

African
Union



Department of
Political Affairs,
Peace and Security



CONFLICT MANAGEMENT ANNUAL DIGEST 2024

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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

As we look towards a future filled with global uncertainties, 2024 has been particularly significant for the African Union. It has underscored the invaluable efforts of the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department in promoting and maintaining peace, stability, and security across Africa.

The second edition of the Conflict Management Annual Digest highlights how the African Union Commission has made significant strides in supporting our continent's shared vision. These developments align with the AU's long-term growth trajectory outlined in Agenda 2063, steering Africa towards its envisioned future.

While confronting challenges to stability, the African Union has seized this vital opportunity to tackle pressing issues. By promoting inclusive governance, strengthening institutions, and encouraging mutual acceptance among communities, we are establishing a solid foundation for peace throughout Africa.

The AU has recorded notable progress in Ethiopia, supported peace processes in the Central African Republic, Mozambique, and Libya, and established a new peace support operations mission in Somalia (AUSSOM). While the crisis in Sudan remains challenging, steady progress has been made in South Sudan. These successes are driven by strengthened early warning systems and the provision of effective response options to African Union and Member State decision-makers.

Through its revitalised Peace Fund, the AU allocates resources to help Member States build effective peace initiatives, particularly in addressing conflicts across the Sahel and Somalia. Joint efforts underscore the AU's determination to foster productive peace and sustainable development while maintaining stability in peace and security.

Our visible engagements demand continued dedication and unity in overcoming ongoing organisational challenges. Addressing unconstitutional changes of government (UCGs) requires enhancing the responsibilities of the



H.E. MOUSSA FAKI MAHAMAT
*Chairperson of
the African Union Commission*

AU's Chairperson, Peace and Security Council, and the Commission.

To achieve inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development, the AU must continue to prioritise the inclusion of women and youth in its programmes. Additionally, it should focus on developing sustainable programmes and fostering effective partnerships. These efforts are crucial to realising the long-term objectives outlined in Agenda 2063, the Africa We Want.

Amid evolving political dynamics and global shifts, the AU continues to adapt its strategies to address new challenges on the continent. The AU's Political Affairs, Peace, and Security Department will remain central to Africa's progress by leading efforts to maintain peace and security, driving the realisation of Silencing the Guns.

PREFACE

Dear esteemed readers,

We are pleased to present the second edition of the Conflict Management Annual Digest, which highlights the vital work of the African Union Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security (DPAPS). This digest illustrates how DPAPS uses its resources to promote peace and security across Africa.

The Conflict Management Directorate (CMD) leads early warning and response development efforts to support decision-makers at the Peace and Security Council and other AU organs. CMD assists AU-led and endorsed missions through conflict resolution tools, including mediation and peace support operations under the AU authority. It collaborates with AU liaison offices and field missions to implement these peace initiatives. The Directorate enhances the conflict management capabilities of regional entities while supporting AU Member States and national stakeholders to combat terrorism and prevent violent extremism. The Directorate also works with AFRIPOL, CAERT, and CISSA, providing technical support to help them achieve mandates and strengthen the AU member states' national peace infrastructures (NPIs).

This Edition outlines how the AU leverages its resources to safeguard peace and security throughout Africa in countries such as Burkina Faso, Sudan, Niger, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Libya, South Sudan and more. Accordingly, the Department's major efforts focus on peace and security programmes serving women, children, and youth groups, promoting research on the impacts of climate change on peace and security.

Successful implementation of the Silencing the Guns agenda is essential for a peaceful and secure Africa. Through CMD operations, the Department demonstrates that the African



AMBASSADOR BANKOLE ADEOYE
*Commissioner for
Political Affairs, Peace and Security*

Union remains committed to this vision. Since 2004, the Peace and Security Council has demonstrated the critical role of the AU in addressing contemporary security challenges. I invite you to immerse yourself in the articles in this digest and join us in our ambitious push in 2025 to ensure the Peace and Security Council and the AU Commission succeed in their mission to achieve peace across Africa.

INTRODUCTION

Distinguished readers,

The second edition of the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department's Conflict Management Annual Digest provides a comprehensive compilation of significant developments, trends, and contributions by the African Union in 2024 aimed at advancing and maintaining peace, stability, and security across Africa.

Peace and security in many African nations continue to be threatened by several factors, including armed conflicts, terrorism, violent extremism, transnational crime, geopolitical tensions, human rights abuses, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, climate-related risks, challenges in governance, and deficiencies in human security. These issues have been worsened by unconstitutional changes in government (UCG).

This year's Digest delves into issues in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, the Great Lakes region, the Lake Chad Basin, and parts of Northern and Southern Africa. It highlights the complexities and interconnected dynamics of peacemaking on the continent.

Navigating these complex political and security environments requires strong political resolve. This includes fostering inclusive governance, building robust institutions, ensuring accountability, enhancing communication, and promoting tolerance and reconciliation. To assist Member States in addressing the root causes of conflict and realising their shared vision of sustainable peace, development, and prosperity—as outlined in AU Agenda 2063—the African Union (AU), regional economic communities and mechanisms (RECs/RMs), the United Nations, and bilateral and multilateral partners must strengthen their collaborations.

The second edition of the Conflict Management Annual Digest highlights the key engagements of the AU Peace and Security Council, the Chairperson of the Union and the Commission, the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security, High Representatives, Envoys, Special Representatives, and the Conflict Management Directorate within the PAPS Department. This



ALHAJI SARJOH BAH, Ph.D.
*Director of
Conflict Management Directorate*

edition offers valuable insights into the African Union's peacemaking and stabilization strategies.

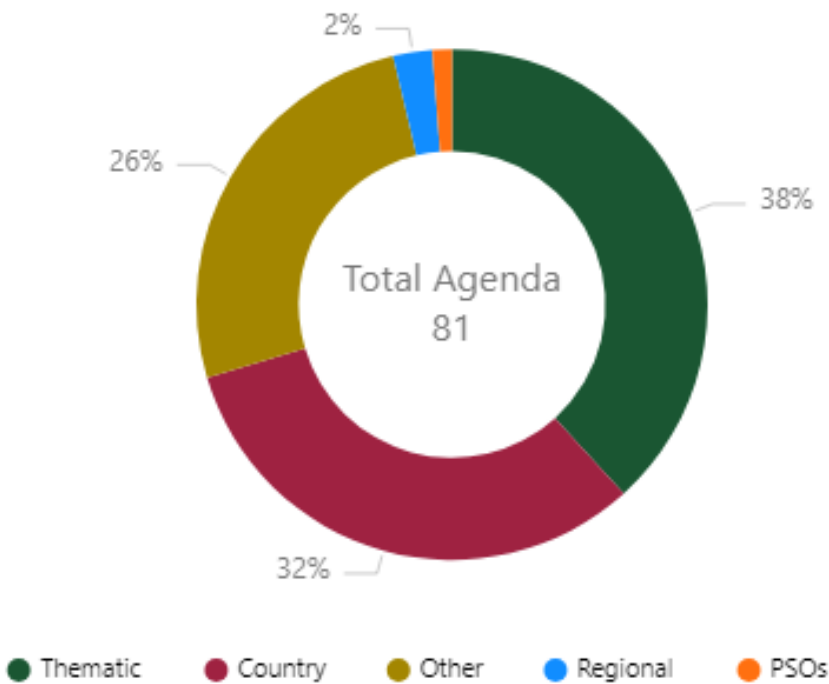
The AU's efforts prioritise peacebuilding initiatives, support for inclusive development policies, empower women and youth, and foster strategic partnerships to deliver peace dividends and ensure human security, all aimed at achieving a peaceful and secure Africa.

Policy and decision-makers, representatives of AU Member States, the diplomatic community, practitioners, scholars, students of international relations, and peace enthusiasts will find this publication to be an invaluable resource. May it rekindle the spirit of Africa and inspire innovative thinking to further African agency, ultimately paving the way for a future where peace becomes a reality for all Africans.

AU Peace and Security Council: 2024 Activities and 20th Anniversary Highlights

In line with its mandate to promote peace, security, and stability in Africa, as outlined in Article 3 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Council, the Council convened a series of meetings and undertook various activities aimed

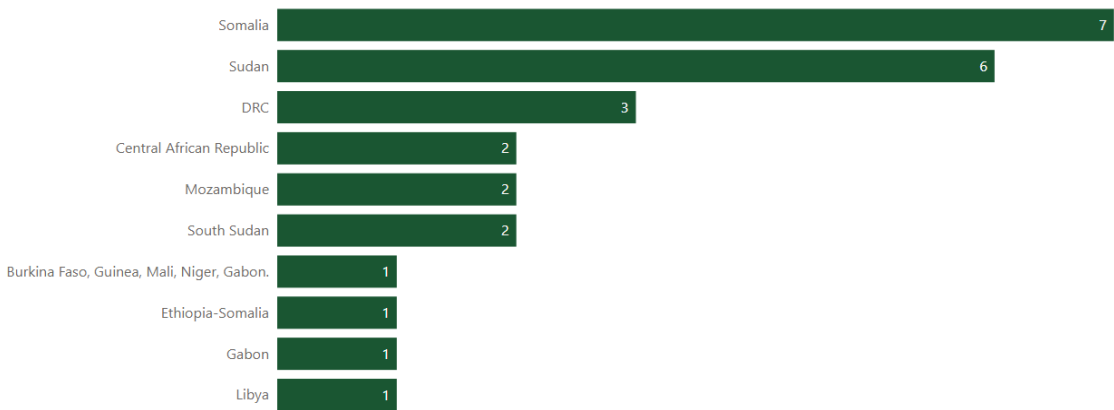
at preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts across the continent. In 2024, the Council held 64 meetings, addressing 81 agenda items that covered country- and region-specific situations, thematic issues, peace support operations, and other matters related to peace and security.



The Situation in Somalia, Sudan, and the DRC remained the top considerations by the PSC convening seven, six, and three times, respectively, during the year. Other considerations include the

Central African Republic (CAR), Mozambique, South Sudan, Gabon, Libya, countries in political transition (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Gabon) and the Ethiopia-Somalia situation.

No. of Consideration by Country



On 21 June 2024, the Council met at the Heads of State level to discuss the situation in Sudan, during which they underscored the importance of protecting Sudan's institutions and people, emphasising that military solutions are unsustainable. They further stressed the need for humanitarian access and protection of civilians and denounced atrocity crimes. The Council highlighted the role of neighbouring countries, the UN, and the League of Arab States in supporting peace efforts and called for coordinated international support. Finally, the Council proposed convening an extraordinary summit to discuss the crisis and urged continued action to ensure peace and stability in Sudan.

During the meeting convened on 19 December 2024 on the situation in Somalia, the Council noted the Joint AU-UN Report pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 2748 (2024) and a letter from H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat and H.E. Antonio Guterres dated 26 November 2024. It appealed to the UN Security Council to adopt the hybrid financing framework under resolution 2719 (2023) as the only viable solution for funding the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM). This approach is essential for AUSSOM to fulfil its mandate and support Somalia's Security Sector Development Plan (SSDP). To ensure adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding, the PSC urged the AU Commission to continue engaging with the UN, EU, other strategic partners, and potential donors.

During the 1222nd meeting held on 15 July 2024 at the Ministerial level, the Luanda and Nairobi Processes were reaffirmed as viable frameworks for reconciliation between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, aimed at resolving the crisis in eastern DRC and the region. The governments of the DRC and Rwanda were urged to continue cooperating, including through direct talks, to achieve a peaceful resolution under the mediation of President João Lourenço of Angola, the AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa. The AU Commission was requested to collaborate with the Luanda Process Mediator and Nairobi Process Facilitator to implement practical coordination and harmonisation measures involving the Panel of the Wise and FemWise.

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The year-long 20th-anniversary celebrations of the AU PSC commemorated two decades of efforts in promoting peace, security, and stability across Africa in line with its mandate for conflict prevention, resolution, and crisis management.

The celebrations began with a high-profile colloquium on 25 May 2024, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, hosted by H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chair of the AU PSC for May 2024. Leaders, experts, and stakeholders reflected on the PSC's achievements, challenges, and future direction. Panelists, including former African leaders and AU officials, discussed conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and governance while emphasising emerging challenges like cyber threats, climate-related conflicts, and geopolitical shifts. The event concluded with the adoption of the Dar es Salaam Declaration, reaffirming commitments to governance, conflict prevention, peace funding, and socio-economic equity.

Throughout the year, open sessions addressed topics such as artificial intelligence's role in security, inclusive education in conflict zones, and a critical review of the PSC Protocol. A special thematic week focused on child protection, mediation, and women's and youth participation in peace processes. The Swakopmund Process, established during a seminar in Namibia, institutionalised women's leadership in peacebuilding.

Public engagement events included an exhibition at the AU Headquarters highlighting humanitarian coordination, public lectures at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania on Africa's peace and security future and the Yale University's Jackson School of Global Affairs in New York, USA. Youth engagement programs, publications on PSC milestones, and awards for key contributors further enriched the celebrations. The PSC reflected on successes in Burundi, Somalia, and the Sahel while addressing challenges like unconstitutional changes of government and resource constraints.

The Dar es Salaam Declaration outlined a strategic roadmap, calling for strengthened governance, socio-economic development, operationalised peace funding, and deeper commitment to the

African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and African Governance Architecture (AGA). The

anniversary reinforced Africa's resolve to ensure sustainable peace, stability, and development.



FIELD MISSIONS

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) undertook six field missions during the year 2024. These included a field visit to Mozambique, the Central African Republic (CAR), Gabon, South Sudan, Egypt and Sudan each aimed at assessing the political, security, and humanitarian situations and reinforcing the AU engagement in these countries.

