



AU PSC Reviews Political Transition in Gabon and Lifts Sanctions



New Members Join the AU Peace and Security Council with Three Year Mandates

## AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

### AU PSC REVIEWS POLITICAL TRANSITION IN GABON AND LIFTS SANCTIONS

On 30 April 2025, the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC), reviewed the Political Transition Programme of the Gabonese Republic. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Rebecca Amuge Otengo of Uganda, AUPSC Chairperson for April 2025, with opening remarks delivered by H.E. Mahmoud Youssouf, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

Following a comprehensive assessment, the Council noted that the political transition process in Gabon has been largely successful. In recognition of the progress made, the Council decided to immediately lift the sanctions previously imposed on Gabon and welcomed its prompt resumption of participation in all African Union activities.

“Gabon has been successful in its transition, and it was therefore necessary to lift the suspension previously imposed. We will remain actively seized of the situation in Gabon and closely monitor developments,” stated Ambassador Otengo.

The Council reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Gabon through the remaining stages of its political transition and underscored the importance of continued dialogue, inclusivity, and democratic consolidation.

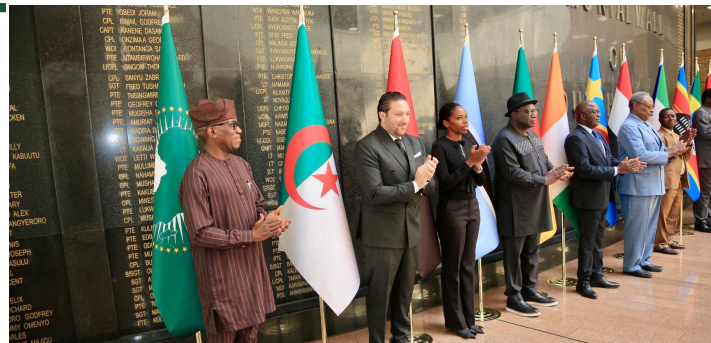
<https://www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-from-the-1277th-meeting-of-the-peace-and-security-council-held-on-30-april-2025-on-the-review-of-the-political-transition-program-of-the-gabonese-republic>

## NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL WITH THREE YEAR MANDATES

The 46th Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council elected four new Members of the Peace and Security Council for a three-year term effective from 1 April 2025: Cameroon (Central Africa), Ethiopia (Eastern Africa), Eswatini (Southern Africa), and Nigeria (Western Africa)

This was followed by a flag ceremony, on 28 April 2025, to formally welcome Algeria as a new member to join

the four new PSC members as well as the ten current Members - Angola, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo (Kinshasa) Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda. The ceremony reflected the AU's continued dedication to continental solidarity, unity, and collective action in pursuit of peace, security and stability.



# INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL



The African Union (AU) Commission organized a three-day Induction/Orientation Programme for the newly elected and re-elected members of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union from 25 to 27 March 2025, in Arusha, Tanzania. The Induction Programme was preceded by a Workshop of the AU PSC Committee of Experts, aimed at devising innovative strategies for enhancing the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of PSC decisions.

In keeping with PSC practice, the Induction Programme provided an opportunity for the newly elected members to familiarise themselves with the PSC's mandate, work and working methods also for learning from the experiences, lessons and best practices of outgoing and previous PSC members.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, highlighted the philosophy of “African solutions to African problems”, and the challenges to be addressed through the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silencing the Guns in Africa. The Commissioner welcomed the incoming PSC members, congratulated the re-elected members, and expressed appreciation for the outgoing members for their unwavering dedication to promoting peace, security, and stability across Africa. He underscored the pivotal role of the PSC in advancing



the African Union's peace and security Agenda for the Continent.

H.E. Cosato Chumi, Tanzania's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing the Government of Tanzania, stressed the critical role of the AUPSC in shaping Africa's future and called on members to embrace innovation, foster collaboration, and cultivate international solidarity in their efforts to uphold the collective interests of African citizens.

<https://www.peaceau.org/en/article/induction-of-new-members-of-the-african-union-peace-and-security-council-concludes-in-arusha-reaffirming-commitment-to-fostering-peace-security-and-stability-across-the-continent#>

## THE PSC MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE ORGANIZES AN INDUCTION TRAINING PROGRAMME IN LAGOS, NIGERIA

The Secretariat of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) organized a two-day Induction Training Workshop for the Members of the PSC Military Staff Committee (MSC) from 26 to 27 May 2025, in Lagos, Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Induction Workshop was chaired by Brigadier General Abu Bakar Konteh the Defence Advisor of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the AU as the MSC Chairperson for May 2025.

The Workshop was officially opened by the Special Guest of Honour, Air Vice Marshal B.R. Mamman, the Commandant Nigerian Armed Forces Resettlement Centre, as the representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. During the opening ceremony, statements were also delivered by Brigadier-General Abu Bakar Konteh, as the MSC Chairperson; by Mr. Simon Badza, on behalf of the Head of the PSC Secretariat, Ms Neema Chusi and by Dr. Andrews Asamoah on behalf of the Institute for Security Studies.



The Induction afforded new Members the opportunity to be appraised of the core mandate, functions, powers and working methods, and the Rules of Procedure of the PSC and in particular, the role of the MSC. The MSC also deliberated on the challenges that need to be urgently addressed in order to enable the Committee to more effectively support the PSC.

