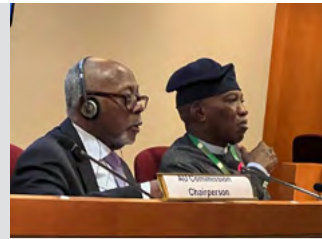




1253rd Ministerial Meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council on the situation in Somalia and post-ATMIS security arrangements. (p.1)



11th High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa (p.3)



Peace and Security Council 1233rd Meeting at the Ministerial Level on Sudan (p.5)



The African Union Peace and Security Council concludes Field mission to Cairo and Port Sudan (p.6)

AU PSC NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

POST-ATMIS IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT 1253RD PSC MINISTERIAL MEETING

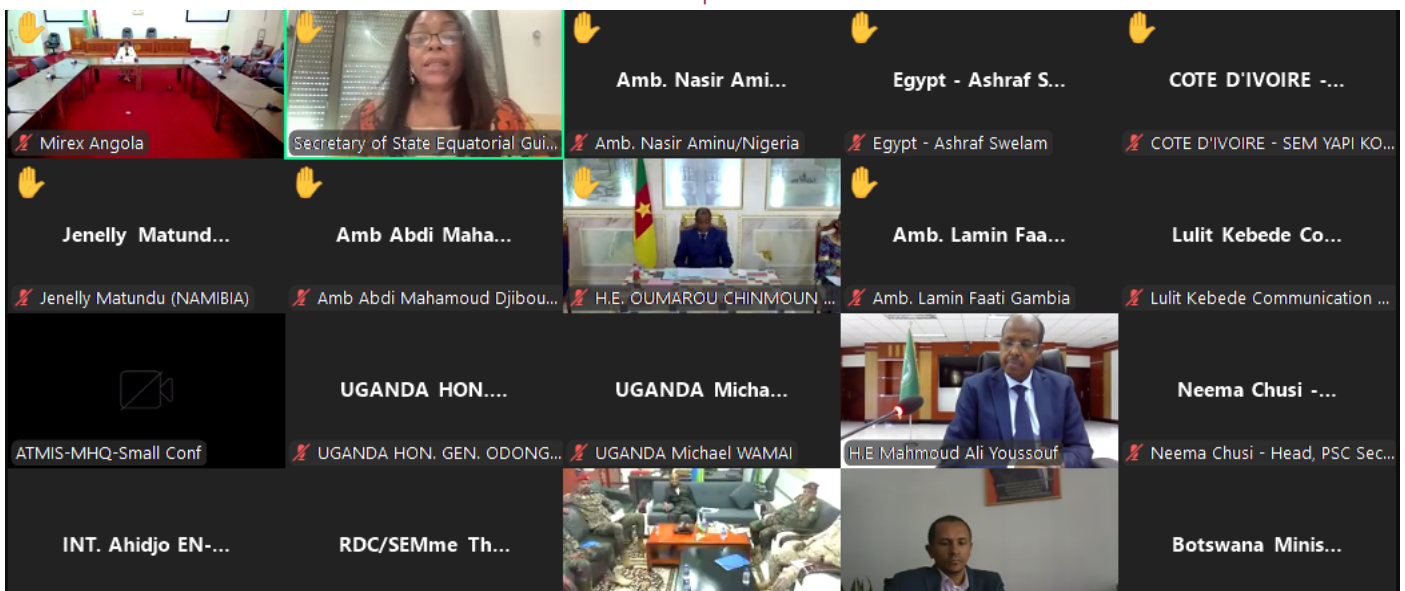
Post-AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) security arrangements and the situation in the country were high on the agenda of the 19 December 2024 African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) 1253rd ministerial-level meeting.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Djibouti's Foreign Affairs Minister and PSC Chairperson for December 2024, highlighted the AU's significant contribution to peace and security in Somalia since 2007. This included efforts in

stabilising the country, liberating territories from al-Shabaab, and supporting state-building initiatives. Despite financial challenges, the mission has made critical strides. ATMIS concluded its mandate on 31 December 2024 and will be succeeded by the African Union Support Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) effective 2025.

AU Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) Commissioner Bankole Adeoye addressed the

story continues on pg.2



virtual session on behalf of AU Commission Chair H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat. He praised Somalia's progress and emphasised the importance of continental and international cooperation in combatting transnational terrorism.

Commending the efforts of Dr. Donald Kaberuka and the Peace Fund, Commissioner Adeoye called for predictable, flexible and sustainable financing for AU-led peace operations. He underscored the use of the framework established under Resolution 2719 (2013) as the only viable solution for AUSSOM's operations.

Somalia's State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Intergovernmental Authority on Development Representative H.E. Ali Mohamed Omar highlighted his country's political, security and developmental progress.

The United Nations (UN) Special Representative to the AU, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, congratulated Somalia on its upcoming role as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC). He welcomed Somalia's progress on national priorities and reiterated the UN's continued support for the Somali federal government, working closely with the AU and international partners.

The PSC commended the milestones achieved by the Somali government and the troop-contributing countries of ATMIS, and honoured the legacies of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in the fight against al-Shabaab. Special tribute was paid to the troops of both missions. The PSC also expressed concern over the ongoing threat posed by al-Shabaab, condemned attacks on Somali and ATMIS forces, and reiterated the AU's support for Somalia's security forces.

The PSC welcomed the Ethiopia-Somalia agreement signed on 11 December 2024 and called for its full implementation. It emphasised the need for sustainable funding for AUSSOM and appreciated the continued support from the UN and international partners for its deployment.

It appealed to the UN Security Council to explore financing options under the hybrid framework of Resolution 2719 (2013). This is crucial for AUSSOM to fulfill its mandate and support the Somalia Security Sector Development Plan.

www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-1253rd-meeting-of-the-psc-on-the-situation-in-somalia-and-post-atmis-security-arrangements



ORAN PROCESS DELEGATES COMMIT TO COLLABORATION, COORDINATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

The 11th High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa (Oran Process) concluded on 2 December 2024, with key resolutions focused on amplifying the African voice and championing African interests within the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Chaired by H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssef, Djibouti's Foreign Affairs Minister and AU PSC Chair for December 2024, the seminar brought together PSC members, the current A3 members (Algeria, Mozambique, and Sierra Leone), representatives from Somalia as an incoming A3 member, former A3 members as Friends of the Seminar, the AU Commission, the UN, think tanks, and other partners. Guyana also participated as an A3+1 member.

Participants marked the 20th anniversary of the AU Counter Terrorism Centre, reflecting on its progress and the lessons learnt since its establishment. They emphasised the need for the centre's full operational capacity to address Africa's evolving terrorism threats. The seminar reaffirmed Africa's commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration, which advocate for two permanent African seats on the UNSC.

Participants highlighted the importance of democratising the UNSC penholder system and ensuring adequate funding for AU-led peace support operations under UNSC Resolution 2719.

The discussion also included enhancing collaboration between the PSC and A3+, with a collective

determination to advance common goals. The need for strengthened AU-UN partnerships to ensure coherence and complementarity in addressing Africa's peace and security challenges was emphasised.