The mission to Sudan, led by H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Gad, the Permanent Representative

of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the AU and PSC Chairperson for October 2024, was held in Port Sudan on 3 October 2024, in solidarity with the Sudanese people. Sudanese officials, including the Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council, welcomed the visit. The PSC reaffirmed its commitment to Sudan's sovereignty, opposed foreign interference, and emphasised the importance of an inclusive, Sudanese-led resolution, humanitarian access, and the cessation of hostilities, signaling continued AU support for sustainable peace.



From 9 to 10 September 2024, the PSC delegation visited the Central African Republic (CAR), led by H.E. Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for September 2024, to assess the political, security, and socio-economic conditions and to launch the 2024 Africa Amnesty Month (AAM). The delegation met with CAR officials, the diplomatic corps, international organisations, and civil society, emphasising the importance of disarmament and supporting the upcoming elections. While noting positive progress in political reforms, including

constitutional changes and preparations for local elections, significant challenges remained. These included financial constraints, opposition boycotts, and ongoing security threats, despite improvements attributed to Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programs and regional cooperation. The PSC stressed the need for greater support for CAR's election processes, peace initiatives, and arms management, with the symbolic destruction of surrendered weapons as part of the AAM launch, underscoring the importance of effective arms control.



In Mozambique, the PSC delegation led by H.E. Amb. Professor Miguel Cesar Domingos Bembe of Angola, the PSC Chairperson for July 2024, focused on the situation in Cabo Delgado, particularly on terrorism and violent extremism. The PSC was briefed on the preparations for the 9 October 2024 elections. The situation in Cabo Delgado, which had suffered from terrorism since 2017, showed significant improvement from 2022 to 2023, owing to joint operations by the Mozambican Armed Forces, SAMIM, and Rwandan forces. Despite the progress, the humanitarian situation remained dire, with over 800,000 displaced individuals. The PSC stressed for continued international support for Mozambique's security and recovery efforts, including capacity-building for local forces, counter-narrative programs, and sustained humanitarian aid. The Council also recognised the critical role of civil society and the media in fostering peace. It committed to supporting Mozambique's electoral process and its efforts to stabilise Cabo Delgado.

In Gabon, the PSC supported the country's transition following the August 2023 coup, engaging over 250 stakeholders and underscored the need for an inclusive process, especially involving women and youth. The PSC encouraged continued AU support for Gabon's roadmap, which includes a new constitution and reforms, towards restoring constitutional order by August 2025.

In Egypt, the PSC held meetings with the League of Arab States (LAS) and Egyptian officials, discussing regional conflicts in Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Gaza, and underscored the importance of cooperation between the AU and LAS for regional peace. Lastly, the PSC's mission to South Sudan praised the country's peace efforts under the Revitalized Agreement, urging further action on transitional justice, peacebuilding, and the swift implementation of the Revitalized Agreement.

Summary of the meetings held by the PSC from January to December 2024

Month	Chair	Meeting No.
January	Ghana	H.E. Amb. Amma Adomaa Twum-Amoah, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to the African Union 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196.1, 1196.2, 1197, 1198
February	Morocco	H.E. Amb. Mohammed Arrouchi, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the African Union 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202.1, 1202.2,
March	Namibia	H.E. Dr. Peya Mushelenga (MP), Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia Inaugural Ministerial High-Level Seminar on Women, Peace and Security, 23 Mar. 2024, Swakopmund, Namibia.
		H.E. Amb. Emilia Ndinela Mkusa, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia to the African Union 1203.1, 1203.2, 1204.1, 1204.2, 1205
April	Gambia	H.E. Amb. Jainaba Jagne, Permanent Representative of the Republic of The Gambia to the African Union 1205, 1206, 1207.1, 1207.2, 1208.1, 1208.2, 1209.1, 1209.2
May	Tanzania	H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania 20 th Anniversary Colloquium Celebrations in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
		H.E. Amb. Innocent Shiyo, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the African Union 1210.1, 1210.2, 1211, 1212.1, 1212.2, 1213.1, 1213.2

Month	Chair	Meeting No.
June	Uganda	H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda 1218
		H.E. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar , Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda 1216
		H.E. Amb. Rebecca Amuge Otengo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the African Union 1214, 1215.1, 1215.2, 1217, 1219.1, 1219.2
July	Angola	H.E. Ambassador Tété António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola 1222
		H.E. Prof. Amb. Miguel Cesar Domingos Bembe, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola to the African Union. 1220, 1221, 1223, 1224, 1225
August	Botswana	H.E. Ambassador Tebelelo Alfred Boang, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the AU 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229
September	Cameroon	H.E. Mbella Mbella, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon 1233.1, 1233.2
		H.E. Amb. Churchill Ewumbue-Monono, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the African Union 1230, 1231, 1232
October	Egypt	H.E. Amb. Mohamad Omar Gad, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the African Union 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239.1, 1239.2, 1240, 1241.1, 1241.2, 1242
November	Democratic Republic of Congo	H.E. Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) 1248
		H.E. Mr. Mbadu Crispin, Minister of Urbanism and Habitat of the DRC, on behalf of H.E. Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie of the DRC 1245
		H.E. Ambassador Jean-Leon Ngandu Ilunga, Permanent Representative of the DRC to the AU 1243, 1244, 1246, 1247
December	Djibouti	H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti 11 th High Level Seminar, Oran Process; 1253
		H.E. Amb. Abdi Mahamoud Eybe, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the African Union 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252

“Son of Africa Award”: Recognising Service to the Continent



The Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department presented H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission, with the “Son of Africa Award” on 25 October 2024 in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, during the AU High-level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa. The award recognizes his contributions to advancing peace and security in Africa and inclusivity in AU peacebuilding efforts.

CITATION FOR H.E. MOUSSA FAKI MAHAMAT

Elected in 2017 as Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Chad has made significant contributions to fostering effective governance, peace and security across Africa. Notable milestones include the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan in 2018 and the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation for the Central African Republic in 2019. These agreements were pivotal in laying the foundation for stability in these countries.

H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat played a crucial role in the process that led to the signing of the Agreement for Lasting Peace through Permanent Cessation of Hostilities (COHA) in November 2022, ending two years of intense hostilities in Tigray, Ethiopia and cemented the AU’s role in mediation.

In Strengthening African-led Peace Operations, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat showed commitment and steadfastness by championing crucial support for the AU Missions in Somalia, the Multinational Joint Task Force Against Boko Haram, the G5 Sahel Joint Force, the SADC Mission in Mozambique, the EAC Regional Force in Eastern DRC and SADC Mission in Eastern DRC. A significant hallmark of his tenure was the revitalisation of the AU Peace Fund, which mobilised over \$390 million from AU Member States to finance African-led peace and security activities.

Under his leadership, the AU deepened its partnership with the United Nations through the signing of the UN-AU Framework on Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security in 2017; UN-AU Joint Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2018; and AU-UN Joint Framework on Human Rights in 2023, fostering joint efforts between the two organization across the continent.

A key diplomatic victory under the tenure of H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat was the accession of the AU to the G20 as a Permanent Member in 2023. He also concretized partnerships with key multilateral institutions, most notably, the European Union, the League of Arab States as well as bilateral actors.

To enhance coordination with Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat shepherded the launch of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting thereby facilitating strategic cohesion between the AU and RECs/RMs and the creation of Inter-Regional Knowledge Exchange Platform on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention.

H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat is a champion of youth and women's empowerment and spearheaded the establishment of FemWise-Africa in 2017, the appointment of the AU's first Youth Envoy in 2018, the launch of the African Youth Ambassadors for Peace in 2020 and the WiseYouth in 2022, elevating the voices of African women and youth in shaping the continent's future.

Your tenure is distinguished by remarkable strides in championing Africa's interests and priorities. Your contributions over the past 8 years will undoubtedly continue to guide future generations of Africans in their journey towards a peaceful and prosperous continent: the Africa We Want.

In recognition of your transformative and visionary leadership, unwavering commitment to African unity, peace, and development, the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, under the leadership of H.E Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, bestows the Son of Africa Award on Your Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat for outstanding service as Chairperson of the African Union Commission from 2017 to 2025.

Awarded during the 15th High-Level Retreat of the African Union

Two Years of Peace and Progress: Reflecting on the Historic Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in Ethiopia



Two years have passed since the historic signing of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on 2 November 2022. This landmark agreement has been a beacon of hope, significantly restoring peace and security in the Tigray Region to the pre-conflict era, as well as enhancing humanitarian access to affected populations. It also includes confidence-building measures, such as restoring essential services and resuming commercial activities in the Tigray region.

The African Union's commitment to peace, security, and stability in the Tigray region was reaffirmed through two strategic reflection meetings held on 11 March and 9 July 2024. Convened by the African Union Commission Chairperson, these meetings provided a platform to review progress and address outstanding political issues and challenges in implementing the COHA. Attendees included representatives from the government of the FDRE, the TPLF, the Interim Regional Administration (IRA) of Tigray, the three Member States providing the Team of African Experts (Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa) under the African Union Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mission (AU-MVCM), and observers from the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the United States of America (USA), and the African Development Bank (AFDB). The meetings were facilitated by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria cum AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa and member of the AU High-Level Panel, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of the Republic of Kenya and member of the AU High-Level Panel, and H.E. Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and member of the AU High-Level Panel and the Panel of the Wise.



These two strategic reflections on the Permanent COHA underscored the African Union's fundamental role in the peace process, focusing on political dialogue, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR), the withdrawal of non-ENDF, and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Both strategic reflections highlighted the progress, challenges, and opportunities in implementing the Permanent COHA. The parties reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to fully implementing the agreement, recognising the importance of respecting human rights and international norms to protect civilians, including a phased DDR process. They called for partner support towards the DDR process led by the Ethiopian National Commission for Reintegration (NCR). Funding support and pledges for the DDR programme included one million United States dollars (\$1,000,000) from the Crisis Reserve Facility of the AU Peace Fund, as well as pledges from the government of the United States of America and the European Union.



In the Tigray region, the AU Monitoring, Verification, and Compliance Mission (MVCM) continues facilitating humanitarian support and engaging key stakeholders, including the TPLF, the IRA of Tigray, and partners such as UN agencies. The MVCM routinely conducts long-range patrols of various areas to monitor progress and ensure compliance with the Permanent COHA. The Mission also collaborates with and supports the Ethiopian NRC's DDR activities in the Tigray region.

The two outstanding issues remaining are the relocation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the comprehensive commencement of the disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) process in the Tigray region.

African Union's Support to Orphanage in Tigray

The African Union undertook a solidarity and humanitarian initiative in 2024, supporting children affected by the conflict in Tigray by delivering two phases of donations to the Elshadai Relief and Development Association (ERDA) in Mekelle, Tigray. With funding support from Japan, this initiative was carried out in two phases, on 10 September and 31 October. It aimed to provide essential food and non-food items to war-orphaned children in the region, reflecting the AU's commitment to the well-being and rehabilitation of vulnerable communities affected by conflict.

The donations, valued at over \$70,000, are part of the AU's broader efforts to promote the implementation of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA). The AU is taking concrete steps towards fostering peace and stability in Tigray by ensuring that the basic needs of conflict-affected communities are met.

Major-General Stephan Radina, Head of the AU Monitoring, Verification, and Compliance Mission (AU-MVCM), delivered the items on behalf of the AU. Mr. Yemane Weldemariam, Director and Founder of ERDA, attended the first handover ceremony, along with representatives from the AU Commission's Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, the Tigray Interim Administration, AU-MVCM team officers, ERDA staff members, and some of the beneficiaries.

The donations included staple foods such as teff for injera, beans, and cooking oil, as well

as bedding items such as mattresses, sleeping mats, comforters, blankets, and bedsheets. Based on ERDA's specific needs and requests, these items were procured locally in Mekelle, supporting local businesses in the Tigray region.

The AU's donation to ERDA is more than a humanitarian gesture; it exemplifies the organisation's commitment to peacebuilding and community support. By addressing the immediate needs of children orphaned by war and empowering local businesses, the AU is establishing a foundation for a more stable future for Tigray.



This initiative highlights the significance of international collaboration and the role of regional organisations in tackling humanitarian crises. As the AU continues to support the implementation of the COHA, its endeavours in Tigray stand as a beacon of hope for other conflict-affected areas across the continent.



AU convenes 15th High-Level Retreat in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire to promote peace



The AU Commission convened the 15th AU High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa on 25 and 26 October 2024, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, under the theme “Impact and Sustainability of AU Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation”.

The retreat was officially opened by Côte d'Ivoire Vice President H.E. Tiémoko Meyliet Koné and AU Chairperson H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat. The event brought together over 150 representatives from the AU Commission, envoys the Panel of the Wise, the United Nations (UN), Regional Economic Communities and Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), European Union partners, mediation practitioners, and academics.

During the retreat, participants discussed the state of peace and security in Africa, noting that inclusive governance was key to promoting peace and stability. The retreat reaffirmed the AU's commitment to advancing African-led, inclusive, and sustainable peace efforts.

Participants underscored the need for self-reliance, stronger multilateral partnerships, and the active involvement of women, youth, and civil society in peace processes. They also called for enhanced collaboration between the AU, RECs/RMs, and the UN, ensuring peace initiatives reflect Africa's priorities and interests.

The High-Level Retreat was preceded by the Second Retreat of the AU Special Representatives of the Chairperson of the Commission (SRCCs) and the Special Representatives and Special Envoys of the Secretary-General (SRSGs and SESGs) of the UN, on 24 October in Abidjan, under the theme “Towards Enhanced Cooperation and Collaboration in Peace and Security”.