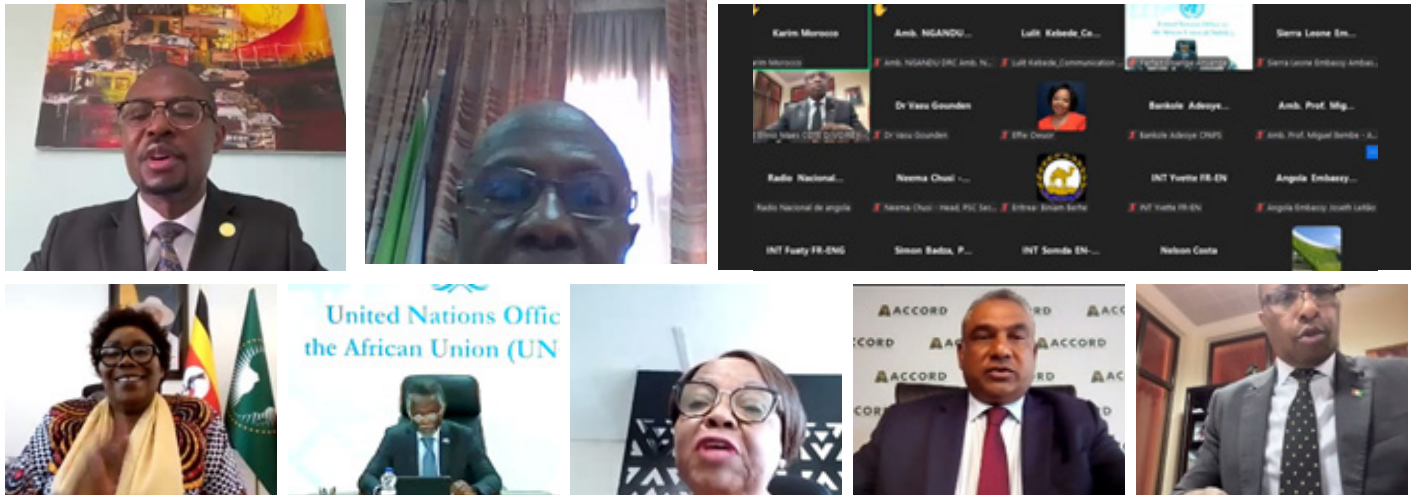
## AUPSC COMMEMORATES THE 3RD AFRICA DAY OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

On January 31, 2025, the African Union's (AU) Peace and Security Council held an open session to commemorate the third Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation. The session provided a platform to assess progress, reflect on efforts, and strengthen cooperation for sustainable peace across the continent.

Ambassador Ennio Maes of Cote d'Ivoire, PSC Chairperson, emphasized the need for inclusive, justice-based processes at the local level, calling for renewed commitment to African solutions for African problems. Commissioner Bankole Adeoye stressed the importance of supporting all peace processes, promoting reconciliation, and involving women, youth,

and community leaders in line with the "Silencing the Guns" agenda.

Dr. Vasu Gounden, Founder of ACCORD, emphasised that sustainable peace requires reconciliation both within societies and between states, advocating for expanded intra-African trade and cooperation. Hon. Lady Justice Effie Owuor, Chairperson of the AU Panel of the Wise, called for stronger AU-led mediation and preventive diplomacy efforts. H.E. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the African Union (UNOAU), underscored the importance of dialogue, inclusive governance, and addressing the root causes of conflict, with a focus on empowering women and youth.

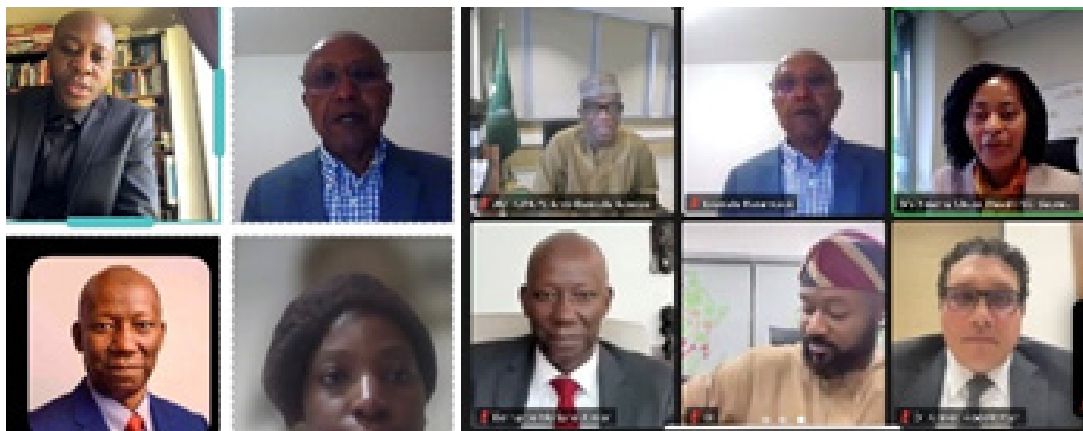


The Council underlined the importance of restorative justice, inclusive governance, and transparent accountability. It called for the domestication of the African Day of Peace and Reconciliation at national and regional levels, urging support for AU peace mechanisms, democratic institutions, and intergenerational dialogue. The Council further emphasised the need for education on peace and

tolerance, and encouraged collaboration among all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and regional organisations. It highlighted the importance of monitoring and fully implementing peace agreements, reaffirming that dialogue is key to achieving long-term stability and reconciliation in Africa.