Participants congratulated Somalia on its election to the UNSC, commended Mozambique as the outgoing A3 member for its sustained efforts in championing Africa's interests, and expressed appreciation to Guyana for its continued support in promoting African priorities on the UNSC.

Agreed concrete actions included: establishing synergies for early detection, prevention, and swift responses to terrorism; developing comprehensive security strategies addressing root causes of instability; enhancing intelligence sharing and joint operations among Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs); operationalising the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development programme; and institutionalising interfaith and community dialogue platforms to counter radicalisation narratives. The 12th High-Level Seminar is scheduled to take place in October 2025 in Oran, Algeria.

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AU PSC 1233RD MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING IN NEW YORK

Sudan

The conflict in Sudan was a focus of discussion at the AU PSC's 1233rd ministerial-level session on 25 September 2024 in New York.

The PSC reaffirmed the AU's commitment to Sudan's sovereignty, national unity and the restoration of constitutional order through a civilian-led government. It expressed concern over the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces. The ministers condemned the violence and called for an immediate, unconditional ceasefire.

The council reiterated its call for civilians' urgent protection from atrocities and famine. It also reiterated that there was no military solution to the crisis, and called for an inclusive, genuine dialogue

to reach a sustainable resolution. It voiced concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in Darfur, particularly the siege of North Darfur's capital El Fasher, and demanded safe, unhindered access for humanitarian aid.

The PSC restated its commitment to the AU Roadmap for Sudan's resolution and urged enhanced collaboration with regional partners, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and neighbouring countries, to ensure its full implementation.

www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-1233rd-meeting-of-the-peace-and-security-council-held-on-25-september-2024-on-developments-in-sudan

Africa's wider security threats

The meeting also discussed new security threats in Africa, and the future of the PSC. The council expressed deep concern over Africa's growing security challenges, stressing the need for greater political commitment and resources to fully implement PSC decisions. This related particularly to supporting the African Standby Force, African Peace and Security Architecture, and African Governance Architecture pillars.

It called for addressing the root causes of conflicts, including human security, through socio-economic empowerment programmes for youth and women. The PSC also stressed the importance of strengthening early warning systems and preventive diplomacy across the continent, urging Member States to respond promptly to avoid full-blown conflicts. It called for integrating cybersecurity into conflict prevention frameworks, advocating for Member States to strengthen digital resilience and counter disinformation.

Post-conflict reconstruction and development were prioritised, particularly through youth employment programmes and reconciliation efforts to prevent relapse into conflict.

The PSC underscored the need for improved cooperation between it and African members of the UN Security Council (A3) to ensure Africa's interests were represented globally. It welcomed the adoption of the Pact for the Future during the 79th UN General Assembly, which focuses on youth inclusion in decision-making and addressing conflicts' root causes. It urged all Member States to ensure the full implementation of the commitment for a "better tomorrow".

www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-1233rd-meeting-of-the-peace-and-security-council-held-at-the-ministerial-level-on-25-september-2024-on-new-security-threats-in-africa-and-the-future-of-the-peace-and-security-council-of-the-african-union

PSC CONCLUDES FIELD MISSION TO CAIRO AND PORT SUDAN

From 1-4 October 2024 the AU PSC, led by October's PSC Chair Ambassador Mohamed Omar Gad, Egypt's Permanent Representative to the AU, conducted a field mission to Cairo, Egypt, and Port Sudan, Sudan. The delegation was accompanied by AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) Commissioner, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye.

In Cairo, the PSC met with H.E. Ahmed Abou Gheit, League of Arab States Secretary-General, to strengthen coordination on peace and security.

Both parties committed to regular consultations on common interests.

The PSC also engaged with H.E. Badr Abdelatty, Egypt's Foreign Affairs Minister, discussing regional and global security. Abdelatty stressed Egypt's role in post-conflict reconstruction and development in Africa, and the PSC expressed appreciation for Egypt's hosting of the AU Centre for Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development.



On 3 October, the PSC visited Port Sudan to express solidarity with Sudan's transitional leadership and engage with key stakeholders on ending the conflict. The delegation was received by Lt. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Transitional Sovereignty Council Chairperson. The PSC reiterated the AU's call for an immediate ceasefire and commitment to supporting Sudan's political transition.

www.peaceau.org/en/article/the-african-union-peace-and-security-council-concludes-field-mission-to-cairo-and-port-sudan-1-to-4-october-2024



1242ND PSC MEETING (OPEN SESSION) ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY LINKS

On 31 October 2024, the PSC convened its 1242nd meeting to discuss the links between women, peace and security in Africa. The session reaffirmed the AU's commitment to advancing women's meaningful participation and leadership in peace processes across the continent.

Key outcomes included a strong reaffirmation of gender equality, concern over ongoing conflicts, and support for increased women's representation in peace initiatives. The PSC also acknowledged Member States' progress in implementing UNSC Resolution 1325, including the adoption of National

Action Plans, and called for zero tolerance of sexual and gender-based violence.

The council further proposed the allocation of dedicated funding from the AU Peace Fund to support gender-focused peace and security initiatives, ensuring continued progress in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-1242nd-meeting-open-session-of-the-peace-and-security-council-held-on-31-october-2024-on-the-briefing-on-women-peace-and-security-interlinkage

1243RD PSC MEETING (OPEN SESSION) ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

The AU PSC met on 1 November 2024 to discuss the implementation of its Youth, Peace and Security agenda. The council expressed concern over ongoing conflicts in Africa, which disproportionately impact youth, women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

To address this, the PSC urged Member States to develop youth-centred National Action Plans and allocate resources for their implementation in alignment with the broader national policies. It also stressed the importance of integrating peace education into school curricula and creating environments conducive to youth participation in peace and security efforts.

It called for the inclusion of AU WiseYouth members in AU-led and co-led preventive diplomacy, mediation, and peace processes across the continent. Recognising the vital role of youth in shaping Africa's peace and security, the PSC urged all stakeholders – governments, the AU Commission, non-state actors, and international partners – to collaborate in empowering young people to contribute to sustainable peace, security and development.

www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-1243rd-meeting-open-session-of-the-peace-and-security-council-held-on-1st-november-2024-on-youth-peace-and-security-in-africa

1244TH AU PSC BRIEFING ON LIBYA

The 1244th PSC meeting was held virtually on 12 November 2024 to discuss the situation in Libya. It was chaired by Ambassador Ngandu Ilunga, AU Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and PSC Chair for November.

Commissioner Bankole Adeoye of the AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) Department

reaffirmed the AU's commitment to supporting Libya's reconciliation process, despite setbacks. He praised Libyan authorities for their continued cooperation with the AU. Updates on the situation were provided by Ambassador Daniel Owassa, Chair of the High-Level Committee on Libya, and Ambassador Wahida Ayari, Special Representative of the AU Commission Chairperson in Libya.

1247TH MEETING OF THE AU PSC ON CONTINENTAL EARLY WARNING AND SECURITY OUTLOOK

On 28 November 2024, at its 1247th meeting, the AU PSC received briefings from the AU Counter Terrorism Centre and Committee of Intelligence and Security Services on the Continental Early Warning and Security Outlook.

The council called for strengthening the Continental Early Warning System, including through training in data analysis and strategic communication.