25 October 2024,
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Advancing Gender Equality in Peace and Security: The Impact of the AU's Gender, Peace, and Security Programme in 2024

In 2024, the Gender, Peace, and Security Programme (GPSP) played a pivotal role in embedding gender perspectives across the initiatives of the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (PAPS). By ensuring gender considerations were integrated into all activities and projects, GPSP ensured the needs and experiences of women and marginalised groups were central to peace and security efforts. This comprehensive approach not only bolstered PAPS's work but also advanced the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda at national, regional, and continental levels. Through strategic advocacy, partnerships, and research, GPSP amplified women's participation in peace processes, promoted gender-sensitive policies, and made gender equality a cornerstone of Africa's peacebuilding initiatives.

One of the GPSP's key priorities was to strengthen the capacity of PAPS and its stakeholders to mainstream gender in peace and security programming. This involved fostering advocacy and dialogue on gender, peace, and security, as well as empowering women to play an active role in peacebuilding. As part of these efforts, GPSP developed and rolled out a series of tools and knowledge products aimed at building the capacity of PAPS and key stakeholders, including member states, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Notable outputs included the "Operational Guidance Note on Mainstreaming Gender in Early Warning Mechanisms," the "Online Course on Gender," and the "Online Gender-Responsive Conflict Analysis Course." Additionally, GPSP developed the "Principles and Guidelines on Integrating Women in Mediation Processes," the "Policy Brief on Gender Mainstreaming in Early Warning," and the "Toolkit for Women Human Rights Defenders' Engagement with African Human Rights Systems." These knowledge products were critical in equipping stakeholders with practical tools to advance gender equality within the African Peace and Security Architecture.

GPSP's efforts went beyond capacity-building tools to provide targeted support to countries such as South Sudan, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), Namibia, and Guinea. GPSP focused on advancing national WPS agendas and strengthening legal frameworks to guarantee rights, equality, and accountability. Key initiatives included supporting constitution-making processes, promoting electoral participation, building capacity on tools like the Scorecard and Index (MPSI), and advancing the domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol. A core component of this work was the inclusion of marginalised groups, particularly women and girls, who are often excluded from peacebuilding efforts. Additionally, GPSP worked with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to implement regional action plans aligned with UN Resolution 1325, with an emphasis on strengthening and gendering early warning mechanisms.

To further advance the WPS agenda, GPSP, in collaboration with the Peace and Security Council (PSC) Secretariat, Femwise-Africa, and the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE), organised the inaugural Ministerial High-Level Seminar of the PSC. The seminar, themed "Commemorating 20 Years of the PSC by Taking Stock of Women's Participation and Leadership in Peace Processes in Africa," aimed to advocate for meaningful women's participation in peace processes and explore policy options to enhance their involvement. The event culminated in the adoption of the Swakopmund Conclusions, which included key recommendations, notably the development of a policy framework on women's quotas in mediation processes. GPSP, in partnership with the Mediation Dialogue Division, followed up with consultations to develop the draft outline of the policy framework, ensuring a gender-responsive approach to conflict resolution across Africa.

Parallel to these efforts, GPSP strengthened strategic partnerships with regional organisations, civil society groups (CSOs), and centres of excellence, including UN Women, UN Office

of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Office to the African Union



(UNOAU), the Africa First Ladies Peace Mission (AFLPM), The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), The Institute for Security Studies (ISS), the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and The Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC). These partnerships have been instrumental in advancing the WPS agenda across the continent, mobilising resources, sharing expertise, and creating a coordinated approach to address gender-based violence and enhance women's involvement in peacebuilding. Key initiatives included regional consultations, such as dialogues to refine the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU CEVAWG), and a Great Lakes CSOs Regional Dialogue aimed at revitalising the PSC Framework. This dialogue focused on maximising the framework's impact on regional stabilisation and development.

Further reflecting its commitment to the WPS agenda, GPSP, in collaboration with the Femwise Secretariat, the Office of the Special Envoy on WPS, and UN Women, hosted a conference bringing together Sudanese women to shape a peaceful and stable Sudan. The conference amplified women's voices-built consensus on a gender-sensitive peace agenda and strengthened the capacity of Sudanese women to engage in peace processes. Additionally, GPSP, in collaboration with AFLPM and UNOAU, convened a Best Practices Regional Forum, gathering CSOs from African countries holding elections in

2024 to share strategies for increasing women's participation in electoral processes.

GPSP, alongside the Mediation and Dialogue Division (MDD) and African First Ladies Peace Mission (AFLPM), also launched a Capacity Building Programme targeting the ECOWAS Female Parliamentarians Association (ECOFEP) and Nigerian Local Women Leaders. This initiative was designed to empower women in conflict prevention, dialogue, and diplomacy, equipping them with the skills necessary for effective mediation and conflict prevention to promote regional peace and security.

In another key development, the AU's Economic, Social, and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and GPSP initiated consultations to develop an advisory opinion on the WPS agenda, which is expected to be finalised by October 2025. This advisory will play a crucial role in reinforcing the WPS agenda and addressing the challenges women face in conflict settings, contributing to the AU's efforts to commemorate the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

In June 2024, the 16th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety, and Security (STCDSS) endorsed a strategic review of the African Standby Force (ASF) with a focus on gender mainstreaming. This review culminated in a consultative meeting in Algiers in December 2024, which produced key recommendations, including the development of a gender policy for peace support operations (PSOs), prioritising gender integration in ASF reviews, and conducting pre-deployment gender assessments. These steps aim to ensure gender considerations are fully embedded in Africa's peace and security operations.



Through these strategic partnerships and initiatives, the AU has significantly enhanced the impact of its Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) efforts. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the AU ensures its actions address critical gaps and lay the foundation for long-term

progress. This collective approach, grounded in local ownership, not only promotes regional stability but also reinforces broader peace and security frameworks, ensuring that women's roles in peacebuilding remain central to Africa's future.

FemWise-Africa

FemWise-Africa support to the Sudan Women's Peace Dialogue

Under the auspices of the AU High-Level Panel on Sudan, FemWise-Africa, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and the Gender Peace and Security Programme (GPSP), facilitated the inaugural Sudanese Women's Dialogue in Kampala,

Uganda, in July 2024. The dialogue aimed to enhance the inclusivity of Sudanese women in the ongoing mediation process to resolve the conflict in Sudan and to further strengthen the effective representation of women in the Inter-Sudanese Dialogues organised in 2024 by the AU and IGAD.



Launch of the FemWise-South Sudan National Chapter and Capacity Building on Early Warning, Conflict Prevention and Mediation

In alignment with ongoing efforts to decentralise the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa) at national, regional, and continental levels, the Network launched the FemWise-South Sudan national chapter in July 2024. This initiative aims to strengthen South Sudanese women mediators' agency and meaningful role in

effectively engaging in grassroots and national conflict prevention, mediation, dialogue, and peacebuilding efforts. Hosted by the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare, FemWise-South Sudan is the fourth national chapter established by FemWise-Africa, following those in Uganda, Malawi, and Ethiopia. Concurrently, at the regional level, SADC made advancements to operationalise the Southern Africa Regional Women Mediators Network, building on the successes in ECOWAS and ECCAS.

Briefing by the FemWise-Africa Co-Chair to the UN Security Council at Annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security

At the global level, in her capacity as the Secretariat of the Global Alliance of Women Mediator Networks, Hon. Justice (Rtd) Effie Owuor, co-Chair of FemWise-Africa and Chair of the Panel of the Wise, delivered a briefing during the annual UN Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, held in October 2024 in New York. The briefing aimed to foster high-level

discourse and advocacy among member states and policymakers regarding bolstering the role of women mediator networks and their contributions to more inclusive peace processes. On behalf of the Global Alliance, the Network also organised a high-level side event on the margins of the Open Debate to enhance global mechanisms and policies directed at advancing women's strategic contributions to peacebuilding, peacemaking, and mediation efforts at all levels.



Deployment of FemWise-Africa Members to AU-led Preventive Diplomacy Missions

In 2024, FemWise-Africa facilitated the deployment of its members to support the AU Preventive Diplomacy Missions (PDM), led by the Panel of the Wise, in various contexts, including election-related PDMs and continued support for the Panel's engagement in South Sudan to accompany the country's ongoing peace processes through the implementation of the R-ARCSS and the Tumaini Initiative. The Network also maintained its long-term deployments to support the AUOs in Chad and Sudan, providing the requisite expertise on mediation, dialogue, and other peace efforts.

Conclusion of the 1st Cohort of FemWise-Africa and Launch of the 2nd Cohort at Continental Level

As part of the ongoing decentralisation process, FemWise-Africa formally hosted a closing ceremony for the network's first cohort in July 2024 and subsequently launched a call for applications for the second cohort in December 2024. The closing ceremony showcased FemWise-Africa's achievements since its inception and outlined significant challenges and opportunities for the Network as it entered a new phase.

The 2nd Cohort of the Network is expected to draw in women mediators from across the continent with significant expertise in mediation and in thematic areas that often intersect with peace processes. They will be expected to be central in advancing the AU's gender mainstreaming efforts in its mediation processes.

African Union's Strategic Approach towards the Sudan Crisis

On 15 April 2023, an armed conflict erupted in Sudan, between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by Lt-Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), led by Lt. Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, breaking the political transition process which had been negotiated and supported under the auspices of the AU-IGAD-UN Trilateral Mechanism. The African Union (AU) adopted a proactive and strategic approach to addressing the conflict, marked by a series of decisive actions to foster peace and stability in the country.

The Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, called for an end to the violence and took several steps towards resolving the crisis, including establishing the Expanded Mechanism for Resolution of the Crisis in Sudan on 20 April 2023. The AU Commission then developed an AU Roadmap for the Resolution of the Conflict in Sudan, which was adopted unanimously at the 1156th Session of the AU PSC, held at the Heads of State and Government level on 27 May 2023.

On 17 January 2024, the Chairperson of the AU Commission appointed three eminent African personalities, as members of the AU High-Level Panel on Sudan, namely: H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns – Chair; H.E. Dr. Speciosa Wandira-Kazibwe, Former Vice President of the Republic of Uganda – Member, and H.E. Amb. Francisco Madeira, Former Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission (SRCC) to Somalia and Head of AMISOM/ATMIS – Member. The Panel on Sudan was mandated to work with all the Sudanese stakeholders, including civilian forces, military belligerents and regional and global actors such as IGAD, UN, and League of Arab States, to ensure an all-inclusive process towards the swift restoration of peace, constitutional order and stability in Sudan.

Consequently, shuttle diplomacy was undertaken by the Panel to key regional stakeholders, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda, to support the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Sudan. The Panel organised

two preparatory meetings between July 2024 and 9 August 2024, which brought together Sudanese political parties and blocs, independent personalities, women and youth representatives and resistance committees. Both meetings were geared towards a broader AU-IGAD-led Inter-Sudanese Political Dialogue for a peaceful resolution and return to a constitutional order. The Panel also convened in July 2024, the Sudan's Women Dialogue, held in Kampala, Uganda.

The Panel took part in several engagements in 2024, towards the resolution of the Sudanese conflict, including the Inclusive Conference for the Sudanese political actors, in Cairo, organised by the Arab Republic of Egypt; the Second Consultative Meeting on Enhancing Coordination on Peace Initiatives and Efforts in Sudan, and the Mediators Planning Retreat on the Situation in Sudan, held in Djibouti, the ceasefire talks on Sudan, convened by the United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Switzerland, the Ministerial Meeting on Sudan which was convened by Germany, France, the United States and the European Union, in New York during the United Nations General Assembly High Level Week in support of the Sudanese people and their aspirations for a peaceful, prosperous and democratic future and a visit to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Despite these efforts by the AU High-Level Panel, the situation continues to deteriorate. The Panel remains committed to continuous engagement with all stakeholders in the Sudan Crisis.



African Union's Commitment to Peace and Resilience in Madagascar

The African Union (AU) has continued its unwavering commitment to promoting peace, security, and development across the African continent, with particular attention to Madagascar. In response to an invitation from the Government of Madagascar, the AU Commission Chairperson deployed an African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to monitor the legislative elections held on 29 May 2024. The mission, present in the country from 22 May to 2 June 2024, assessed the transparency and credibility of the electoral process. In its preliminary statement, the AUEOM commended the peaceful atmosphere during the elections and encouraged political actors to remain calm and use legal channels for disputes.

Notable protests against the incumbent government occurred before and after the elections. These protests sometimes led to clashes with security forces, particularly in Antananarivo. The government responded with increased security measures, including bans on public demonstrations, which were seen as part of a broader crackdown on dissent.

The period after the elections saw continued tension, with the political atmosphere described as fragile. However, the situation was managed to avoid widespread conflict. The government's handling of the fallout from the elections, including the final certification of results by the High Constitutional Court, played a crucial role in maintaining peace.

From April to June, Cyclone Gamane wreaked havoc in four regions in the north and east of the country. The cyclone reportedly caused 48 deaths and affected 129,718 people, significantly damaging public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, schools, and various public buildings. The Council of Ministers declared a national disaster emergency due to the extensive damage, appealing for international humanitarian aid. In a gesture of solidarity, the African Union assisted Madagascar with a donation of \$200,000 to support the country's response to the devastating effects of the cyclone.

In combating synthetic drug trafficking, the AU, in collaboration with the Government of Madagascar, hosted a continental workshop in Antananarivo from 22 to 25 October 2024. The workshop focused on strengthening strategies to combat synthetic drug trafficking and advancing crime prevention across Africa. It brought together law enforcement professionals, customs officials, judiciary members, and international organisations to enhance Africa's capacity to address synthetic drug trafficking and related organised crime.

The African Union's efforts in Madagascar highlight its dedication to fostering peace, security, and development. Through election monitoring, disaster response, and initiatives to combat drug trafficking, the AU is pivotal in supporting Madagascar's journey towards stability and prosperity.