<https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/1258.comm-en.pdf>

## INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE AU ADVISORY GROUP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, PEACE, SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE



On 6 March 2025, the African Union's (AU) Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, in collaboration with the Infrastructure and Energy Department, convened the inaugural meeting of the AU Advisory Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Peace, Security, and Governance (AI-PSG). This advisory group was established by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on 13 June 2024, during the commemoration of the PSC's 20th anniversary.

Commissioner Bankole Adeoye and Commissioner Amani Abou-Zeid opened the meeting. The session was convened to explore AI's opportunities and risks in conflict prevention, governance and the development of harmonised regulatory frameworks for Africa. It marks the beginning of the advisory group's work on integrating AI into Africa's peace, security, and governance frameworks.

The group's members represent the five regions of Africa: Ms. Arielle Kitio Tsamo from Central Africa, Dr. Kennedy Javuru from Eastern Africa, Dr. Ahmed Abdel Fattah from Northern Africa, Dr. Ntando Sipho Tembo from Southern Africa, and Mr. Samson Itodo from Western Africa. Other participants included representatives from the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT), the Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA), and the Network of Think Tanks for Peace (NeTT4Peace).

It is to be recalled that on 20 March 2025, the AU Peace and Security Council deliberated on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on Peace, Security and Governance in Africa. The meeting chaired by H.E. Nasser Bourita, the Minister of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates focused on the impact of AI on peace, security and governance in Africa.

<https://www.peaceau.org/en/article/communiqué-of-the-1267th-meeting-of-the-peace-and-security-council-held-on-20-march-2025-on-artificial-intelligence-and-its-impact-on-peace-security-and-governance-in-africa>

## 31<sup>ST</sup> COMMEMORATION OF THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN RWANDA

As 7th April 2025 marked the 31st Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda (Kwibuka31), the African Union through the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Ethiopia, solemnly observed the Commemoration, at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, emphasising the theme “Remember-Unite-Renew”. This annual commemoration seeks to continuously awaken greater awareness of the African peoples and the international community about the value of life and humanity, and to renew our collective commitment to protect and uphold fundamental human rights.

The event started with ‘The Walk to Remember’ and then followed by other activities in the Nelson Mandela Hall of the AU HQ that included: prayers by religious leaders; then lighting of the ‘Flame of remembrance’ accompanied with a commemoration song. Following the documentary movie- ‘Rwanda: From Despair to Hope’, a one minute of silence was observed in memory of the victims of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, the chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC); H.E. Amb. Birtukan Ayano, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the



Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; Amb. Selma Melika Haddadi, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC; Amb. Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of AUC; Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Charles Karamba, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the AU; H.E. Mr. Adama Dieng, African Union Special Envoy on the Prevention of Genocide and other Mass Atrocities; and H.E. Mr. Parfait Onanga-Ayanga, Special Representative

of the UN Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of UN Office to the AU, participated in this year's commemoration. The event also brought together other officials from the AUC, AU Member States, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, AU Organs, Regional Economic Communities, Religious Institutions, Human Rights

Institutions, Intergovernmental organizations, Civil Society Organizations, UN Agencies, Think Tanks, International Organizations, Schools and Academic Institutions in Ethiopia.

## OPEN SESSION ON: 'HATE CRIMES AND FIGHTING GENOCIDAL IDEOLOGY IN AFRICA' AND THE 31ST COMMEMORATION OF THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN RWANDA

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) dedicated its 1272nd meeting, held on 2 April 2025, to an Open Session on the theme: "Hate Crimes and Fighting Genocidal Ideology in Africa", in conjunction with the 31st Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

In her opening remarks, Ambassador Rebecca Amuge Otengo of Uganda, Chairperson of the PSC for April 2025, emphasized the importance of unity and vigilance. "We must never again allow one community to rise above another based on tribe, race, or religion. Dialogue, not division, must guide us," she stated. She further highlighted the importance of early action: "This session urges reflection on hotspots across Africa where timely intervention can prevent future tragedies. Prevention must be proactive."

Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, underscored the importance of recognizing early warning signs. "The Genocide against the Tutsi was not spontaneous — there were early warning signals we failed to act on," he noted. He reaffirmed the AU's commitment to justice and reconciliation, adding: "The AU remains committed to promoting justice and reconciliation, supporting transitional justice processes in Rwanda to fight hate and impunity."

Mr. Adama Dieng, former UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, called for an unyielding stand against denialism.



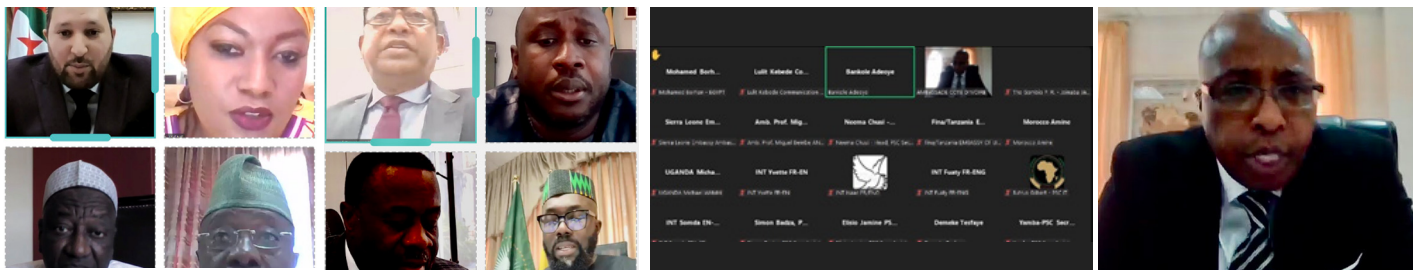
"We must reject the revisionism and denial of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. There is no moral equivalence," he said. "Genocide prevention is not only a legal obligation — it is a moral imperative. Africa must lead by example."