Emphasising the importance of regional cooperation, the PSC urged Member States and Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms to use early warning reports to address potential crises and the legitimate grievances of their populations, focusing on the root causes of instability. The council urged the swift implementation of the Malabo and Abuja declarations on terrorism and unconstitutional

changes of government, and called for revitalising the Nouakchott and Djibouti processes.

The council requested the AU Counter Terrorism Centre to develop a continental counter-terrorism strategy aligned with regional and national plans, and highlighted the need to integrate socio-economic development and climate resilience into counter-terrorism efforts.

The PSC urged stronger collaboration among Member States and international partners to address the misuse of digital platforms by armed groups, and stressed the continued use of preventive diplomacy to tackle governance issues that may lead to conflict.

<https://papsrepository.africa-union.org/handle/123456789/2210>

ACTIVITIES OF AU COMMISSION CHAIR AND PAPS COMMISSIONER

AU DONATES \$100 000 TO NORTHERN ETHIOPIA'S VULNERABLE CHILDREN

The AU donated urgent food and non-food items worth \$100 000 to the Elshadai Relief and Development Association (ERDA), which caters to over 3000 displaced and orphaned children in Northern Ethiopia's Tigray Region.

This was part of efforts to promote the implementation of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and support the wellbeing and rehabilitation of vulnerable and conflict-affected communities in Ethiopia. It was done in two batches – the first on 10 September 2024, the eve of the Ethiopian New Year; and the second on 31 October.

Major General Stephen Radina, Head of the AU Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mission, based in Mekelle, Tigray, delivered the items to ERDA Director and Founder Yemane Weldemariam and his team on behalf of the AU. This was in the presence of Major General Zewdu Kiros, Head of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation of the Tigray Interim Regional Administration, other senior regional officials, AU staff, and beneficiaries.

The donation included food items, kitchen utensils, sanitary items, bedding, sporting equipment and stationery purchased from local Tigray vendors to empower the affected community.



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”.



AU PAPS COMMISSIONER CONCLUDES VISIT TO AU CONTINENTAL LOGISTICS BASE



AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) Department Commissioner Bankole Adeoye successfully completed a three-day strategic working visit from 17-20 August 2024 to the AU Continental Logistics Base (CLB) in Douala, Cameroon. He was accompanied by a delegation that included Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono, Cameroon's Permanent Representative to the AU, and Dr. Alhaji Sarjoh Bah, Director of the AU Conflict Management Directorate.

The mission consulted with Cameroonian government authorities and CLB staff on how to optimise the CLB as a central hub for deploying security, health and humanitarian supplies and equipment, especially during emergencies across Africa. Commissioner Adeoye expressed gratitude to the host nation and Member States for their ongoing commitment and contributions to making the CLB a critical component

of the African Standby Force (ASF) since its establishment in 2018. He called on Member States to redouble efforts towards fully operationalising the ASF.



CONFLICT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

PANEL OF THE WISE FOLLOW-UP MISSION TO SOUTH SUDAN (11-14 NOVEMBER 2024)

The follow-up mission to South Sudan, led by AU Panel of the Wise Chairperson Hon. Justice Effie Owuor, which includes H.E. Domitien Ndayizeye, focused on assessing the progress made in implementing the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. The mission also sought to engage key stakeholders and propose actionable strategies to address ongoing challenges in the peace process.

During the visit, the panel engaged with national and international actors, including senior government officials, civil society representatives, and development partners. They underscored the need for sustained engagement, both regionally and internationally, to maintain momentum in the peace process. The mission reaffirmed the importance of sustained political engagement and operational support in advancing South Sudan's transition.

INAUGURAL RETREAT OF THE PANEL OF THE WISE AND ECCAS COMMITTEE OF ELDERS 25-26 NOVEMBER 2024, BRAZZAVILLE, REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The AU PAPS Department convened the inaugural joint retreat of the AU Panel of the Wise and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Committee of Elders under the Pan-African Network of the Wise. This initiative was designed to address border and territorial disputes in Central Africa while fostering collaboration between the two bodies in preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution.

The retreat highlighted the need for stronger cooperation between AU and ECCAS mechanisms to manage complex and interconnected regional challenges effectively. Presentations on the geopolitical dynamics of Central Africa and findings from the ECCAS Border Dispute Study provided a comprehensive understanding of the root causes of conflict, including governance issues, identity-based tensions, and contested borders. These insights

guided deliberations, which emphasised aligning strategies and developing joint approaches to regional stability.

The retreat underscored significant resource constraints and the complexities of managing multi-layered conflicts in the region. The discussions stressed the importance of engaging local communities and leaders, recognising that sustainable solutions require inclusive approaches that address grievances at all levels.

This retreat marks a significant step forward in fostering collaboration between the AU Panel of the Wise and ECCAS Committee of Elders, demonstrating the potential for these bodies to jointly address complex regional challenges and promote sustainable peace.

MAPPING OF SOUTH SUDAN'S CSOs

The AU PAPS Department, in collaboration with the CMI Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation and facilitated by the AU Mission in South Sudan, conducted a comprehensive mapping of civil society organisations (CSOs) in South Sudan that are engaged in dispute resolution at the community level.

This initiative, conducted as a pilot project, aimed to address the challenges faced by grassroots organisations, particularly those led by women and youth, in accessing necessary financial and technical support.

The mapping exercise focused on identifying and analysing the work of local and national CSOs, community-based organisations, and faith-based groups actively engaged in conflict prevention and resolution. By targeting subnational locations across South Sudan, the project sought to capture a detailed understanding of the operational contexts, scope of activities, and technical capacities of these actors.

Field visits to key regions provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by these organisations. The visits highlighted the critical role these actors play in mediating local disputes, fostering dialogue, and promoting social cohesion in conflict-affected areas. Despite their pivotal contributions,

many of these organisations lack consistent funding, technical expertise, and access to broader platforms that could amplify their impact.

The findings from this exercise culminated in the development of a baseline assessment. This document provides a comprehensive overview of existing capabilities and gaps, forming a foundation for future interventions and partnerships. The data collected will inform targeted support mechanisms, ensuring that grassroots organisations, particularly those led by women and youth, are equipped to enhance their efforts in dispute resolution and conflict prevention.

This initiative represents a strategic step in strengthening grassroots capacity in South Sudan. By providing focused support to under-resourced organisations, the project aims to build sustainable partnerships and foster inclusive approaches to peacebuilding. Moving forward, the Mediation and Dialogue Division (MDD), in collaboration with partners, will leverage this baseline assessment to implement tailored capacity-building programmes, facilitate resource mobilisation, and strengthen the overall impact of CSOs in advancing peace at the community level.

AUBP SENSITISES BORDER COMMUNITIES IN KENYA, SOUTH SUDAN AND UGANDA ON PEACE INITIATIVES

From 30 October to 6 November 2024, the AU PAPS Department, in collaboration with the East African Community, and through the AU Border Programme (AUBP), facilitated a sensitisation campaign for border communities in Kenya, South Sudan and

Uganda. Building on the Peace Caravan held in 2023, the campaign aimed to inform community leaders about the resolutions adopted in 2023 and engage them in discussions on sustainable peace initiatives in the border areas.