African Union's Commitment to Peace and Stability in the Central African Republic

The African Union (AU) has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to supporting peace, security, and development in the Central African Republic (CAR). In January 2024, with the

AU's backing, the CAR government adopted a comprehensive humanitarian response plan to address the pressing needs of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). This

plan focuses on providing essential services, facilitating safe returns, and improving living conditions for affected populations.

In a demonstration of its dedication to fostering peace in CAR, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) held its 1221st Meeting on 11 July 2024 to assess the situation in the country. The Council acknowledged the progress in implementing the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (PAPR-CAR), significantly contributing to the prevailing stability. The PSC commended CAR's leadership for their commitment to the Agreement and emphasised the importance of continued efforts towards national reconciliation and development.

Further bolstering peace efforts, the United Nations Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) expanded its presence in the country's southeast to prevent further violence in conflict-affected areas. This expansion included strengthening operations in the Upper Kotto and Vakanga prefectures to protect civilians and deter threats from armed groups.

In line with the AU's Master Roadmap on Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa, the 3rd

edition of the Africa Amnesty Month (AMM) was commemorated in CAR in September 2024. This event focused on the voluntary surrender and collection of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) under conditions of anonymity and immunity from prosecution. The initiative aimed to reduce armed violence and promote peace in CAR and other AU Member States.

Additionally, at its 1241st Meeting on 30 October 2024, the PSC reviewed its field mission report on CAR during the AMM. The report highlighted the security situation, humanitarian challenges, and the status of disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) programs. The Council reiterated its support for CAR's peace consolidation efforts and called for enhanced coordination with international stakeholders.

The AU's multifaceted approach in CAR underscores its commitment to creating a stable and peaceful environment. The AU plays a pivotal role in the Central African Republic's ongoing peace and development process through strategic humanitarian initiatives, robust peacekeeping efforts, and comprehensive disarmament programs.

African Union's Strategic Support for Chad's Security and Transition

The African Union (AU) has actively supported Chad's transition to constitutional order and its efforts at addressing regional security challenges. These efforts underscore the AU's commitment to enhancing local and regional security for the government and people of Chad. On 30 January 2024, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) renewed the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) mandate for 12 months, effective 1 February 2024. This decision aimed to bolster regional security efforts against Boko Haram and other extremist groups in the Lake Chad Basin, directly impacting Chad's security landscape. The PSC also called for the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding and Support Implementation Agreement between the African Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, and

MNJTF troop-contributing countries to ensure continued support for the task force's operations.

In a significant development, Chad held a presidential election on 6 May 2024, marking a crucial step toward restoring constitutional order following the 2021 military takeover after President Idriss Déby's death. The PSC emphasised the importance of this election as a benchmark for the African Union's approach to supporting transitions on the continent. The PSC underscored the need for an inclusive and peaceful return to constitutional governance amidst concerns about the eligibility of transitional authorities to participate in the elections.

Concerns arose post-election regarding the legitimacy and process, with opposition leader

Succès Masra appealing for the annulment of the vote due to alleged irregularities. The Government responded with enhanced security measures, including military deployments in key areas, to manage potential unrest.

The African Union intensified its “Silencing the Guns” initiative in Chad to reduce armed conflicts and promote peace. In August 2024, the AU, in collaboration with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), conducted Operation Lake Sanity 2. This operation targeted Boko Haram and other terrorist groups in the Lake Chad Basin region, delivering a significant blow to them.

The AU continues to monitor developments in Chad, including the November 2024 announcement by Chad of its decision to terminate the country’s defense and security cooperation agreement with France and the complete withdrawal of French troops from Chad.

This phased approach is expected to conclude by 31 January 2025, as President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno indicated. This move is part of a broader trend in the Sahel region, with countries like Senegal and Chad asserting their sovereignty and reevaluating foreign military presence on their soil.

Additionally, the ongoing conflict in Sudan in 2024 had a profound impact on Chad’s security environment, with over 700,000 Sudanese refugees entering Chad. This influx has added to the strain on Chad’s resources and security apparatus.

The African Union’s multifaceted approach in Chad highlights its dedication to creating a stable and secure environment. The AU plays a pivotal role in Chad’s ongoing journey towards peace and stability through strategic security initiatives, robust peacekeeping efforts, and comprehensive support for constitutional transitions.

Libya at a Crossroads: AU’s Diplomatic Efforts and the Path to Stability



AU High-Level Delegation Visits Tripoli

In a significant diplomatic engagement, an African Union (AU) high-level delegation visited Tripoli from 10 to 11 October 2024. The delegation met with senior Libyan authorities who expressed gratitude for the AU’s steadfast support since

2011. Leading the delegation was H.E. President Mohamed Ould Sheikh Al-Ghazouani of Mauritania, Chair of the AU for the year. He was accompanied by H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), and H.E. Jean-Claude Gakosso, Minister

of Foreign Affairs of Congo, representing H.E. President Denis Sassou N’Guesso, Chair of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya (HLC). This meeting was critical for Libya and its people, who have faced significant uncertainty since the unsuccessful elections of December 2021.

Security Situation

The ceasefire agreement established on 23 October 2020 continues to hold, and the risk of a large-scale war remains low. Local mediation has succeeded in containing occasional threats of violence from armed factions in the western part of the country. Improved security conditions have facilitated progress in economic and humanitarian areas, although significant challenges persist due to the lack of national consensus on resolving the political conflict.

Political Stalemate

Libya is mired in a political stalemate between the internationally recognised Government of National Unity (GNU), based in Tripoli and led by Prime Minister Abdelhamid Dbeiba, and the eastern-based Government of National Stability (GNS), backed by the House of Representatives and the Libyan National Army under Marshal Khalifa Haftar. Despite the House of Representatives passing two laws in October 2023, drafted by the 6+6 Committee regarding presidential and parliamentary elections, the conflicting parties have yet to settle their disputes over organising national polls. A key issue is establishing a unified interim government responsible for organising elections or reshuffling the current government.

Recent Political Confrontations

2024 saw intensified political confrontations, particularly during the summer between the House of Representatives and the Executive authorities. On 13 August 2024, for the fourth time since 2021, Parliament voted to end the GNU’s term and designate the eastern government as

Libya’s “legitimate government” until a unified interim government is appointed. The House of Representatives also named its Speaker, Aguila Saleh, the Supreme Commander of Libya’s armed forces. However, the Presidential Council, designated by the Libyan Political Agreement of 2015, continues to serve as the “Supreme Commander” of the army.

Unilateral Decisions and Economic Impact

Unilateral decisions have exacerbated the conflict. On 18 August 2024, the Head of the Presidency Council issued a decree to change the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) and the board of directors. In response, the eastern region declared a “force majeure” on all oil and gas fields and installations. This crisis has significantly impacted citizens’ daily lives and trade transactions, as the CBL serves as the depository for public revenues and is one of the few state institutions that cater to both governments. However, a return to normalcy was achieved when Eastern and Western actors reached an agreement on 26 September 2024, following two rounds of UN-brokered talks. A new governor has assumed office after a swearing-in session conducted by the House of Representatives.

Conclusion

The African Union (AU) is committed to fostering national consensus and alleviating political tensions in Libya. Despite setbacks, the AU remains resolute, especially in its quest for enduring peace and stability in the country. The AU appreciates the Libyan authorities’ cooperation and acknowledges H.E. President Denis Sassou N’Guesso’s leadership in restoring peace and stability. Libya continues to be a priority, with successful negotiations in 2024 to relocate the AU Liaison Office to Tripoli, thereby enhancing the AU’s visibility and support for Libyan stakeholders.



Strengthening National Peace Infrastructures: Enhancing Resilience in Coastal Countries in the West Africa Region



The West African region continues to face a myriad of multi-layered security challenges. Prominent among these are terrorism, violent extremism, and the increasingly volatile operations of armed and insurgent groups, which continue to expand exponentially, particularly within the Gulf of Guinea. Notably, the escalating impacts of climate change—such as the depletion of vital resources like water, land, food, fisheries, and biodiversity—have significantly affected livelihoods in the region, especially in the Sahel. This fosters competition and often leads to ethnic conflicts, inter-communal violence, and farmer-herder disputes. These interconnected trends underscore vulnerabilities and exacerbate the region's state and human security fragilities.

Despite various interventions by stakeholders, including the African Union, ECOWAS, Member States, civil society organisations (CSOs), and other external actors, the threats continue to evolve, raising critical questions about the efficacy of existing response mechanisms. While legal instruments like the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism (1999) and its related protocols have been

implemented as preventive and mitigatory measures aimed at combating terrorism and violent extremism across the continent, there appears to be a sustained proliferation of terrorism. Terrorist groups, including Boko Haram, al-Shabaab, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), among others, have intensified their offensive operations with sophisticated artillery against defenceless populations.

To address this trend, the African Union Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security is currently undertaking projects to strengthen the resilience of National Peace Infrastructures within the West Africa region to enhance peace and stability. Indigenous structures play a crucial role in conflict prevention, mediation, and resolution, promoting social cohesion, addressing community and cultural grievances, and fostering sustainable recovery and development.

Most coastal countries in the region have taken measures to reinforce their national peace infrastructures in line with the AU Continental Early Warning System. For

instance, Ghana established the National Peace Council, which plays a vital role in conflict prevention and community dialogue. Benin initiated community policing initiatives and integrated counter-terrorism measures into its national security policies. Meanwhile, Togo implemented the “Inclusive Approach to Security” strategy, emphasising community involvement in early warning and counter-extremism efforts. Furthermore, due to their shared northern border with the Sahel, many of these coastal countries, including Côte d’Ivoire, have bolstered their military presence to deter infiltration by extremist groups.

Despite progress, several challenges continue to hinder the full realisation of community resilience, safe borders, social cohesion, and relative security and stability. Within this context, the AU Continental Early Warning System mechanism has been providing tailored support to strengthen the resilience of National Peace Infrastructures in Ghana and Benin.

From October to December 2024, the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security undertook a robust initiative to provide strategic and technical support to strengthen the capacities of National Peace Infrastructures.

The project constituted technical support in capacity building and training for designated officials within the respective ministries to deepen peace and resilience building. The project provided requisite equipment, including laptops, desktops, printers, TV screens, internet router connectivity tools, and logistical and operational support to counterinsurgency. The package includes establishing a Situation Room and training the staff for practical data, signal, and indicator collection and analysis for early response and other early warning processes. It is worth mentioning that the African Union Peace Fund fully funds this project.

Although coastal West Africa’s challenges are daunting, actionable steps can lead to sustainable peace. Fostering collaboration, leveraging technology, and empowering local communities are essential strategies. The Commission will continue supporting peacebuilding efforts and local initiatives and advocating for increased investment in resilience-building actions. The future holds challenges and opportunities; by acting together, a secure and peaceful Africa is within reach.

The AU Continental Early Warning System: Shaping Conflict Prevention Approaches

The African Union’s Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) continues to contribute to peace and security through innovative and collaborative approaches.

The CEWS Situation Room, the AU nerve centre for real-time conflict monitoring and reporting across the continent, continues to gather and analyse information from diverse sources, including media platforms, CSO reports, and RECs/RMs, to produce daily, weekly, and monthly situation reports, as well as country updates. These updates identify emerging threats, guide decision-makers at the African Union, and ensure timely responses. In 2024, the Situation Room was vital in supporting national early warning systems, including providing virtual follow-up training to Somalia’s

Office of National Security on customising the Africa Media Monitor (AMM).

The CEWS/Situation Room also undertook key initiatives to enhance the conflict prevention framework. One such initiative involved reviewing and refining the Human Rights-Based Approach to Conflict Prevention Framework (HRBA-CPF) and producing analytical tools such as the Prevention-focused Human Rights Analytical Framework (PHRAF). These tools have been instrumental in incorporating human rights considerations into early warning systems and conflict prevention strategies. Furthermore, joint capacity-building workshops with the Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate strengthened the integration of human rights indicators into the Africa Media

Monitor (AMM), reinforcing CEWS's ability to track and respond to human rights violations across the continent.

Furthermore, CEWS has made significant strides in fostering robust peace infrastructures at the national level. Capacity-building programmes, including training sessions and the provision of IT equipment, have enhanced the early warning capabilities of Member States such as Zambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Benin. In partnership with COMESA, CEWS facilitated multi-stakeholder consultations in Rwanda, Burundi, and Seychelles. These engagements, which involved government and civil society actors, enabled these countries to volunteer for the CSVRA self-assessment process. Establishing dedicated national bureaus in these states has been pivotal in identifying vulnerabilities, building resilience, and addressing the root causes of conflicts through coordinated institutional efforts and mitigation strategies.

In Malawi, CEWS, in partnership with COMESA, conducted CSVRA and CSVMS consultations after developing a comprehensive roadmap. Similarly, Zambia received remote technical assistance from CEWS to support its ongoing CSVRA process, which helped finalise its national assessment report and laid the groundwork for effective mitigation.

Kenya also benefited from CEWS's support in partnership with COMESA during a planning meeting in Nairobi in November 2024. This collaboration resulted in the development of a comprehensive roadmap that was informed by lessons from Malawi and Zambia. The expanded bureau in Kenya, which includes representatives from ministries, electoral bodies, youth organisations, and trade unions, showcases an inclusive approach to conflict prevention. Despite these advancements, challenges such as resource mobilisation and further training needs persist, necessitating ongoing support from CEWS and COMESA.