Speaking on behalf of the United Nations, Ms. Virginia Gamba, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, highlighted the need for education in countering hate. "Hate is taught — and so must peace be. We must educate to prevent hate and protect future generations," she affirmed.

The session served as a solemn reminder of the horrors of genocide and a renewed call for continental solidarity in the fight against hate, division, and impunity.

<https://www.peaceau.org/en/article/press-statement-of-the-1272nd-meeting-of-the-peace-and-security-council-held-on-2-april-2025-during-an-open-session-on-the-theme-hate-crimes-and-fighting-genocidal-ideology-in-africa-and-the-31st-anniversary-commemoration-of-the-genocide-against-the-tut>

## PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS AU COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT ON ELECTIONS HELD IN SECOND HALF OF 2024 IN AFRICA



On 24 January 2025, the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) held its 1255th meeting on the AUC Chairperson's report on elections conducted in Africa from July to December 2024 and implications for 2025.

Discussions between PSC members and representatives of member states which held elections between July and December 2024, focused on consolidating democratic governance in Africa through transparent, credible and inclusive elections.

Council congratulated the Member States that successfully held democratic elections in 2024, including Botswana, Ghana, Mauritius and Senegal, commending the smooth transfer of power in these countries. The AUPSC commended Member States for their efforts towards promoting democratic governance and advancing peace in line with Agenda 2063 and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG).

The Council encouraged Member States to strengthen mechanisms for the participation of women and youth in political and electoral processes, and to consistently invite AU election observation missions. The Council also commended member states for increasingly utilising their national resources to organise elections, thereby boosting national ownership, and reducing reliance on external partners. It recognised the efforts of Member States, supported by the AU Commission and RECs/RMs, in managing election results and preventing post-election violence.

The Council encouraged all State Parties to fully comply with the ACDEG, calling on Member States that have not yet ratified it to do so. The Council also encouraged the AU Commission to continue deploying preventive diplomacy alongside AU Election Observer Missions and to strengthen synergies between Member States, RECs/RMs, and other AU organs for seamless deployment.

<https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/1255.comm-en.pdf>

## AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES THE FIGHT AGAINST THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS IN AFRICA

On 12 February 2025, in observance of the International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers, the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) held its 1262nd meeting under the theme: "Fight Against the Use of Child Soldiers." Chaired by Ambassador Miguel Ntutumu Evuna Andeme, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the AU, the session brought

together PSC Member States, AP-CAAC, UNSG CAAC, UNICEF, Save The Children, and the ICRC. The meeting sought to raise awareness and discuss practical strategies to prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

The Council urged Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs)

to strengthen accountability mechanisms to hold perpetrators of child recruitment and exploitation accountable under existing legal frameworks that prevent and criminalize the use of child soldiers. The Council also called on the AU Member States to take decisive legal and punitive measures against all perpetrators.

The Council urged Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) to strengthen accountability mechanisms to ensure perpetrators of child recruitment and exploitation are held accountable under existing legal frameworks that prohibit and criminalize the use of child soldiers. The Council also called on AU Member States to take decisive legal and punitive action against all offenders.

<https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/1262.comm-en.pdf>



## AU HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE (C5) ON SOUTH SUDAN REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLITICAL TRANSITION AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS IN SOUTH SUDAN



The African Union (AU) High-Level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan (C5), chaired by H.E. Mr. Ronald Lamola, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, along with representatives from Algeria, Chad, Nigeria and, Rwanda, all C5 members, paid a solidarity visit to Juba from 15 to 17 January 2025.

The delegation exchanged views on the progress and challenges in the implementation of the Revitalised Agreement and urged the authorities to complete pending tasks to pave the way for transparent and credible elections in 2026.

The ministerial delegation was composed of H.E. Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Rwanda; H.E. Mrs. Selma Bakhta Mansouri, Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria; H. E. Ambassador Hassan Mahamat Ali, of Chad; Ambassador Aminu Nasir of Nigeria; and H. E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security.

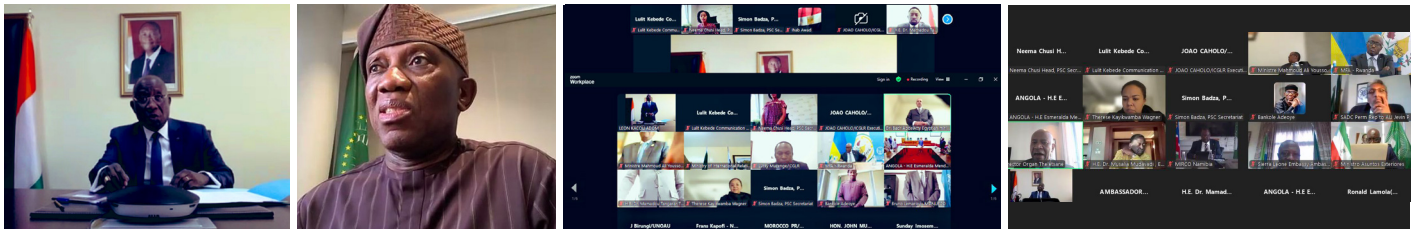
During the visit, the delegation engaged with South Sudan's leadership, including First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and other key Cabinet Ministers. The delegation also met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General

(SRSG) and Head of the UN Mission in South Sudan, representatives of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC), the Head of IGAD's Mission in South Sudan, and the African Diplomatic Corps in Juba.