AU AND CÔTE D'IVOIRE CONVENE ABIDJAN BORDER FORUM TO ADVANCE AFRICA'S BORDER GOVERNANCE



The AU and Côte d'Ivoire co-organised the Abidjan Border Forum from 23-25 October 2024 at the Abidjan Exhibition Centre, Côte d'Ivoire. The forum, which was officially opened by Côte d'Ivoire Interior Minister General Vagondo Diomande and AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) H.E Bankole Adeoye, focused on the nexus between the environment, shared natural resources, and security in the border areas.

Under the theme “Green Borders: Between Shared Natural Resources and Security Challenges”, the forum brought together over 1500 decision makers and border stakeholders from AU Member States, along with representatives from international institutions. These included the AU, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, United Nations, development partners, academics, civil society, women and youth groups, and the media.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ENHANCES CAPACITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN BORDER STAKEHOLDERS

From 27-29 November 2024, a regional workshop was held in partnership with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the National Border Commission of the Republic of Congo. The workshop sought to enhance the capacities of Central

African border stakeholders. The event facilitated a knowledge exchange between established border structures from various regions to improve border governance across Central Africa.

AU CONVENES NOUAKCHOTT PROCESS MEETING TO ENHANCE COORDINATION, INFORMATION SHARING AND JOINT OPERATIONS AGAINST TERRORISM IN THE SAHEL-SAHARA REGION

The AU, with the support of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) and Senegal's government, convened a High-level Meeting on Collective Security Engagements to Counter Terrorist and Insurgent Threats in the Sahel-Sahara Region. The meeting, held from 25-27 November 2024 in Dakar, Senegal, aimed at enhancing coordination, information and intelligence sharing, and joint operations in the fight against terrorism in the region.

The event was opened by Senegal's Armed Forces Minister General Birame Diop and Dr. Alhaji Sarjoh Bah, PAPS Director of Conflict Management. It brought together the Sahel-Sahara countries' heads of intelligence services, particularly those from the Nouakchott Process and Accra Initiative Member States: Algeria, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo.

Other key participants included representatives from relevant regional institutions, including the Economic Community of West African States, Executive Secretariat of the Accra Initiative, Regional Intelligence Fusion Unit, Multinational Joint Task Force, AU Mission for Mali and the Sahel, Fusion and Liaison Unit of the Sahel countries, North African Regional Capability, and AU Counter Terrorism Centre.

Participants noted with concern the continuing deterioration in the security situation in the Sahel-Saharan, West African coastal and Lake Chad Basin regions. They highlighted the factors catalysing and sustaining the expansion of terrorism and armed groups in the region, including porous borders, political instability, poor governance, climate change, kidnapping for ransom, illegal exploitation of natural resources, and smuggling.

In response to these challenges, the participants underlined the need for Member States to adopt comprehensive, multidimensional strategies using kinetic and non-kinetic approaches to cut off terrorist funding sources, ensure inclusive governance, improve education and youth employment, strengthen the justice system, ensure law and order, and stabilise affected communities.

Key to these efforts is the establishment of a responsive social contract as part of measures to counter the ideological basis of terrorism, and prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalisation through collaboration with religious and community leaders. Participants stressed the importance of complying with international human rights and humanitarian law in field operations, political dialogue, disarmament and rehabilitation initiatives, and regional stabilisation efforts.



AU COMMISSION LAUNCHES CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON ASF STRATEGIC REVIEW



The AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, through the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) and in collaboration with Algeria's government, co-hosted initial consultations for the Strategic Review of the African Standby Force (ASF) in Algiers, Algeria. The consultations are part of a roadmap of an inclusive and comprehensive review process aimed at ensuring that the ASF is fit for purpose, aligned with the AU Doctrine on Peace Support Operations, and capable of responding to Africa's evolving security threats.

The first phase, held from 2-6 December 2024, included a technical consultative meeting held with representatives from the AU Commission, subject matter experts, ASF Planning Elements (PLANELMs), and training centres of excellence and training institutions (TCEs/TIs). These consultations were

conducted back to back with dedicated consultative engagement involving representatives from the ASF PLANELMs. These included the Economic Community of Central African States, Eastern Africa Standby Force, Economic Community of West African States, Southern African Development Community, and North African Regional Capability. They also included TCEs/TIs such as the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, l'École de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin Beye, and Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding in Africa.

The consultations were led by AU PSOD Head General Cheick F. Dembele, and guided by the endorsed roadmap for the ASF review, as endorsed by the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security. This



initial phase sets the foundation for a series of follow-on consultative processes and engagements that will inform the review.

Key outcomes from this phase included the identification of critical issues and recommendations that will contribute to the development of a draft Strategic Review Report. The findings will also lay the groundwork for the next phase of consultations, which will engage a broader array of stakeholders,

including AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the Peace and Security Council, strategic partners, and other key actors. These subsequent engagements are expected to take place in the first quarter of 2025.

Following the Strategic Review of the ASF in Algiers, General Dembele, alongside ASF REC/RM representatives, visited the NARC Regional Logistics Base in Jijel, Algeria.



COMPLIANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY REINFORCED AT MNJTF 14TH JSC MEETING

The AU Commission and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) troop-contributing countries (TCCs) of Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria held the 14th Joint Steering Committee Meeting on 6 and 7 August 2024 in N'Djamena, Chad. This was to review the MNJTF operations against Boko Haram, and the additional support mobilised and provided by the AU Commission to the force.

The meeting reiterated the AU and Lake Chad Basin Commission's commitment to continue the enduring

and mutually beneficial relationship between the two organisations, which has led to the degrading of Boko Haram and other terrorist groups in the MNJTF areas of responsibility. It commended the MNJTF on the just-concluded Operation Lake Sanity 2, which has further degraded Boko Haram and other terror groups in the Lake Chad Basin region. It noted the MNJTF and its TCCs' readiness to abide by the AU Compliance and Accountability Framework in line with international humanitarian law and international and regional human rights laws.

WORKSHOP ON AU PSO VICTIMS OF MISCONDUCT DRAFT POLICY

From 7-9 October 2024, the AU Commission held a workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to review the draft policy on remedial actions for victims of misconduct in AU peace support operations (AU PSOs). The event, organised under the AU-European Union-United Nations (AU-EU-UN) Tripartite Partnership Project on the AU Compliance Framework (AUCF), sought to strengthen procedures for timely and effective assistance to victims of misconduct.

Opening remarks by representatives of the AU, UN, and EU emphasised the importance of providing comprehensive and timely support to victims, highlighting the critical link between such actions and

the credibility of AU PSOs. The workshop facilitated in-depth discussions to refine the draft policy and enhance collaboration among stakeholders, ultimately producing a roadmap for its finalisation and adoption.

The workshop resulted in a comprehensive draft policy, reflecting institutional perspectives of the AU and insights from experts. It outlined a strategic and victim-centred approach to remedial actions, ensuring predictable and sustainable support for victims of harm, including loss of life, injury, and property damage.

