative meeting and the joint retreat in 2027 in Addis Ababa; and
18. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.