The ministers reaffirmed the Committee's commitment to supporting national dialogue, healing, reconciliation, and peace building efforts in South Sudan, underscoring that these efforts are essential for the long-term stability of the country.

<https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/outcome-of-the-c5-ministerial-visit-to-juba-01.28.pdf>

## AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL HOLDS EMERGENCY MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)



On January 28, 2025, the African Union's (AU) Peace and Security Council convened an emergency ministerial meeting to address recent developments in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), following the offensive by the M23 group, which had captured several key areas, including Goma, leading to civilian and peacekeepers casualties and exacerbating the security and humanitarian crisis.

The Council strongly condemned the attacks by M23, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), and called for an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of these groups. The AU also condemned foreign military support for these groups and emphasised the need for the DRC's sovereignty and territorial integrity to be respected.

The Council urged the DRC and Rwanda to prioritise peaceful solutions through the Luanda and Nairobi

Processes. It commended the efforts of the DRC's armed forces, as well as regional peacekeeping missions like SADC Mission the Democratic Republic of Congo (SAMIDRC) and MONUSCO. The AU also stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of the conflict and urged international support for the humanitarian crisis in the region, particularly for women, children, and vulnerable populations.

Furthermore, the AU reiterated its call for respect for international humanitarian and human rights laws, protection of civilians, and the implementation of previous agreements. The AU Commission was tasked with deploying a fact-finding mission to assess the situation in the region.

The meeting emphasized the necessity of dialogue, reconciliation, and socio-economic programs to address the underlying issues driving the conflict in eastern DRC.

<https://www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-1256th-emergency-ministerial-meeting-held-on-28-january-2025-on-the-recent-developments-in-the-eastern-democratic-republic-of-congo-drc>

## AU PSC HOLDS 1176TH MEETING ON AUSSOM OPERATIONS IN SOMALIA

On 29 April 2025, the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC), received an update on the status of operations of the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM).

The Council paid tribute to the Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) for their continued commitment to peace and security in Somalia. It also reiterated appreciation to bilateral and multilateral partners for their sustained support toward Somalia's stabilisation efforts.

Council commended the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) for progress made in advancing democratic governance and urged T/PCCs to expedite all necessary requirements related to deploying the AUSSOM. It called on international partners to sustain and enhance support to the FGS in combating the ongoing threat posed by al-Shabaab.

The Council also emphasized the importance of inclusive and sustained political dialogue among the FGS and all Somali political stakeholders to ensure

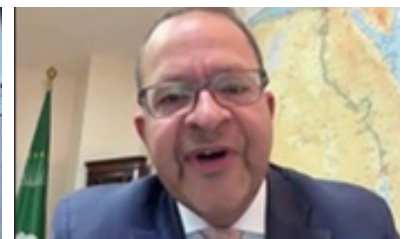
peaceful, credible, and transparent elections in the best interest of the country and its citizens.

Expressing deep concern over the dire humanitarian situation in Somalia, the Council appealed to humanitarian actors and donors to scale up funding for the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. It further noted the financial constraints facing AUSSOM operations and encouraged the utilization of resources from the AU Peace Fund, as well as increased engagement with partners, including through mechanisms such as UN Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023).

Commissioner Bankole Adeoye underscored the urgent need for enhanced AU Member State contributions to sustain peace efforts in Somalia. Commending the T/PCCs for their frontline role, he called for strengthened coordination and reaffirmed the AU's unwavering commitment to Somalia.

<https://papsrepository.africanunion.org/entities/publication/fc653edf-fa84-43d8-b527-7d791ab878ca>

## AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSES ESCALATING CRISIS IN LIBYA



On 24 May 2025, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) convened to discuss the emergency situation in Libya, amid rising tensions and renewed violence in Tripoli. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Harold Bundu Saffa, with a briefing delivered by Ambassador Wahida Ayari, on behalf of Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

The Council strongly condemned the recent outbreak of violence in Tripoli, calling for an unconditional and

permanent ceasefire. It reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to Libya's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and stressed the urgent need for an inclusive, Libyan-led reconciliation process.

The Council also:

Called for the timely holding of national elections as a critical step toward restoring legitimacy and stability;

- Emphasized the importance of building strong and accountable institutions;

- Commended the adoption of the Libyan Reconciliation Charter (February 2025) as a positive step toward national unity;
- Appealed to all external actors to refrain from interference in Libya's internal affairs.

The PSC reiterated the AU's continued support for Libya's peace and reconstruction efforts and urged all stakeholders to prioritize dialogue, unity, and a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

## INFORMAL CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE REPUBLICS OF BURKINA FASO, GABON, GUINEA, MALI, NIGER, AND SUDAN

An informal consultation between the African Union Peace and Security Council and suspended member states, namely; Burkina Faso, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Sudan, took place on 18 March 2025, at the AU Headquarters. Presided by Amb. Mohamed Arrouchi of Morocco, discussions focused on updates on the political transitions in these countries.

Amb. Arrouchi and Commissioner Bankole, emphasized the need to expedite these transitional processes towards restoring constitutional order in these countries and readmission into the African Union. They underlined the AU's continued support to the concerned Member States and called for inclusive, democratic and participatory political transitions.