The event brought together diverse participants, including AU PSOs such as the AU Transition Mission in Somalia, Multinational Joint Task Force, and Southern African Development Community Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Others included representatives from Regional Economic Communities, troop- and police-contributing countries, the UN, and civil society groups like Somalia Non-State Actors. This collaboration underscores a collective commitment to fostering accountability and upholding human rights in PSOs, ensuring victims receive the redress they deserve.



GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION UPDATES

FOURTH PCRD AWARENESS WEEK ADVANCING PEACEBUILDING ACROSS AFRICA

The AU Commission successfully concluded the Fourth Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Awareness Week, held from 18 to 24 November 2024, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Under the theme “Advancing Africa’s Peacebuilding Agenda through the revised AU PCRD Policy”, the Awareness Week reaffirmed the AU’s commitment to fostering sustainable peace and development in Africa’s conflict-affected regions.

The event brought together key stakeholders, including AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, development finance institutions, and international partners, to deliberate on critical challenges in post-conflict settings. The activities were designed to raise awareness, mobilise support, and strengthen collaboration for effective implementation of the revised AU PCRD policy.

Awareness Week included a pre-event workshop that focused on mental health and psycho-social support for victims of conflict. The AU guidelines on MHPSS were finalised during the session, setting a framework for addressing the psychological and emotional needs of communities in post-conflict recovery. Messages from AU leaders and Member States marked the official launch of Awareness Week, underscoring the importance of collective action and solidarity in achieving sustainable peace.

The Peace and Security Council’s (PSC) annual PCRD meeting held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, provided a platform for Member States to engage in discussions on key peacebuilding priorities, including disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration, security sector reform, and transitional justice.



The inaugural AU Journal on PCRD: Peacebuilding was launched. This serves as a vital resource for sharing research, best practices, and innovative solutions for PCRD challenges.

A high-level dialogue was held on the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review, amplifying African perspectives and shaping a Common African Position on the global peacebuilding framework. Discussions stressed sustainable financing, stronger AU-United Nations partnerships, and Africa's leadership in international peacebuilding efforts.

AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, hosted an interactive international media session focusing on critical issues related to peacebuilding, conflict management, and political transitions in Africa.



The week concluded with a Peace Walk with the participation of various stakeholders including embassies, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, universities, and schools, to create greater awareness on sustainable peace, security, prosperity and development in Africa.

LAUNCH OF AY4TJ PLATFORM

The AU convened a two-day meeting to launch the African Youth for Transitional Justice (AY4TJ) Platform on 9 and 10 December 2024 in Addis Ababa. The elected members of the platform's leadership

committee included Enya Echeng, Chairperson (Nigeria); Joyce Lulihoshi, Vice Chairperson (DRC); and Hanna Tadesse, Secretary (Ethiopia).

AU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS

3.1 Tunisia

H.E. Komi Sélom Klassou, Togo's former prime minister, led an AU mission from 29 September to 10 October 2024 to observe Tunisia's 6 October presidential elections. The mission comprised 40 short-term observers including ambassadors accredited to the AU, Pan-African Parliamentarians, Election Management Body members, civil society organisations, academia, and African election experts.

The mission's 40 observers were distributed into 17 teams and deployed across 15 governorates in Tunisia to assess the processes of opening, voting, closing and counting of votes. The preliminary statement of the observation mission was released on 8 October and represents its preliminary findings on the conduct of the presidential election.

3.2 Botswana

Botswana held its general elections on 30 October 2024 to elect Parliament and Local Council members.

In line with its mandate to consolidate democratic elections in Africa, the AU Commission deployed an Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to the elections from 22 October to 3 November.

Led by former Nigerian President H.E. Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, the mission comprised 30 observers from the Pan-African Parliament, Election Management Bodies (EMBs), independent electoral and governance experts, and civil society organisations from 14 AU Member States.

From the 836 268 total votes cast, the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) garnered the popular vote by 37% (307 177), while the Botswana Democratic Party with 31% (250 504) was second, and Botswana Congress Party third with 21% (172 344). The Botswana Patriotic Front, Botswana Republican Party, Botswana Movement for Democracy, and Real Alternative Party acquired 8% or less. The elections were won by the UDC, ending over five decades of rule by the Botswana Democratic Party. Eight seats are allocated to appointed and ex-officio members.

3.3 Namibia

Namibia's Electoral Commission and government invited the AU to lead an EOM from 21 November 2024. The mission was headed up by H.E. Dr. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, Uganda's former vice president. It included 47 short-term observers drawn from AU-accredited ambassadors, officials from the Pan-African Parliament, EMBs, and African civil society organisations (CSOs), African election experts, gender and media experts, and youth organisation representatives from 23 AU Member States.

The mission held a briefing and orientation for the observers on the context and preparations for the elections and observation methodology before deployment to Namibia's 14 regions. The AU EOM also engaged with key electoral stakeholders, including the Electoral Commission of Namibia, Namibian Police Force, political parties, CSOs, international community representatives, citizens' observer groups, other observer missions, and academia.

On election day, the AUEOM deployed 19 teams of observers across 12 regions (22 constituencies) to observe key processes including the final phases of the electoral campaigns, and the opening, polling and closing processes.

The AUEOMs released preliminary statements stating the respective missions' initial findings and recommendations on the process so far, and serving as a guide for further actions and decisions. After a month, the missions release final reports on their observations.

3.4 Senegal's parliamentary election

Senegal organised early legislative elections on 17 November 2024 to elect the 15th legislature (165 members) of Parliament since 1960. These elections were held eight months after the presidential polls of 24 March.

The AUEOM comprised 14 short-term observers from 12 Member States. It was coordinated by Ambassador Calixte Aristide Mbari, Head of the AU Commission's Democracy, Elections and Constitutionalism Division. The mission was conducted jointly with the Economic Community of West African States in accordance with Article 92 of the Constitution and Article 2 of Organic Law No. 2016-23 of 14 July 2016, relating to the Constitutional Council. In its decision No. 20/E/2024 of 27 November 2024, the CC rendered its decision relating to the results of the elections of 17 November.

The AUEOM noted with satisfaction the exhibition of a true democratic culture in Senegal, which manifested, among others, through the acceptance of the results by political actors well before the proclamation of the results by the competent authorities. The culture of recognising and accepting the outcome of an election, and therefore the victory of the competitor, contributes substantially to calming post-election political tensions.

3.5 Mozambique

The AU was invited to observe Mozambique's general elections of 9 October 2024, under the leadership of Angola's former vice president H.E. Bornito de Sousa Baltazar Diogo. The mission comprised 42 short-term observers from 20 AU Member States including ambassadors accredited to the AU, Pan-African Parliament members, representatives of EMBs and African civil society, academics and electoral experts all-inclusive of women and youth.

The AUEOM conducted a Pre-election Assessment Mission in August 2024 that sought to assess levels of preparedness for the holding of the general election. In addition, the mission engaged key election stakeholders, such as the National Election Commission, African Diplomatic Corps in Mozambique, presidential candidates, political parties, CSO representatives, security agencies, and government officials before voting day.

3.6 Ghana

AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat deployed an AUEOM to observe Ghana's 7 December 2024 general elections at the invitation of Ghana's government. It was headed by Ethiopia's former president H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde and supported by H.E. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Member of the Panel of the Wise and former South African vice president.