CEWS complemented these national efforts at the continental level through regional engagements and technical innovations. The 28th Technical Meeting, held in Abuja, Nigeria, brought together Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs), namely IGAD (CEWARN), ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, ECCAS, EAC, and EASF, to address shared challenges such as terrorism, migration, electoral challenges, and climate-induced conflicts. Participants emphasised the importance of leveraging technology, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Geographic

Strengthening Africa's Peace and Security: The African Standby Force Strategic Evolution



The African Standby Force (ASF) is a cornerstone of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), responsible for addressing the continent's peace and security challenges. In this context, the African Union (AU) Assembly, through Assembly Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(XIV), declared the ASF fully operational during its 14th Extraordinary Assembly on Silencing the Guns, which took place on 6 December 2020. It further instructed the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to utilise the ASF framework in mandating and authorising AU Peace Support Operations (PSOs).

Following this decision and recognising the evolving peace and security landscape on the continent, characterised by violent extremism, terrorism, pandemics, asymmetric warfare, and climate-induced disasters, among others, the 15th and 16th Ordinary meetings of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence Safety and Security (STCDSS) instructed the Commission to conduct a Strategic Review of the ASF to ensure the mechanism remains adequate and fit for purpose. Guided by AU Member States, the review process will be conducted in consultation with key stakeholders, including AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), the AU PSC, Training Centres of Excellence/Training Institutions (TCEs/TIs) accredited to the AU, and other relevant stakeholders and partners. The outcomes and recommendations of the review will be presented at the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the STCDSS.

In line with this directive, the Commission adopted a phased approach to the review process, which involved multiple levels of engagement and consultations. The first phase, held from 2 to 4 December 2024 in Algiers, Algeria, included a Technical Consultative Meeting and dedicated consultations with the ASF RECs/RMs Planning Elements (PLANELMs) and TCEs/TIs. The outcomes of this phase identified initial issues and recommendations that established the groundwork for the next phase of engagement with key stakeholders, scheduled to take place in the first and second quarters of 2025. This will include consultations with strategic partners, a consultative workshop with AU Member States and RECs, and discussions with the AU PSC and regional decision-making bodies responsible for conflict management and peace and security. The review process is expected to culminate in

developing a Strategic Review Report, presenting key outcomes and recommendations to the 17th STCDSS meeting, anticipated to occur in the second quarter of 2025, for further guidance and endorsement by AU Policy Organs.

Similarly, the Commission facilitated the 16th Ordinary meeting of the STCDSS in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3rd to 5th June 2024. The STCDSS meeting deliberated on several crucial agenda items, culminating in the endorsement of strategic recommendations for enhanced security and cooperation. These included adopting policies central to the operationalisation of the ASF, such as the AU Training Policy for Peace Support Operations, the AU Strategic Lift Concept, and the AU Guidelines for Case Management in Peace Support Operations.

Additionally, the Commission has been working closely with the RECs/RMs, TCEs, and partners to continue developing and reviewing training packages for the ASF's three components (Civilian, Police, and Military). In this regard, the Commission has conducted several training packages, including Generic Military Pre-Deployment Training, Training of Trainers for the RECs/RMs, and Generic Pre-Deployment Training, as well as Civil Foundation Courses (CFC) and other specialised training for the civilian component.

While providing relevant training for all ASF components, the Commission also conducted exercises, including one for the Police component, in coordination with and supported by the Arma dei Carabinieri of Italy. Furthermore, as part of the ongoing preparations for the AMANI Africa III Continental maritime exercise, a workshop was held from 7 to 9 October 2024 in Abuja, Nigeria, to finalise the concept and budget of the exercise.

As directed by the 16th meeting of the STCDSS, the Commission also engaged with Member States regarding pledges of strategic air and maritime lift assets. Memoranda of Understanding on the provision of Strategic Lift were finalised with the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In conjunction with these processes, a signing ceremony is proposed on the sidelines of the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in February 2025. For 2025, the Commission will continue to facilitate assessments of pledged strategic lift assets from

the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Tunisia, and the Republic of Uganda. Furthermore, the Commission conducted a workshop to further review the draft ASF Communication, Command, Control, and Information Systems (C3IS) Concept from 30 September to 4 October 2024 in Lusaka, Zambia. It will collaborate with RECs/RMs for its finalisation as part of ongoing efforts to operationalise the ASF C3IS capability.

Through the Commission's AU Verification of Operational Readiness Status Team (VORST), verification visits have been conducted to the ASF Planning Elements to confirm and verify the ASF's operational readiness. The objective was

to ensure that all contributions from regional member states met the required standards, per ASF guidelines for pledged capabilities, and to confirm their readiness for deployment.

In conclusion, the AU Commission continues to enhance the ASF's operational readiness through policy advancements, strategic reviews, training, and verification exercises. Strengthening capacity building, awareness, and collaboration should be emphasised, as should the need for realistic guidance from AU Decision-Making Organs and Member States.

Towards Predictable and Sustainable Financing For AU-Led Peace Support Operations and Programme Activities : Lessons Learned

Introduction

The need to enhance the predictability, sustainability, and flexibility of financing for African Union-led peace support operations and programme activities is more crucial than ever now, as it ensures a prompt response to the existing and emerging peace and security issues on the Continent. This article, "Financing African Union-Led Peace Support Operations and Programme Activities: Lessons Learned," offers insights into the challenges and solutions associated with financing AU-led peace support operations. It references the AU's normative and structural frameworks, including the AU Constitutive Act, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC, AU Assembly decisions, and AU PSC Communiqués. The article builds upon key documents such as the 2015 Common African Position on the UN Review of Peace Support Operations, the 2016 Report on Predictable and Sustainable Financing by Dr. Donald Kaberuka, and the 2023 African Consensus on Predictable, Adequate, and Sustainable Financing for AU Peace and Security Activities.

A significant aspect of the AU reform process was the necessity for predictable, adequate, flexible, and sustainable financing to enhance

the Union's financial autonomy and diminish reliance on development partners. The 2016 Report on Predictable and Sustainable Financing argues that the primary challenge facing the AU Commission is its persistent dependence on partner funding. The report states that "the high levels of donor dependency have weakened ownership of the AU's mandate." It further emphasises that "the multiplicity of donor financing channels has resulted in fragmentation and elevated transaction costs associated with the numerous reporting requirements." In this context, the AU Assembly prioritised mobilising African resources to fund continental priorities in both 2013 and 2015.

In January 2015, the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa decided that member states would fund 100% of the operational budget, 75% of the program budget, and 25% of the peace support operations budget (Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.561(XXIV)]). This commitment was reiterated in June 2015 in Johannesburg (Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.578(XXV)]). In 2023, the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly reaffirmed these decisions and commended the AU Commission for finalising the African Consensus Paper on Adequate, Predictable, and Sustainable Financing for AU Peace and Security

Activities. The Assembly adopted the Consensus Paper and requested comprehensive advocacy to support the African position, involving AU Member States, RECs/RMs, UN Security Council members, and other partners. The 2023 Consensus Paper proposed three funding options: UN-assessed contributions for the Hybrid Mission Model, contributions through the UN Support Office Model, and contributions in support of subregional peace support operations.

AU Peace Support Operations Lessons Learned

African Union (AU) peace support operations are crucial initiatives aimed at maintaining peace, security, and stability throughout the continent. The AUPSC has authorised various AU-led peace support operations, as well as stabilisation, political, and civilian missions across the continent. Some of these were supported by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) to effectively respond to various conflicts and crises.

Key Lessons Learned from AU-Led Peace Support Operations

The following are the Key Lessons learned from AU-led Peace Support Operations in the continent.

- **Inclusive Dialogue:** The AU has emphasised the importance of an all-inclusive political dialogue among stakeholders. This approach is essential for establishing peace, security, and stability, as well as addressing the historical contexts and root causes of conflicts. Engaging diverse groups such as political parties, women's groups, and civil society organisations has proven useful in fostering sustainable peace processes.
- **Coordination with Regional and International Partners:** Effective coordination among regional and international partners, including RECs/RMs, the UN, and the League of Arab States, is essential for ensuring that actions are synchronised to expedite the resolution of conflicts.
- **Humanitarian Consideration:** The AU has recognised the dire humanitarian situation in conflict areas due to flooding, drought, and famine, resulting in a significant number of internally displaced persons.
- **Accountability Frameworks:** Adhering to the AU Accountability and Compliance

Framework, International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, and Conduct and Discipline is increasingly important in PSOs. In this regard, compliance with the accountability frameworks should be an integral part of the mission's planning, implementation, and management processes.

- **Mission Management:** The UNSCR endorses the mission following the approval of the AU PSC. Subsequently, the AUC Chairperson approves Strategic Directives (SD) and Administrative Guidelines (AG) for managing AU-Led PSOs. The SD and AG outline the political and security imperatives of the mission area and provide strategic, operational, administrative, financial, mission support, coordination, and management policy guidelines to the SRCC/Head of Mission and the Senior Mission Leadership Team to plan and execute the tasks necessary to achieve the mission's mandate.

EU APSA Support Programme Lessons Learned

The EU-APSA IV Programme has significantly enhanced the capacity of the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) in early warning and response efforts. Through ongoing coordination and joint planning with the Continental Early Warning System (CEWs), the programme has facilitated consistent information sharing, joint analysis, and reporting, as well as collaboration between the AUC and RECs/RMs on key initiatives, including Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) processes. This engagement has resulted in the establishment of situation rooms in various AU Member States, improving local capacities and reinforcing the effectiveness of early warning systems across the continent within the framework of the APSA.

In addition to strengthening early warning systems, the EU-APSA IV Programme has significantly contributed to the African Union's Peace Support Operations (AU PSOs), particularly in Somalia. The programme has enhanced pre-deployment verification processes, troop rotations, and overall coordination for the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). This has ensured that personnel are better prepared and deployed in accordance with international standards, thereby improving the operational

effectiveness of AU PSOs. Furthermore, the programme has bolstered the regional standby forces, such as the North African Regional Capability (NARC) and the East African Standby Force (EASF).

The African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP) have played a vital role in enhancing youth participation in peace and security efforts. Following the release of the UN's "New Agenda for Peace" in 2023, AYAP convened regional and continental consultations to discuss the intersection of Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) with the New Agenda for Peace. These dialogues provided a platform for young people to express their perspectives on the future of peace and security in Africa and globally. The outcomes of these consultations will contribute to shaping the implementation of the New Agenda for Peace, ensuring that youth voices are integral to global peacebuilding efforts.

Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA) Lessons Learned

- Predictable and Flexible Funding is Essential for Sustainability: The JFA provided a predictable and flexible source of funding that enabled the Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security (D-PAPS) to respond more effectively to emerging security threats and political crises. This agility is crucial in a rapidly evolving security landscape across the continent. The JFA demonstrated the effectiveness of a pooled funding mechanism.
- Adequate Staffing is Crucial for Effective Operations: Limitations in recruitment hinder the African Union Commission's (AUC) ability to respond swiftly to conflicts, support political transitions, and coordinate peace support operations. The JFA contributes significantly to adequate staffing and enables D-PAPS to fulfil its mandate effectively. The funding has facilitated the recruitment and retention of skilled personnel within D-PAPS, allowing for a more robust and professional approach to managing peace and security challenges.
- Sustained Support to Liaison Offices Enhances Field Presence: The JFA support reinforced the critical role of African Union Liaison Offices (LOs) in conflict prevention and resolution. Their presence in member states has proven to be invaluable in ensuring real-time political monitoring, facilitating communication between the AU and national governments, and tailoring interventions to local contexts.
- Strong Coordination Mechanisms Improve Impact: Coordination and coherence between the AUC and its partners were significantly enhanced under the JFA, reinforcing a collaborative approach to maintaining peace and stability. There exists a strategic vision to build on the JFA's advances by incorporating additional partners and ensuring member state representation in key meetings, further strengthening inclusive decision-making and engagement.
- Timely and Comprehensive Reporting Strengthens Accountability and Trust: The experience with the JFA underscored the importance of timely and comprehensive reporting. Transparent reporting has fostered trust among partners, enhancing the credibility of AUC initiatives. By sharing a single report with all JFA partners, a comprehensive view of D-PAPS initiatives is provided, enabling partners to better understand their collective contributions to the Department's work.
- The Need for Sustainable Long-Term and Efficient Financing: The JFA improves efficiency by lowering transaction costs, a frequent challenge in bilateral agreements with individual partners. Although the JFA has been pivotal in supporting peace and security programmes, the necessity for sustainable, long-term financing remains crucial.



Conclusions

Financing African Union-led peace support operations and programme activities necessitates a multifaceted approach to tackle the continent's distinct challenges. Various models, including contributions from member states, international funding, the AU Peace Fund, ad hoc or direct partner financing, and joint financing of hybrid missions, each have their advantages and disadvantages. By diversifying and managing these sources effectively, the AU can bolster its capacity for sustainable peace operations and programme financing, contributing to stability and security throughout Africa. Success hinges

on the commitment of AU Member States, the UN, and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure sufficient funding and effective execution.

While the AU is making strides in self-financing, it is crucial that AU-led peace operations authorised by the UN Security Council receive the necessary support to address complex mandates in challenging environments. The Joint Financing Arrangement and APSA have been vital for the AU's peace and security goals, and the new Joint Framework Arrangement represents a significant step towards continued progress in stability and governance across Africa.

AU Convenes Nouakchott Process to Enhance Coordination Against Terrorism in the Sahel-Sahara Region



The African Union (AU), with the support of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) and the Government of the Republic of Senegal, convened the High-level Meeting on Collective Security Engagements to Counter Terrorist and Insurgent Threats in the Sahel-Sahara Region within the Framework of the Nouakchott Process. The meeting, held from 25 to 27 November 2024 in Dakar, Senegal, aimed to enhance coordination, information and

intelligence sharing, and joint operations in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel-Sahara region.