## AU PSC CONDUCTS FIELD MISSION TO GUINEA



Guinea Conakry, 30–31 May 2025: The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), led by Ambassador Harold Saffa, PSC Chairperson and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, conducted a field mission to the Republic of Guinea to express solidarity with the Guinean people and engage on the country's ongoing transition process.

During the mission, the PSC Delegation held consultations with key stakeholders. They were received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Morissanda Kouyaté, who welcomed the visit as timely and significant, noting that Guinea is making steady progress on its transition roadmap. He emphasized preparations for the constitutional referendum scheduled for September 2025 and the general elections planned for December 2025.



Further engagements included meetings with His Lordship Fodé Bangoura, First President of the Supreme Court, and Mr. Amadou Yéro Bah, Acting First President of the Court of Audit. Both officials briefed the PSC on legal and judicial reforms aimed at ensuring adherence to constitutional principles and the separation of powers in the lead-up to the referendum and elections.

## 4TH ANNUAL JOINT RETREAT BETWEEN THE AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC) AND THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM)

From 7 to 8 April 2025, the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) convened their 4th Annual Joint Retreat in Johannesburg, South Africa. The retreat was held under the theme “Enhancing the Role of the APRM in Early Warning and Contributing to Conflict Prevention and Strengthening Good Governance,” in alignment with key AU normative frameworks.

The event, co-chaired by Ambassador Rebecca Amuge Otengo, emphasized the role of good governance as a cornerstone for sustainable peace and security in Africa. In her opening remarks, Ambassador Otengo highlighted the retreat as an opportunity to leverage the collective expertise of the PSC, APRM, the Panel of

the Wise, and Elders in addressing Africa’s governance and security challenges.

Commissioner Bankole Adeoye, addressing participants, reiterated the retreat’s objective: to serve as a platform for enhancing coordination and collaboration in conflict prevention across the continent.

The retreat provided a space for thoughtful reflection and dialogue on a broad range of issues, including good governance, early warning mechanisms, and the prevention of conflicts. It underscored the shared commitment of the PSC and APRM to work collectively in advancing peace, security, and democratic governance in Africa.

### ACTIVITIES OF AU COMMISSION CHAIR AND PAPS COMMISSIONER

#### COMMISSIONER BANKOLE ACCOMPANIES AUC CHAIRPERSON TO SAUDI ARABIA TO STRENGTHEN AU – SAUDI TIES

On 29 May 2025, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, accompanied the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H. E. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, on an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The delegation met with H.E Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kingdom.

The Chairperson commended Saudi Arabia’s commitment to supporting AU-led political and diplomatic initiatives aimed at fostering a peaceful and secure Africa.

The meeting marked a significant step in deepening the partnership between the African Union Commission

and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, grounded in shared aspirations for enhanced development cooperation, investment financing, and strategic collaboration with Africa.

Discussions also addressed pressing regional and global challenges, particularly ongoing conflicts. Both parties explored avenues for joint action and knowledge exchange, including Saudi Arabia’s support for AU-led efforts in Sudan, South Sudan, Libya, and Somalia. The AUC Chairperson welcomed the Kingdom’s increasing engagement in complementing the AU’s peace and stabilization efforts across the continent.

## COMMISSIONER BANKOLE LEADS AU DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON TO STRENGTHEN AU-US TIES



Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, African Union (AU) Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, led a delegation to Washington, D.C., from 4 to 9 May 2025, to engage in a renewed strategic dialogue with senior United States (U.S.) officials. Key areas of the meetings focused on enhancing the strategic partnership between the AU and the United States in the areas of peace, security, stability, prosperity, development, and counterterrorism in Africa.

The mission included the AU Representatives in Washington, D.C., Amb. Hilda Suka-Mafudze, and in New York, Amb. Fatima Mohammed, the AU Conflict Management Director, Alhaji Dr. Sarjoh Bah, and PAPS senior officials.

During their visit, the delegation met with Members of the U.S. Congress and their Legislative Staff, including Senator Ted Cruz, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Africa and Global Health at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Congressman Gregory Meeks, Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee,

Chairman Christopher Smith of the Foreign Affairs Sub-committee on Africa, Ms. Margaret Flynn Sapia, Foreign Policy and Defence Legislative Assistant, Congresswoman Cherfilus-McCormick, Major General Jami Shawley, and senior officials of the State Department and National Security Council.

Commissioner Bankole Adeoye highlighted the AU's commitment to collaborating closely with the U.S. government in promoting international peace, security, and prosperity. He praised U.S. efforts in mediating African conflicts and urged continued support for humanitarian initiatives and development efforts across the continent, including highlighting the significance of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

They also met with Members of the African Diplomatic Corps in Washington, Ambassadors of the A3 countries—namely, Algeria, Sierra Leone, and Somalia—and cross-section of the Washingtonian Think Tank Community.

## AU COMMISSION WELCOMES SECOND COHORT OF FEMWISE- AFRICA TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S ROLE IN PEACE MEDIATION



The AU Commission, under the leadership of Commissioner Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), along with Hon. Justice Effie Owuor (Co-Chair of FemWise-Africa), H.E. Bineta Diop, and Dr. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, on

23 May 2025, officially welcomed the newly selected members of the Second Cohort of FemWise-Africa. These women will serve a three-year mandate to strengthen the meaningful participation of women as lead mediators and experts in African peace processes.