The mission, deployed from 29 November to 10 December 2024 to all 16 regions in Ghana, comprised 62 short-term observers from 27 African countries. They observed the election day proceedings, including the opening of polls, voting, closing, and the counting processes at the polling stations. This was in line with the legal and constitutional framework governing Ghana's elections and various AU instruments including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

The mission engaged with several Ghanaian government and electoral stakeholders, including presidential candidates, the Inspector General of



Police, the Attorney-General, the African Diplomatic Corps in Accra, and CSO and media representatives. It was preceded by a pre-election assessment mission

from 27 October to 2 November 2024. Its findings will strengthen Ghana's future elections and consolidate the country's democracy.

REFERENDUM IN GABON

The AU deployed a solidarity mission of 20 experts to the 16 November 2024 Constitutional Referendum in Gabon from 13-20 November 2024. This Constitutional Referendum, resulting from the inclusive national dialogue of April 2024, now opens the way to a return to elections and democratic order in the country.

Overall, the process went smoothly and peacefully, and the Constitution was adopted and the referendum results validated. This was under the combined provisions of Articles 53 of the Transitional Charter and 66 of the Organic Law on the Constitutional Court (CC) as amended, and considering that no appeal

regarding the referendum operations' regularity was received at the CC registry within 10 days from the interior minister's announcement of the provisional results. The new Constitution provides for its effective entry into force at the end of the next presidential polls in 2025, leading to the establishment of Gabon's second republic.

The AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department has received a request from Gabon to deploy a needs assessment mission in view of the 2025 elections, which it will deploy in the first quarter of the year.

3RD COSP TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

A ministerial-level meeting of the third Conference of State Parties to the African Charter on the values and principles of public service and administration

(COSP) was held on 12 December 2024 at the AU's Addis Ababa headquarters following an experts meeting on the issue.



Hon. Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi, South Africa's Public Service and Administration Minister and COSP Chair, opened the meeting alongside Patience Chiradza, Governance and Conflict Prevention Director, on behalf of Political Affairs, Peace and Security Commissioner Bankole Adeoye.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to the principles enshrined in the charter to advance good governance, ethical public service and sustainable

public administration; and to further strengthen their collective efforts to achieve its universal ratification and effective domestication across all Member States.

They also reviewed the third COSP bureau and experts' reports, elected the second regionally balanced bureau of the COSP for two years (2025-26); and adopted a declaration.



AU EXPERTS MEETING ON SSR OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE NOTES

The AU Commission, in collaboration with the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) and with United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) support, hosted a Member States expert meeting from 30 September to 1 October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The meeting focused on reviewing and validating draft Operational Guidance Notes (OGNs) on “Oversight and Accountability in Security Sector Reform (SSR)” and “SSR and Mediation”. These OGNs are designed to enhance continental capacity-building efforts in SSR and mediation processes. The initiative follows recommendations from the AU SSR Steering Committee and the 10th AU High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security, and Stability.

The meeting explored integrating human rights and accountability frameworks into SSR, with APCOF

Director Sean Tait stressing the importance of SSR guidance across all stages of conflict mediation, including crisis intervention, peace consolidation, and transitional arrangements. The sessions delved into the AU SSR Policy Framework, highlighting the relevance and usability of the OGNs for mediators, policymakers, and security professionals. Key discussions focused on addressing gaps in methodology, raising awareness of existing tools, and identifying future needs.

Participants, including representatives from Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and international organisations, and SSR experts, contributed insights to finalise the OGNs. Moving forward, the recommendations will inform AU initiatives to strengthen oversight, accountability, and mediation efforts in SSR processes across the continent.



LIAISON OFFICES

AU MISSION TO MALI AND THE SAHEL

An AU Mission to Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL)'s human rights unit delegation led by MISAHEL Acting Head Fulgence Zeneth visited Banjul, The Gambia, for a contact and information mission to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). The delegation engaged in fruitful discussions with the Executive Secretary and participated in working sessions with all the Commission's departments. These interactions established the foundations for future collaboration and facilitated the collection of documents pertaining to the achievements of the ACHPR.



From 3-6 September 2024, Zeneth participated in the peer exchange meeting in Lomé, Togo, on technical support for civil servants from countries in political transition in West Africa. During this meeting he moderated the session devoted to the mandate and instruments of the AU, focusing on the evolution of MISAHEL's mandate, and the various political and diplomatic mechanisms.

In addition to its monitoring activities on the human rights situation in Mali and other countries in the Sahel region, the MISAHEL human rights unit has

strengthened the capacities of human rights actors from of Gao and Timbuktu. These capacity-building workshops brought together representatives of civil society and women's organisations, and public actors.

A total of 25 beneficiaries from each region participated in training on the primary legal instruments of the AU pertaining to the protection and promotion of human rights. These instruments include the ACHPR, the Protocol of Maputo on the Rights of Women in Africa, and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.





On 30 October, MISAHEL donated provisions and equipment to the Balkuy A school in Burkina Faso, as part of the Emergency Response Mechanism. The beneficiaries and education stakeholders expressed

their gratitude, highlighting its positive impact, in particular the reduction in the risk of students displaced in the country from dropping out of school.



In October 2024, the MISAHEL development unit conducted a series of workshops with a focus on exchange and capacity building for youth, CSOs, and the media in Niger and Burkina Faso. Each country's 50 participants were equipped with the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and the AU Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security. The objective of these meetings was to enable the youth to be further involved in conflict prevention and management initiatives.

From 22 to 24 October, a MISAHEL delegation travelled to Mali's Ségou Region, exchanging with local authorities on matters of security challenges and the involvement of the youth in the promotion of peace and security. The delegation also organised a workshop to showcase the competencies acquired during the training programme on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda of the UN and AU.

On 29 and 30 October, MISAHEL participated in a regional workshop on advocacy organised by the Gorée Institute. During this event, MISAHEL presented the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, highlighting the lessons learnt and challenges for its implementation.

On 12 and 13 November MISAHEL participated in the fifth edition of the regional youth forum organised by the Gorée Institute at the Peacekeeping School in Bamako. This forum targeted young experts and

practitioners who shared their thoughts, analyses and experiences on the state of citizenship, governance, peace and stability in the Sahel.

In October and November the MISAHEL security unit visited Sikasso, Bougouni, Kayes and Timbuktu as part of the AU's Silencing the Guns in Africa project. The aim of these missions was to raise awareness among various stakeholders on the AU's initiative and to encourage their support to make peace a reality. During the missions, the MISAHEL delegation met with local authorities, CSOs, and representatives from women's and young people's groups and NGOs who agreed to be more involved in its implementation.

On 26 September, MISAHEL met with Search for Common Ground, an international NGO that works to end violent conflict and build healthy, safe, and just societies. The delegation was led by its West Africa Regional Director Francis Sala-Diakanda. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss areas of intervention and future collaboration.

From 29 October to 1 November, MISAHEL participated in various activities organised by the AU. These included a mission to support national peace infrastructures in West African coastal states in Accra, and a capacity-building workshop on governance and decentralisation in the Sahel, which brought together participants from Burkina Faso, Mali and Mauritania.