The meeting was opened by Gen. Birame Diop, Minister of Armed Forces of the Republic of Senegal, and Dr. Alhaji Sarjoh Bah, Director of Conflict Management at the African Union. It convened heads of intelligence services from the Sahel-Sahara countries, particularly member states of the Nouakchott Process and the Accra Initiative, including Algeria, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire,

Ghana, Guinea, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo. Participating institutions and mechanisms included the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Executive Secretariat of the Accra Initiative, the Regional Intelligence Fusion Unit (RIFU), the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), the AU Mission for Mali and the Sahel (MISAHÉL), the Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL) of the Sahel countries, the North African Regional Capability (NARC), and the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (CTC).

Participants noted with concern the continuing deterioration in the security situation in the Sahel-Sahara region, the West African Coastal Region, and the Lake Chad Basin. They highlighted the factors catalysing the expansion of terrorism and terrorist armed groups in the region, including porous borders, political instability, unconstitutional changes of government, poor governance, and climate change. These factors are sustained through targeted recruitment, kidnapping for ransom, poaching, illegal exploitation of natural resources, particularly artisanal gold mining, logging, and smuggling of contraband, including drugs, counterfeit

medicines, cigarettes, human trafficking, and banditry.

Participants underlined the need for member states to adopt comprehensive, multidimensional strategies using kinetic and non-kinetic approaches to cut off terrorist funding sources and ensure inclusive governance, education, youth employment, justice, law and order, and stabilisation of affected communities. Establishing a responsive social contract is part of measures to counter the ideological basis of terrorism, prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalisation, and work with religious and community leaders. They underscored the imperative of compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law in field operations, political dialogue, disarmament and rehabilitation, and regional stabilisation efforts.

The meeting ended on a high note, with member states recommitting to working together, leveraging continental and regional mechanisms, and using holistic approaches to combat terrorism and violent extremism across the region.

Strengthening AFRIPOL's Initiatives to Combat Transnational Organised Crime in Africa



AFRIPOL has strengthened its initiatives to prevent and combat transnational organised crime, terrorism and cybercrime in Africa, prioritising the disruption of criminal networks

through targeted operations and collaborative strategies. Notably, AFRIPOL launched its first cross-border operation, Operation TAPI 2024, engaging countries including Nigeria, Benin,

Togo, Chad, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic. This operation led to significant seizures of narcotics, protected wildlife items, and forged documents, as well as the arrest of traffickers and the dismantling of trafficking networks. These outcomes demonstrate AFRIPOL's dedication to addressing the socio-economic impacts of transnational organised crime and building resilience against such threats across the continent.

In a critical collaborative effort with INTERPOL, AFRIPOL executed Cyber Surge 3.0 to address the growing threat of cyber-enabled crime, resulting in over 1,000 arrests and the dismantling of 134,089 digital infrastructures across 19 African countries. This operation targeted various cyber threats, including ransomware, digital extortion, and phishing scams, all of which have become prevalent challenges in Africa's digital landscape. Cyber Surge 3.0 highlights AFRIPOL's commitment to enhancing cybersecurity capacities and reinforces the importance of international cooperation in tackling cybercrime that increasingly threatens both the public and private sectors across the region. This operation is the continuation of the highly successful Cyber Surge 1.0 and 2.0 operations, organised in 2022 and 2023, which were highly appreciated by Member States for the remarkable results they achieved in combating cybercrime, transnational organized crime, and terrorism.

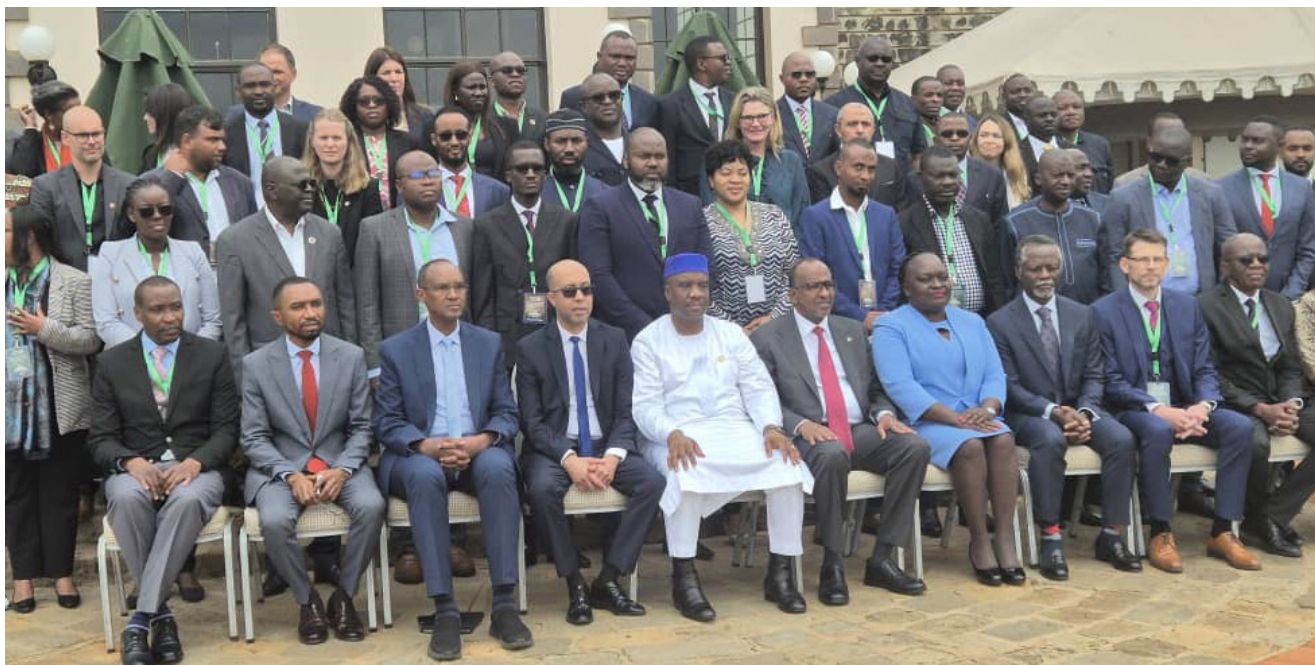
AFRIPOL's approach also includes extensive capacity-building initiatives. Since January 2024, AFRIPOL has organised eleven specialised training sessions for African Union member states, covering areas such as criminal intelligence analysis, digital forensics, financial crime investigations, facial features of the

imposter detection, theft of motor vehicle investigation, training of trainers on teaching methodologies and techniques, counter-terrorism training sessions, digital forensics training on the Spektor tablet, and cross-border operations. These programmes included intensive training on forensics and criminal intelligence, workshops on using smartphone applications for police operations, and cybersecurity awareness sessions in collaboration with regional and international partners. As part of the cybercrime-focused training, participants received donations of Spektor devices, Mobiledit, Shodan, and Maltego investigative tools and licences to enhance their digital investigative capacities, particularly in combating cybercrime. These tools and skills empower law enforcement officers with the critical resources needed to counter organised crime networks effectively. AFRIPOL's Central Criminal Analysis Unit further supports these initiatives by monitoring crime trends and providing actionable intelligence to member states, thus reinforcing Africa's security infrastructure.

In a bid to undertake reforms for effective mandate delivery, the AFRIPOL's Extraordinary General Assembly was held on 28 November, and the amended Statute and new structure were adopted. The primary objective remains to advocate for the adoption of the proposed amendments to AFRIPOL's statutes and organizational structure within the African Union's decision-making framework. Strengthening advocacy and communication will be equally crucial, with an emphasis on elevating AFRIPOL to the status of an AU organ, highlighting the enhanced legal and operational framework this change would bring.



Climate Change, Peace, and Security Nexus: The African Union's Strategic Path Towards a Unified Response



In May 2018, the AU Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC) authorised the AU Commission to conduct a study on the nexus between climate change, peace, and security in Africa. This call was further reinforced by the AU Assembly's 35th and 37th Ordinary Sessions in February 2022 and 2024, which emphasised the urgency of finalising the climate-related security risk assessment and developing a comprehensive Common African Position on Climate, Peace, and Security (CAP-CPS).

In March 2024, the Chairperson of the AU submitted a report to the PSC, outlining the challenges and providing concrete recommendations for tackling climate change in Africa. The report highlighted the importance of key stakeholders such as the African Union Assembly Committee on Climate Change, Regional Economic Communities, and various AU departments. It emphasised enhancing governance by strengthening climate-security capacities, ensuring inclusivity, and focusing on marginalised groups. The report also called for developing knowledge through capacity building and improved early warning systems, bolstering civil society capacities,

leveraging local knowledge, and involving the private sector in resilience efforts. Additionally, it stressed the need for mobilising finance, closing the adaptation financing gap, and ensuring a just transition to address Africa's unique challenges.

Since then, the AU has identified 15 key messages on the Climate Change, Peace, and Security Nexus presented at COP 27. These messages highlight the direct and indirect impact of climate change on peace and security and advocate for a peaceful and stable continent to facilitate effective preventive, adaptation, and mitigation efforts. Key focus areas include national ownership, coordinated approaches, climate financing, early warning systems, and addressing climate-induced displacement and migration.

These key messages emphasise that security risks from climate change adversely impact vulnerable groups, including women, children, and refugees in Africa. Assessments and security profiles are essential within regional mechanisms to foster effective responses. Strengthened early warning systems are vital for disaster risk reduction and adaptation. Pathways

for just transition are crucial for growth and development, and neglecting to address climate change can worsen vulnerabilities.

In August 2024, a Member State Consultation in Nairobi convened over 100 participants from various sectors to discuss the CAP-CPS. This collaborative effort, involving the AU Department of Political Affairs and Peace and Security (DPAPS), the AU Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (DARBE), African organisations and institutions such as the African Group of Negotiators and the Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding in Africa (CCCPA), alongside international partners including the governments of the Federal Republic of Germany through GIZ and Adelphi, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, and the UN through UNOAU, focused on the process, aims, and overall direction of the CAP.

With the invaluable assistance of African institutions and partners, we have conducted an initial study that has resulted in the Africa Climate Security Risk Assessment (ACRA). This assessment provides crucial preliminary data that will aid in developing the Common African Position on Climate, Peace, and Security (CAP-CPS). The Nairobi outcome established eleven principles, identified nine key priorities, and outlined eleven challenges.

On 17 October 2024, the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and the UN Security Council (UNSC) convened to discuss collaboration on integrating climate-related security risks into peacebuilding efforts. The discussions centred on developing joint frameworks, investing in

capacity building and training, and involving local communities in decision-making processes. Early warning systems, joint analyses, and planning sessions can assist in anticipating climate risks and enhancing stability. Policy and decision-making gaps can be addressed through policy harmonisation, resource mobilisation, and inclusive governance structures. These collaborations aim to ensure coherent and effective responses to climate-related security risks, aligning the climate, peace, and security decisions of both the AU PSC and UNSC.

The PSC Communique of 30 October 2024 emphasised the need for strengthened cross-sectoral coordination among actors working on climate, peacebuilding, development, and humanitarian issues. It called for the Common African Position (CAP) as an informed framework for collaboration. Climate change responses should be conflict-sensitive and security-sensitive, addressing interlinkages between climate change and human mobility. The Communique also emphasised the importance of prioritising water and food security, sustainable cross-border transhumance, and holistic responses to climate impacts, including sea-level rise and desertification.

The journey initiated by the AU-PSC in 2018 has made significant progress in addressing the nexus between climate change and peace and security in Africa. The collaborative efforts and comprehensive assessments have established a solid foundation for the Common African Position on Climate, Peace, and Security (CAP-CPS). It is imperative to continue building on these efforts, ensuring inclusive and sustainable solutions to the continent's climate security challenges.



AU MEMBER STATES CONSULTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMON AFRICAN POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, PEACE AND SECURITY

Towards a unified African response to climate change related peace and security risks

27 - 29 August 2024
Nairobi, Kenya



Safeguarding Innocence: The African Union's Steadfast Commitment to Protecting Children in Conflict Situations



The African Union (AU) continues to champion the rights of children confronting the harrowing realities of conflict across the continent. Children in Africa are disproportionately affected by armed conflicts, where their fundamental rights are frequently trampled upon. In these turbulent environments, access to essential services such as education and healthcare is severely compromised. Tragically, many children are not only victims of violence, being killed and maimed, but are also forcibly recruited into armed groups, separated from their families, and thrust into a life of displacement and insecurity.

The AU recognises that protecting children in conflict situations is not merely a moral obligation but a pressing necessity. This urgency has prompted the integration of child protection-sensitive indicators into the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS). By adopting these child-centric measures, the AU aims to enhance its capacity to anticipate and prevent violations of children's rights, thereby ensuring their safety and well-being in precarious environments.

At the Peace and Security Council's request, the AUC commissioned a study to investigate the impact of terrorism on children and propose strategies for integrating child protection into counterterrorism frameworks. This initiative underscores the AU's commitment to understanding and addressing the unique vulnerabilities that children experience in conflict settings.



Furthermore, the Commission rolled out a Training of Trainers programme targeting Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), Centres of Excellence, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and experts. This initiative aims to enhance knowledge and implementation of the Policy on Child Protection in African Union Peace Support Operations (PSOs). By promoting a deeper understanding of child protection in peace support operations, the AU ensures that children's rights are integrated into the core of conflict management and peacebuilding processes.

During a significant advocacy mission to Nigeria, the AU supported efforts by the Africa Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflicts (AP-CAAC). This mission aimed to engage stakeholders in strengthening the protection of children's rights and facilitating adherence to the Safe Schools Declaration. Collaboration with the Nigerian government and other relevant stakeholders emphasised prioritising children's needs in policy-making and enhancing cross-border cooperation to safeguard vulnerable children and youth.