## PANEL OF THE WISE, FEMWISE, AND WISE YOUTH BRIEF COUNCIL ON THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE INITIATIVES



On 11 March 2025, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) was briefed by the AU Panel of the Wise and some of its subsidiary bodies, namely, FemWise-Africa and WiseYouth, on their contributions to continental peace and security. Hon. Lady Justice Effie Owuor, Chairperson of the Panel of the Wise, highlighted the Panel's role in preventive diplomacy, political transitions, and youth engagement in peace and governance.

The Council commended the Panel's work, particularly in South Sudan, and urged deeper collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

and AU partners for a more coordinated approach. FemWise-Africa's role in advancing gender-sensitive mediation and women's inclusion was also recognized, with calls for enhanced support. Additionally, the Council emphasised integrating WiseYouth into AU mediation efforts and capacity building for youth-led conflict prevention.

<https://www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-1264th-meeting-of-the-peace-and-security-council-held-on-11-march-2025-on-the-briefing-on-the-activities-of-the-panel-of-the-wise-and-its-subsiadiary-mechanisms-in-africa-panwise-network-femwise-africa-and-wiseyouth>

# THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION EMPOWERS YOUTH THROUGH AN INAUGURAL PAN-AFRICAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING



The African Union Commission, through the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security and the African Governance Architecture and African Peace and Security Architecture (AGA-APSA) Secretariat, in collaboration with Training for Peace (TfP) and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), convened the inaugural Pan-African Leadership Training for African Youth from 28–30 May 2025 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The training brought together 25 emerging youth leaders from across the continent, including members of the African Union's Wise Youth Network and youth participants from Ethiopia. The intensive, skills-based programme aimed to strengthen youth participation in democratic governance, peace, and security. It was anchored on the newly launched Pan-African Youth Leadership Manual, developed by the AGA-APSA Secretariat. This manual serves as a comprehensive capacity-building tool designed to equip young

Africans with practical knowledge and leadership skills relevant to governance, peace, and security on the continent.

Participants received hands-on training in key areas such as policy advocacy, negotiation and conflict resolution, inclusive leadership, digital civic engagement, emotional intelligence, and design thinking. The training also provided space for interactive sessions and peer-to-peer learning, enabling participants to explore the linkages between youth leadership and continental governance, peace and security frameworks.

During the training, participants reaffirmed their commitment to ethical leadership, civic responsibility, and proactive engagement in their respective communities. They also shared innovative approaches to addressing governance, peace and security challenges and pledged to serve as active citizens and ambassadors for positive change.

## FROM LEARNING TO ACTION: AU'S NEW WOMEN MEDIATORS READY TO SUPPORT PEACE EFFORTS



The African Union (AU) successfully concluded the FemWise-Africa Orientation and Advanced Training for its newly inducted second cohort of African women mediators, on Ceasefires and Power-Sharing Negotiations. The five-day programme, held from 19–23 May 2025 at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, aimed to strengthen women's leadership in preventive diplomacy, mediation, and peacebuilding across the continent. Participants from sixteen AU Member States engaged in institutional orientation on the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA), alongside practical training modules on mediation strategy, negotiation, and dialogue design. This initiative reflects the AU's commitment to operationalizing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and advancing

Agenda 2063 aspirations for inclusive governance and sustainable peace.

Facilitated in collaboration with ACCORD and NeTT4Peace, the training provided hands-on experience through simulations and scenario-based learning, equipping participants with skills to address complex peace processes. With this milestone, the second cohort now joins the FemWise-Africa roster of mediators, ready to support AU, RECs/RMs, and Member States in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. The AU remains committed to supporting the FemWise Network through ongoing mentorship, capacity building, and deployment opportunities — reaffirming that women's inclusion in peace processes is both a strategic and moral imperative in achieving the Africa We Want.

## PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

### MEETING OF THE SOMALIA OPERATIONS COORDINATION COMMITTEE



From February 24 to 25, 2025, the African Union (AU) Commission convened a two-day working session of the Somalia Operations Coordination Committee (SOCC) at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting, which involved Chiefs of Defence and Police as well as Ministers of Defence troop and police contributing countries, focused on the liquidation and closure of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and the operationalization of the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM).

Discussions centered on the finalisation of ATMIS's liquidation, AUSSOM force generation, and securing sustainable financing for AUSSOM's operations. Participants emphasized the need for a structured, conditions-based approach to address financial, operational, and security concerns before ATMIS's conclusion, as well as aligning resources, ensuring force readiness, and improving coordination among stakeholders.

The meeting also recognised Africa's significant contributions and sacrifices of personnel and civilians over the past 18 years in advancing peace and security in Somalia. The AU reaffirmed its commitment to working with Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) to ensure AUSSOM readiness. Commissioner Bankole Adeoye expressed gratitude for T/PCCs dedication well as for the European Union's support.

Ambassador Mohammed El-Amine Souef, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia and Head of ATMIS, provided an overview of the current security and humanitarian situation, reaffirming the AU's support for Somalia in its efforts against Al-Shabaab. Somali Minister of Defence, H.E. Abdulkadir Mohamed Nu, highlighted Somalia's progress and challenges and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation.