NETWORK OF THINK TANKS FOR PEACE (NETT4PEACE) ACTIVITIES

CCCPA HOSTS THIRD IN-PERSON NETT4PEACE STRATEGY GROUP MEETING

The Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding hosted the third in-person strategy group meeting for the Network of Think Tanks for Peace (NeTT4Peace) from 25-27 November in Cairo, Egypt.

Participating think tanks included:

- Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS)
- Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
- Institute of Policy Analysis and Research – Rwanda (IPAR-Rwanda)
- Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)
- Amani Africa
- African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
- Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR)
- Nkafu Policy Institute (NPI)
- Centre for Policy Research AFRICA (CPRA)
- Pole Institute (Institut Interculturel dans la Région des Grands Lacs)
- Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA)
- Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA)
- Afrobarometer
- West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)
- Centre de Recherche en Économie Appliquée pour le Développement (CREAD)

l'Ecole de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin Beye and Panafstrag International and the International Academy for the fight Against Terrorism participated in the meeting as observers.



The session was opened with remarks by the two co-chairs – outgoing CCCPA Director General Ambassador Ahmed Abdel-Latif, and Ambassador William Awinador representing the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

The Strategy Group meeting reviewed the progress made in operationalising the Network and underlined the potential to further enhance its role in supporting the AU's Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security. In this regard, discussions centred on the 2025 work plan, with particular emphasis on priorities and modalities for conducting research and delivering training to address existing and emerging peace and security challenges across Africa.

Network members agreed to organise a series of monthly virtual and in-person workshops and seminars aimed at addressing these challenges with a view to bridging the gap between knowledge, policy, and practice. Participants also explored strategies to ensure the Network's sustainability and



effectiveness, expand its membership, and enhance communication and outreach efforts.

Another high point of the meeting was the election of the executives of the Strategy Group. The meeting decided to retain the current executive for a second and final term: Co-chair, CCCPA; Vice Chairs, ISS and IPAR; and ISS as Secretariat.

The meeting was held with the support of the AU Peace Fund and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH office to the AU.

CCCPA HOSTS SEMINAR ON AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE OF PEACE OPERATIONS

The Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) hosted a workshop titled "African Perspectives on the Future of Peace Operations" on 26 November 2024. The event was organised on the occasion of the third in-person Strategy Group Meeting of the AU Network of Think Tanks for Peace (NeTT4Peace), which CCCPA co-chairs with the AU Commission's Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS).

The seminar brought together representatives of the NeTT4Peace Strategy Group members and marked

the first in a series of workshops to be conducted by NeTT4Peace on existing and emerging peace and security challenges facing Africa.

The seminar was inaugurated with opening remarks from Ambassador Ahmed Abdel-Latif, outgoing CCCPA Director-General, and Ambassador William Awinador, Special Adviser to and representing AU PAPS Commissioner Bankole Adeoye.

Keynote speaker H.E. El-Ghassim Wane, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General and



Head of the United Nations (UN) Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, presented the findings of the newly published independent study “The Future of Peacekeeping, New Models, and Related Capabilities”. This study was commissioned by the UN Department of Peace Operations.

An engaging discussion following the presentation highlighted the importance of amplifying Africa’s voice to contribute effectively towards the preparatory process leading up to the 2025 Berlin Peacekeeping Ministerial.

Participants also explored the growing momentum to deploy AU-led peace support operations (PSOs), and discussed models of peace operations that could effectively address the continent’s evolving security landscape.

The discussions highlighted ways to strengthen the deployment of such operations, including through ensuring their sustainable financing with a specific focus on the proper and timely implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 on funding PSOs through UN-assessed contributions.

PARTNERSHIPS

EU, UNDP AND AU TO SUPPORT INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT ACROSS AFRICA

The European Union (EU) has committed funding of \$1 million to the Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and AU Commission.

This funding will advance the development and updating of the Africa Transition Index (ATI) platform,

providing African governments with vital data-driven insights to guide their transitions, strengthen governance, and promote long-term stability across the continent.

The ATI is designed to equip policymakers with the tools they need to make informed decisions that ensure stability and foster sustainable development.

By addressing the challenges of governance, AFSIT will support African nations in crafting long-term, inclusive solutions aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and the AU's Agenda 2063.

The EU's funding for the ATI aligns with its broader commitment to supporting Africa's sustainable development. By strengthening African countries' capacity to manage transitions with accurate data, the EU is helping to shape an Africa that is resilient, prosperous and secure.

AU PSC-EU PSC: 15TH ANNUAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING

On 22 November 2024, the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) and European Union (EU) Political and Security Committee (PSC) held their 15th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting, at the AU's headquarters in Addis Ababa, as part of the AU-EU Partnership framework.

The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Jean Léon Ngandu Ilunga, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and AU PSC Chair for November 2024, and H.E. Delphine Pronk, EU PSC Chair. The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration in peace and security across Africa. Discussions covered critical issues such as conflict prevention, governance, terrorism, and socio-economic development.

Addressing the meeting, AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (PAPS) Commissioner Bankole Adeoye highlighted the need for collective efforts to address crises, emphasising a unified approach to achieving security and resilience across Africa.

Both co-chairs reaffirmed their respective organs' commitment to enhancing the Africa-EU partnership,

especially in the areas of peace, security, and multilateralism. Participants exchanged views on security challenges in Somalia, Sudan, the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and Great Lakes Region. The meeting underscored the importance of addressing the structural causes of instability and ensuring the inclusion of youth, women and vulnerable groups in peacebuilding efforts.

This high-level meeting followed a previous consultation in March 2024, reaffirming the shared commitment of both unions to promote peace and stability in Africa and Europe, guided by effective multilateralism and the UN Charter.



7TH AU-ICRC ROUNDTABLE ON STRENGTHENING PSO CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

The AU Commission and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) convened the 7th Roundtable on Common Article I of the Geneva Conventions on 11 and 12 October 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme “Strengthening Conduct and Discipline Tools and Mechanisms in AU Peace Support Operations (PSOs)”.

This event, part of the AU Compliance and Accountability Framework project, brought together representatives from AU PSOs, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms, and international partners, including the European Union and United Nations.

The roundtable marked a milestone in enhancing AU PSOs’ adherence to International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, and conduct and discipline standards. Participants reflected on the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and identified critical gaps in existing policies, including the need for stronger implementation mechanisms, follow-up on repatriated personnel accused of

misconduct, and enhanced data collection and analysis.

Key outcomes included substantive recommendations, such as improved monitoring of pre-deployment training, the creation of a centralised database for misconduct records, and advocacy for regular follow-ups and court martials.

The ICRC stressed the importance of increased IHL training for troop- and police-contributing countries and revising AU guidelines to incorporate universal jurisdiction for war crimes. A roadmap was also established for implementing these recommendations.

The roundtable reaffirmed the commitment of all stakeholders to ensuring the highest standards of compliance and accountability within AU PSOs, paving the way for more robust frameworks and tools to prevent and address misconduct in future operations.



HONOURING JOURNALISTS LOST IN THE LINE OF DUTY

On 6 and 7 November the AU, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and other stakeholders gathered to honour the lives of journalists lost in the line of duty. The 2024 International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI) Global Conference was held at the AU's Addis Ababa headquarters.