In December 2024, one year after the Banjul Conclusions were adopted, a comprehensive assessment was conducted during a technical reflection forum in Djibouti. This forum evaluated progress, challenges, and actionable steps for protecting the rights and welfare of children in conflict situations across Africa. While advancements in implementing the

Conclusions have been noted, key themes emerged concerning safeguarding education, amplifying children's voices, and addressing the psychological and social impacts of conflict on children.

The critical importance of political will, unity, and meaningful child participation was emphasised in the outcomes of the forum. The discussions highlighted the need for enhanced psychosocial support, peace education, and early warning mechanisms. Concrete results included establishing a multi-stakeholder task team to strengthen mental health support for children in conflict situations, recommendations for AU Member States to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration, and adopting holistic care approaches

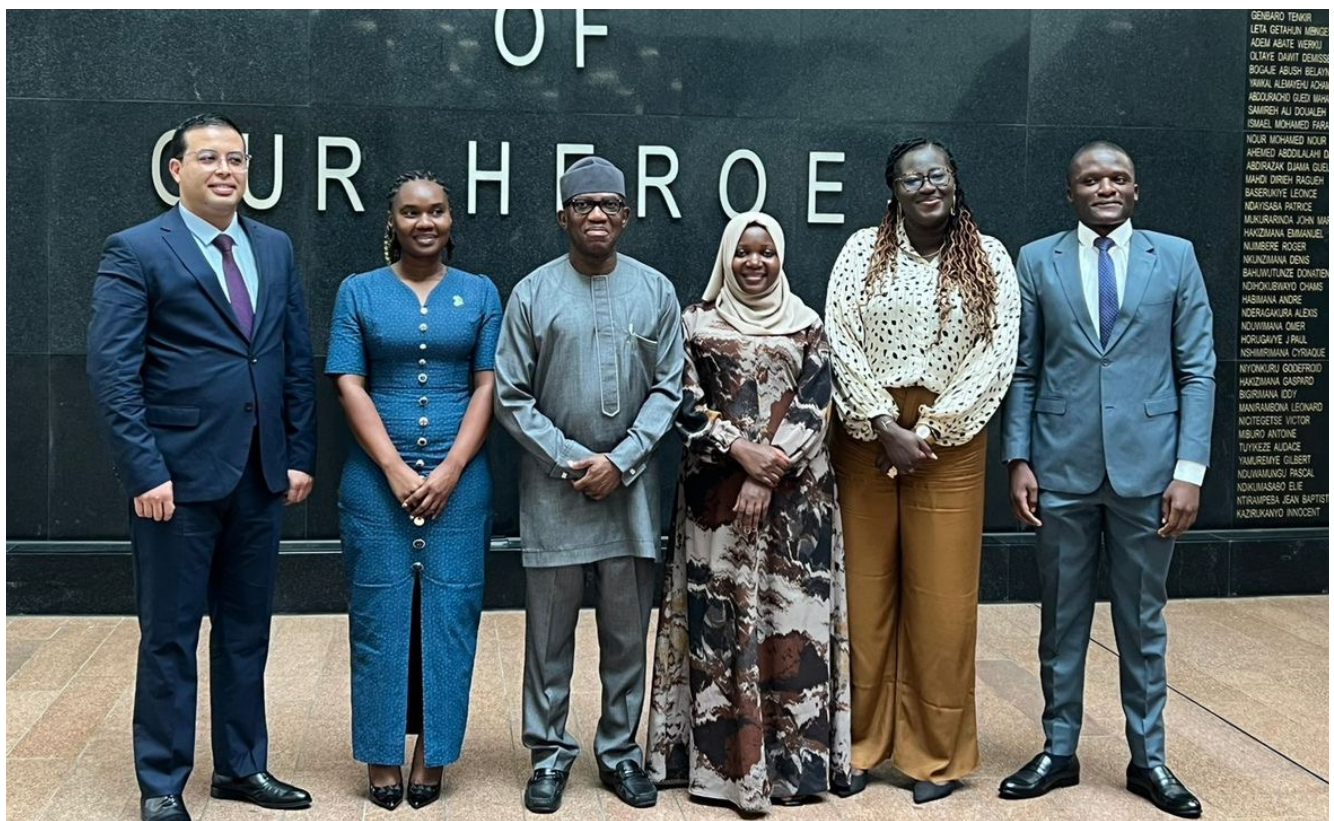
to address the needs of children in crisis. The forum reaffirmed collective commitments to the Banjul Conclusions, stressing the urgent need for sustained collaboration to bridge existing gaps and protect children's rights amidst ongoing and emerging crises.

As we look forward to the developments in 2025, the African Union's unwavering commitment to safeguarding children in conflict situations remains resolute. By integrating child protection into the heart of conflict management strategies, the AU is addressing immediate needs and laying the groundwork for a safer, more secure future for the continent's most vulnerable population.

Youth in Peacebuilding: Promoting the Development and Implementation of National Action Plans on Youth, Peace and Security

In 2024, the 3rd Cohort of African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAPs) began their mandate to advance and advocate for the implementation of the African Youth, Peace

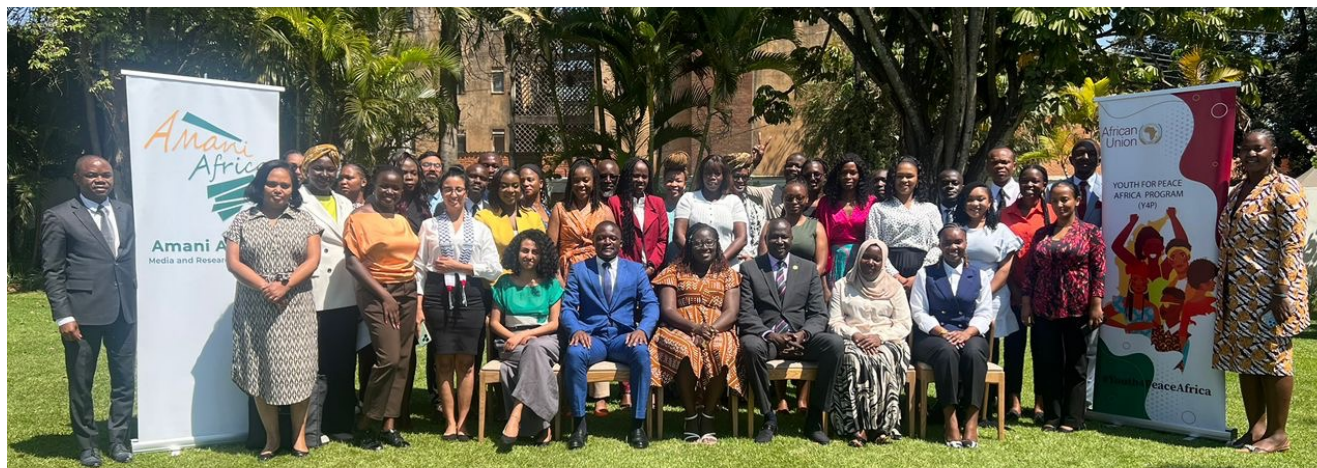
and Security (YPS) Agenda, following their appointment by the 37th AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.



Regional and Continental Consultations with African Youth on Peace and Security and the New Agenda for Peace

The AYAPs convened a series of regional and continental dialogues with African youth to provide a platform for them to share their

perspectives on the state of the YPS agenda in Africa and further reflect on their role in implementing the New Agenda for Peace. This ensured youth voices were central to the global peace and security discourse.



AYAPs Briefed the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the UN Security Council (UNSC) :

To ensure that African youth voices are central in developing youth-sensitive and youth-centered policies related to continental and global peace and security, the AYAPs briefed the AU PSC and UNSC on various occasions in 2024. In May, Ms. Simone Mbodé Diouf, the AYAP for West Africa, informed the UNSC on the role of youth and women (focusing on young women) in promoting international peace and security. The session, chaired by Mozambique, explored the complementarity between the women's and

youth's peace and security agendas, underscoring the need to upscale international commitments in their implementation. In October, the AYAPs briefed the joint session of the UNSC and PSC in New York on the positive role that African youth play in contributing to peacebuilding on the continent and advocated for youth-sensitive policies to advance the African YPS agenda. In November, the AYAPs briefed the annual Open Session of AU PSC dedicated to Youth, Peace and Security, encouraging Member States to prioritise developing and implementing National Action Plans on YPS.



Deployments to AU election observation and preventive diplomacy missions

2024 marked increased youth deployments to AU election observation and preventive diplomacy

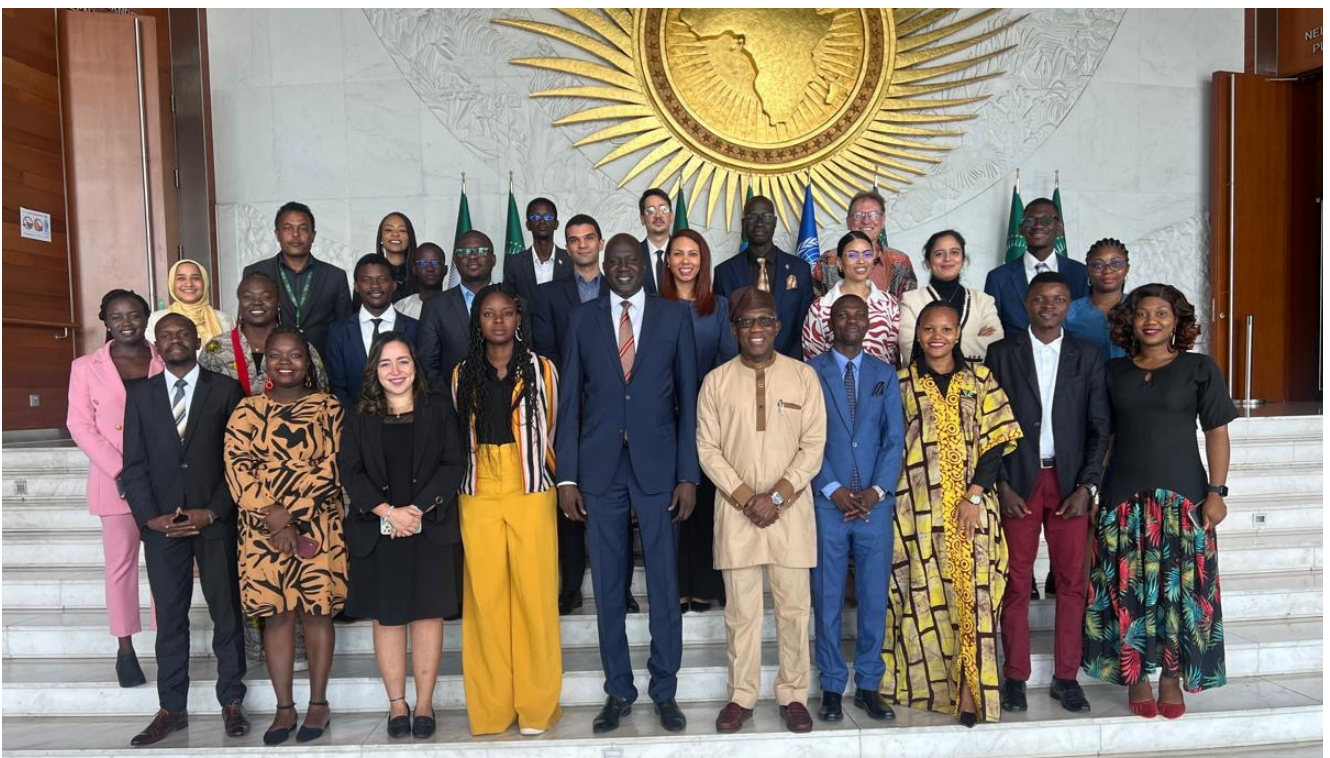
missions, in line with the Peace and Security Council (PSC) recommendation to institutionalise the inclusion of the youth in these missions. These included the AYAPs and WiseYouth.



Operationalisation of the Network of African Youth in Conflict Prevention and Mediation - WiseYouth Network

In 2024, the WiseYouth Network, established by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government as a subsidiary mechanism of the Panel of the Wise, became fully operational. It aims to promote youth engagement in conflict prevention, mediation,

and peace processes across the continent, facilitate regular intergenerational exchange with mediation practitioners, develop meaningful partnerships at regional and national levels, and embed youth in AU dialogue and mediation processes. The first cohort of the Network was inaugurated in October 2024 for a three-year non-renewable mandate.



Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) on Youth Peace and Security

To accelerate the implementation of the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and

Security (CFYPS), the Youth for Peace Africa program finalised a guideline to assist Member States in developing and implementing national action plans (NAPs) on YPS.



The 3rd Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security

In December 2024, H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, in his role as the AU Champion on Youth, Peace and Security, convened the 3rd Annual Continental Dialogue on YPS, in collaboration with the AU Commission, UNDP, and the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), in Bujumbura, Burundi, under the theme “Strengthening the Capacities of African Youth for Peace: Education and Enhanced Coordination as Catalysts for the Implementation

of the Continental Agenda for Youth, Peace and Security”.

The Dialogue brought African Youth and key stakeholders implementing the YPS Agenda to assess progress, challenges, and opportunities for enhancing coordination, collaboration, and complementarity of efforts. Furthermore, in line with the AU theme of the year, the dialogue reflected on effective ways to promote peace education in Africa, proffering actionable recommendations to mainstream it in school curriculums in Member States.