Global stakeholders advocated for an enabling and safe environment for journalists and other media workers reporting in crisis and emergencies and risking their lives for truth and accountability.

The two-day global commemoration co-organised by the AU Commission and UNESCO brought together media stakeholders drawn from AU organs, international, regional and national media development partners, journalists, and other media workers from around the world.

Participants reflected on the many sacrifices journalists make while covering crises and emergencies, and proposed actions to prevent further loss of life, protect journalists from attacks, and promote the fundamental right to freedom of expression.

The discussions laid the groundwork for stronger coordination, accountability, and protections across the continent, as they explored practical solutions to end impunity against journalists.

The AU called on all Member States to take concrete actions to protect press freedom and hold perpetrators accountable, as participants honoured the bravery of journalists who had sacrificed their lives for the truth. The AU also reaffirmed its commitment to protecting press freedom across Africa as well as to a Pan-African mechanism to monitor and report on journalists' safety.

The 2024 IDEI global commemoration ended with a commitment from the AU to jointly support and mobilise international solidarity for the safety of journalists. This included starting the process of establishing the Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists at the AU, and the adoption of the key recommendations on the Protection of Journalists and Access to Information in Situation of Armed Conflicts passed by the AU Peace and Security Council, as part of its 1230th meeting on 2 September 2024.



HIGHLIGHTS

8TH EU SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO APSA IV STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING CONCLUDES IN CAIRO

The AU Commission's Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department successfully concluded the 8th Steering Committee Meeting of the European Union (EU) Support Programme to the AU Peace and Security Architecture (EU-APSA) in Cairo, Egypt.

The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment to a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Africa, underscoring the importance of enhanced cooperation between the EU and Africa in addressing urgent peace and security challenges.

Held on 13 and 14 November 2024, the meeting was preceded by the 5th Steering Committee Meeting on the Implementation of the Early Response Mechanism (ERM III), a vital programme that provides critical funding for early-stage interventions in times of crisis.

The meeting, hosted by the North African Regional Capability (NARC), brought together representatives from the AU Commission, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs), including the East African Community, Eastern Africa Standby Force, Economic Community of West African States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, NARC, Southern African Development Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the AU's Economic, Social and Cultural Council. The EU delegation to the AU was also present.

The meeting reviewed the ERM III programme and the implementation of the EU-APSA IV 2024 activities, while also assessing financial performance.

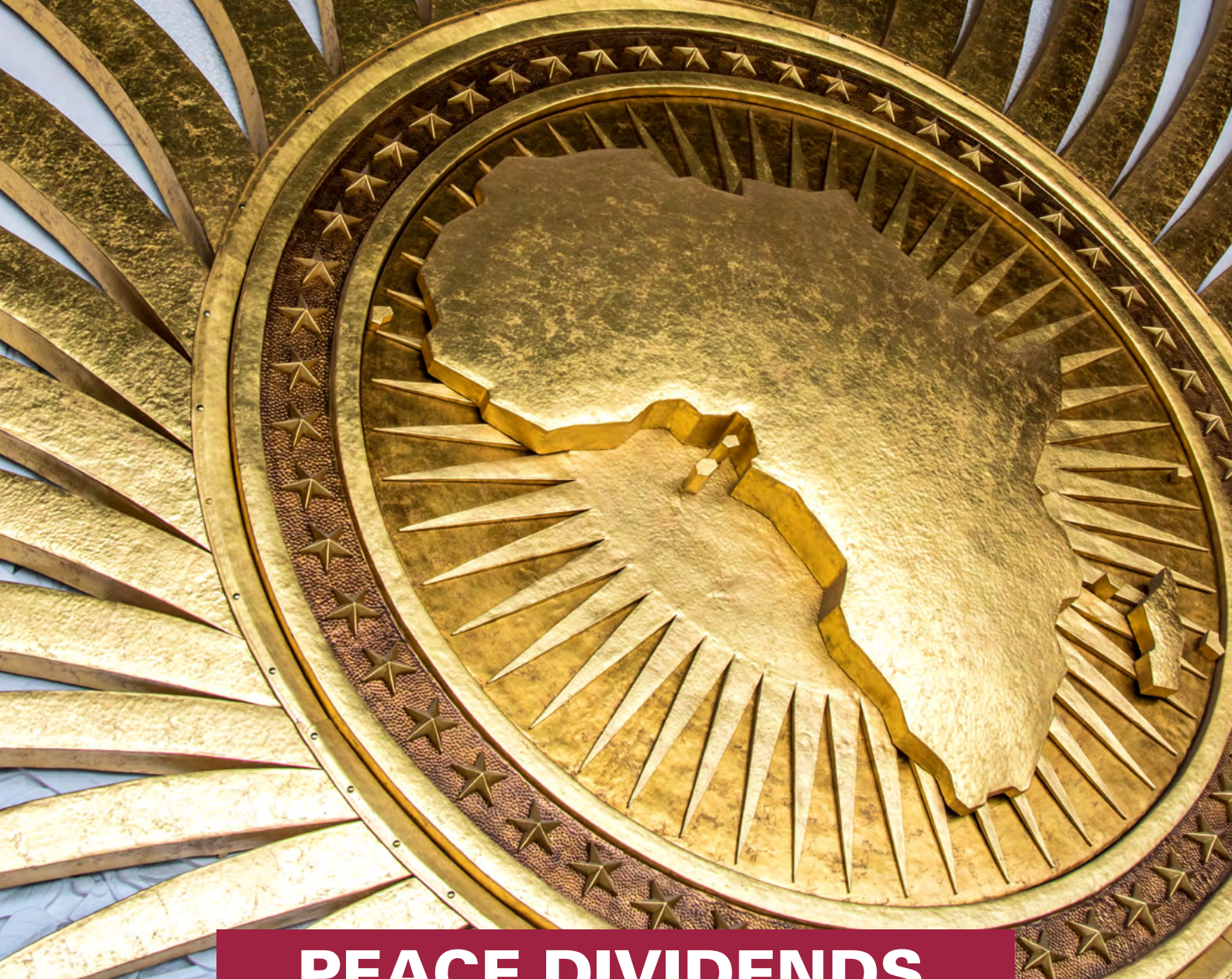
Participants engaged in discussions about achievements, challenges, and lessons learnt, and explored the future of both programmes.

Special emphasis was placed on the combined successor programme, where all parties agreed on the strategic priorities, including early warning, mediation, climate security, respect for human rights, and advancing good governance and democracy, among others.

As part of the future direction, the successor programme will strengthen citizen participation and increase the role of women and youth in conflict prevention and management. These priorities aim to empower communities, promote inclusive peacebuilding, and ensure that vulnerable groups are at the forefront of peace efforts.

In his remarks, Josephat Barugahare, representing Director Dr. Alhadji Sarjoh Bah of the Conflict Management Directorate of the AU PAPS, expressed deep appreciation for the EU's unwavering support and partnership in addressing Africa's security challenges.

He also acknowledged the dedication of the RECs/RMs in advancing the continent's peace and security agenda, and encouraged greater youth participation and the mainstreaming of child protection across all initiatives. The next Steering Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place in 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



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