Transforming Africa's Borders: The 2nd Abidjan Border Forum Concludes with Key Resolutions



The African Union (AU) and the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire co-organised the second edition of the Abidjan Border Forum (ABF), which took place from 23 to 25 October 2024 at the Abidjan Exhibition Centre. General Vagondo Diomande, Minister of Interior and Security, and H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, inaugurated the forum.

Held under the theme “Green Borders: between shared natural resources and security challenges”, the ABF brought together decision-makers and border stakeholders from AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the United Nations, representatives of international and regional institutions, development partners, academia, civil society, women and youth groups, and the media.

The Forum examined the ongoing debate regarding the environment, particularly climate change, and its implications for border governance. Over the years, border regions have increasingly suffered from the adverse effects of climate change and the mismanagement of transboundary resources. The imbalance in the utilisation of these resources has undermined the territorial security of states and the human security of populations, thereby testing the collective security of regions.

Borders are, in the spirit of the AU Border Programme, instruments to promote peace, security, and zones of facilitation of regional integration and sustainable development. The adoption of legal and policy frameworks such as the AU Convention on Cross Border Cooperation (2014) and the AU Better Integrated Border Governance Strategy (2020) by the African Union illustrates the commitment of Member States to place border at the heart of public policies in pursuit of regional and continental integration.

However, the multidimensional character of border governance requires coordination and collaboration among many actors. Regional organisations, local and administrative authorities, technical agencies operating along borders, and borderland communities all play crucial roles in transforming borders into hubs of peace, security, and development.

The Abidjan Border Forum serves as a continental platform for AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), development partners, the private sector, and local populations to facilitate the exchange of best practices and



trigger synergies for coordinated efforts in the prevention and management of disputes and the sustainable development of cross-border spaces – transforming Africa's border areas.

Participants of the second edition of the ABF unanimously adopted the following recommendations:

- The Abidjan Border Forum, co-organised by Côte d'Ivoire and the African Union Commission, will be institutionalised as the meeting place for African border stakeholders. It will be held every two years in Abidjan.
- The application of cross-border cooperation is an essential tool for managing border issues, particularly in managing transboundary resources.
- Operationalising the “Green Borders” concept for the sustainable management of shared resources in border areas.

The institutionalisation of the Abidjan Border Forum will allow border actors across the continent to discuss current issues affecting border governance, inspire collective action, and support the transformation of Africa's borders.

African Union Compliance Framework 2024: Advancing Compliance and Accountability in Peace Support Operations



Introduction

In 2024, the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework (AUCF) tripartite project (AU-EU-UN) made remarkable advances in implementing its prevention, response, and remedial approaches to ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL), International Human Rights Law (IHRL), and African Union (AU) standards on conduct and discipline in AU Peace Support Operations (PSOs). The year was marked by significant training initiatives, the completion of the Case Management System, and strategic collaborations. Across all activities conducted, a total of 609 participants engaged, comprising 322 men and 123 women from AU organs, Member States, Regional Economic Communities, Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), AU PSOs, Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs), the United Nations (UN), and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Strengthening Screening and Selection, Addressing Misconduct, and Advancing the Case Management System

Upholding the highest standards of conduct and discipline in AU PSOs is a priority for the AUCF. In this context, the AUCF in 2024 focused on developing a more robust and standardised selection and screening mechanism, alongside

strengthening its investigative processes. The selection and screening framework aims to ensure that prior offenders, individuals with convictions for serious criminal acts, those under prosecution or investigation for serious criminal acts and/or violations of IHRL or IHL, or those with a record of serious misconduct, including sexual violence, are not selected, deployed, or redeployed to AU PSOs. Therefore, optimal selection and screening of personnel are crucial for mission readiness, operational effectiveness, and accountability. As part of enhancing the PSO investigative process, experts and stakeholders from the AU, RECs/RMs, AU PSOs, T/PCCs, and UN convened to address longstanding issues such as resource gaps and other relevant matters. They proposed practical solutions, including the use of modern technology and improved communication strategies to ensure quicker and more transparent investigations, synergising relationships between AUC departments and PSOs, institutionalising engagements between key stakeholders, harmonising investigative frameworks, and scaling up support for RECs/RMs. A strategic roadmap for continuous improvement was drafted to allocate resources effectively and drive sustainable enhancements in investigative practices and procedures.

Furthermore, in 2024, the AUCF made significant progress towards completing the Case Management System (CMS), expected to be a digital database for recording, tracking, and managing misconduct and violations of IHL and IHRL committed by PSO personnel. This signifies a considerable step towards ensuring that only individuals of impeccable character are deployed to serve in PSOs.

Building Capacity

Training has always been a cornerstone of AUCF's mission in capacity building. In 2024, the team conducted transformative capacity-building activities across Africa. In North Africa, East Africa, and Southern Africa, personnel from Member States were trained on the essentials of IHL and IHRL, along with conduct and discipline standards. These sessions equipped participants with the tools to act decisively and ethically during missions.

In Nigeria, a pilot training on the Protection of Civilians (PoC) curriculum brought together diverse stakeholders to ensure that the AU's training materials remained relevant to the challenges faced in today's peacekeeping missions. The enthusiasm and positive feedback from participants were a testament to the value of these initiatives.

Efforts on Victim Support

The AU places the best interest of victims as a critical plank of its compliance doctrine in remedial actions. Victims of misconduct in AU PSOs deserve survivor-centred assistance and support that is timely, predictable, sustainable, and adequately resourced. The AUCF worked on a draft policy regarding remedial actions for victims of misconduct and harm in African Union Peace Support Operations. This initiative addresses the needs of victims and strengthens the AU's commitment to accountability by establishing a standardised and comprehensive guidance document that ensures survivor-centred assistance and support, making it timely, predictable, sustainable, and sufficiently resourced.

Coordination and Collaboration: The Heart of AUCF and a Commitment to Excellence

Throughout the year, the AUCF worked closely with RECs/RMs to ensure compliance frameworks were integrated across missions. In Botswana, for instance, the AUCF partnered with

the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to develop an operational roadmap and enhanced guidelines for the mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Somalia, the AUCF team collaborated with the Somali Government and international partners to protect civilians and strengthen community trust.

The AUCF team was involved in developing the roadmap for the operationalisation of UNSCR2719, particularly the strategic objective to strengthen the Protection of Civilians, promote AU gender-responsive approaches, and ensure compliance with human rights standards and applicable standards of conduct and discipline in line with the AUCF.

Conclusion

As the AUCF looks ahead to 2025, building compliance and accountability is far from over. Plans include an expanded compliance and accountability strategic framework, capacity building to deepen partnerships with RECs/RMs and T/PCCs, ensuring a unified commitment to ethical conduct and professionalism, reporting, monitoring, and accountability, alongside the full implementation of the CMS. An urgent need remains for increased personnel and financial capacities to effectively implement the outlined actions and consolidate the achievements made through the AUCF tripartite project (AU-EU-UN).

The journey ahead is challenging, but the progress made in 2024 reflects the AUCF's unwavering dedication to creating AU PSOs that prioritise compliance and accountability with IHL, IHRL, and AU standards on conduct and discipline.

Strengthening Africa's Voice at the United Nations: The African Union's Strategic Initiatives



The African Union (AU) has been instrumental in amplifying Africa's voice in global governance, particularly within the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Through strategic initiatives and partnerships, the AU continues to champion democratic governance and peace across the continent. Here's an in-depth look at these efforts and their impact.

Coordination of the A3+ Mechanism

The AU Permanent Observer Mission (AUPOM) has been pivotal in facilitating the coordination of the A3+ Mechanism, which aims to strengthen Africa's voice in the UNSC. The A3+ Guiding Principles, adopted in November 2023, institutionalise this innovative mechanism for coordination among African Member States. This initiative also includes close consultations with Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States within the UNSC. Monthly coordination meetings at both Political Coordinators and Permanent Representatives levels ensure the allocation of joint statements for UNSC sessions, enhancing Africa's influence in global decision-making.

Annual Retreat and Media Engagement

The AUPOM facilitates the A3+ Annual Retreat, a platform for reflection on emerging issues and interaction between previous and current A3+ members. The retreat reinforces the "Plus mechanism" and maintains the momentum of the Annual High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa, known as the Oran Process. Regular media stakeouts, including at Heads of State and Ministerial levels during UN General Assembly and AU Summits, project the role and position of the A3+ on critical issues. These efforts culminated in an A3+ Ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, with outcomes presented at the 11th High-Level Seminar in Oran, Algeria.

Increasing Africa's Role in Decision-Making

The A3+ has co-penned four UN Security Council Resolutions, four Presidential Statements, and eight Press Statements, significantly increasing Africa's role in UNSC decision-making. Sequencing PSC sessions before UNSC considerations on African issues provides clear guidance to the A3+ on African positions, enabling their role as penholders and co-penholders.

AU-UN Strategic Partnership

The AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN (AUPOM) and the Conflict Management Division (CMD) facilitated the 23rd consultative meeting of the AU-UN Joint Task Force on Peace and Security in April 2024. The meeting reviewed the status of the partnership between the UN and AU, discussing peace and security developments in various African regions. The adoption of Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023) on financing AU-led peace support operations was a key focus. The meeting highlighted the need for sustainable financing and regular engagements between AU and UN Directors to implement the AU-UN Joint Framework on Peace and Security.

Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2719

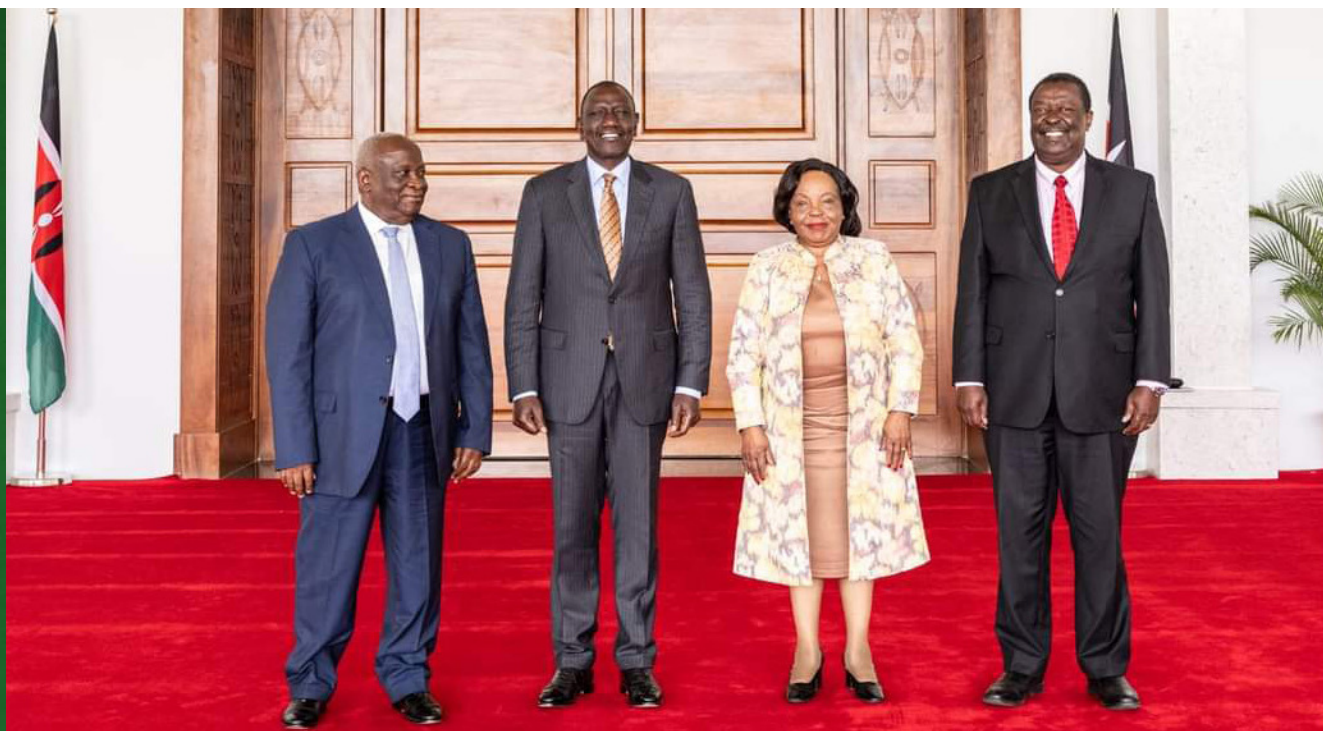
Following the support to A3 members in drafting and negotiating the resolution on UN financing of AU-led PSOs, the AUPOM supported

Mozambique in hosting a meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. The CMD facilitated AU-UN engagements in Addis Ababa and New York, contributing to the development of a draft Roadmap endorsed during the 8th AU-UN Annual Conference. The AUPOM also engaged with the UN Secretariat in drafting the 12-month report on the resolution, submitted to the UNSC in December 2024.

Conclusion

The African Union's strategic initiatives are crucial in strengthening Africa's voice in global governance. Through coordination, partnership, accountability, and engagement, the AU is fostering sustainable democratic governance and peace across the continent. These efforts are essential for promoting stability, transparency, and accountability in African governance.









CONFLICT MANAGEMENT ANNUAL DIGEST

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ABOUT THE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

The key focus areas of the Conflict Management Directorate include providing early warning and generating response options for enhanced decision-making by the Peace and Security Council (PSC), other AU Organs, and Member States, supporting the AU-led and AU-supported conflict management interventions in the areas of mediation and dialogue, Peace Support Operations (PSO), and the work of the AU Liaison Offices (AULOs), building the capacities of national and regional actors, RECS/RMs, and Member States to manage conflicts with a particular focus on counterterrorism and preventing violent extremism and the provision of technical support to the Specialized Institutions of the AU working in peace and security including AFRIPOL, CAERT and CISSA.

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