<https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/pr-somalia-meeting-26-feb-25.pdf>

## PAPS DEPARTMENT HOLDS WORKING SESSION WITH AU ORGANS ON THE AU COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS



From 27 to 30 January 2025, the AU Conflict Management Directorate, hosted a working session with AU organs with a human rights and international law mandate on the AU Compliance and Accountability Framework (AUCF) for Peace Support Operations (PSOs). The session, held at the AU Headquarters, aimed to strengthen mechanisms for protecting civilians, safeguarding human rights, and enhancing accountability in PSOs.

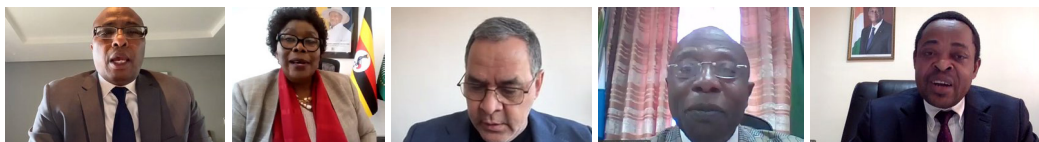
The initiative is part of the AU's commitment to International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, upholding standards on conduct and discipline, and ensuring the protection of civilians. The AU organs with

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) mandates reviewed the implementation of the AUCF to ensure it aligns with the highest international standards.

Funded by the AU-EU-UN partnership, this working session represents another step toward ensuring effective, credible, and legitimate AU peace operations.

The AU Organs are composed of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR); African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACtHPR); African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC); African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL).

## TOWARDS OPERATIONALISATION OF THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE (ASF)



On January 30, 2025, the African Union's (AU) Peace and Security Council discussed efforts towards the operationalisation of the African Standby Force (ASF). The Council reaffirmed its commitment to the full operationalization of the ASF, recognising the ASF's crucial role in promoting peace and security across the continent.

The meeting emphasised the continued importance of supporting the Regional Economic Communities'

regional logistics depots, which are key to ASF's effectiveness. The Council also highlighted the need for sustainable funding for peace support operations (PSOs), and the ASF.

Additionally, the integration of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law into the ASF Doctrine was stressed, in order to align with global legal standards in conflict situations.

## MULTINATIONAL JOINT TASK FORCE SENIOR MILITARY LEADERSHIP INDUCTION



On 27 February 2025, the AU Peace Support Operations Division hosted a two-day induction for the new Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF). The training focused on AU regulations, the African Peace and Security Architecture and ongoing AU support to MNJTF operations.

In his opening remarks, Director Sarjoh Bah commended the MNJTF's efforts in the fight against Boko Haram



and emphasised the AU's unwavering commitment to supporting the mission. He also highlighted the interconnectedness of Boko Haram with terrorist groups in the Sahel and stressed the importance of AU cooperation with regional mechanisms to counter radical extremism across the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) Region.

The newly appointed MNJTF leadership team is, led by Maj. Gen. Godwin Michael Mutkut, the new Force Commander.

## AU STRENGTHENS EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS



On 28 May 2025, the African Union Commission, together with experts from the Regional Knowledge Platform on Early Warning, convened in Djibouti to validate a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy aimed at strengthening governance, peace, and security across Africa. This milestone represents a significant step toward enhancing early warning systems and advancing proactive conflict prevention on the continent.



## GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION UPDATES

### AU WORKSHOP ON NEW EMERGING THREATS TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission organised a workshop on new and emerging threats to peace, security and stability in the Southern African region from 4 to 8 May 2025 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The seminar aimed to conduct a comprehensive and forward-looking assessment of the evolving peace and security landscape in Southern Africa. It brought together representatives of regional member states, regional economic communities and mechanisms (RECs/RMs), as well as representatives from civil society organisations. These included representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs, defence and security, interior, law enforcement and intelligence services.

Mr. Sivuyile Bam representing the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, underlined the urgent need for strengthened coordination between the AU, member states, RECs/RMs and other stakeholders in addressing emerging threats across the Southern African region in the broader context of an African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) review and AU reforms.

On behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe and as SADC Chairperson, Ms. Virginia Chikuri, Chief Director for Continental Integration at the Zimbabwe Ministry of Foreign Affairs, outlined several threats to regional security, including terrorism, cybercrime, transnational



organised crime, criminal networks, and climate change, among others. She called for concerted regional and continental efforts to address these challenges.

Participants discussed opportunities for and challenges to information sharing, early warning systems, and policy alignment at national, regional, and continental levels, as well as cross-border governance and the coordination of humanitarian disasters and health crises. They agreed to strengthen regional collaboration and coordination, share best practices and innovative approaches to counter new threats, and formulate policy recommendations and strategic action plans to reinforce regional peace, security, and sustainable development.

## AU LAUNCHES DEMOCRACY, MEDIA AND SOCIALISATION PROGRAMME ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY



The Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission commemorated the 32nd edition of World Press Freedom Day (WPF) on 3 May 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya, where it launched the AU Democracy, Media and Socialisation Programme during a two-day roundtable discussion with democracy actors and media experts, including editors, journalists and representatives of journalists' associations from across the African continent.

In his opening remarks, Amb. Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), underscored the central role of journalists as active partners in “shaping and advancing Africa’s democratisation, peace, development and prosperity trajectory as defined in Agenda 2063” and reaffirmed “the AU’s commitment to the protection and safety

of journalists and to promoting the ethical use of artificial intelligence in timely, accurate, fact-based and responsible reporting.”

Mr. Omar Faruk Osman, President of the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ), noted that journalists are “agents for democratic participation and guardians of transparency.” While advocating for a free and independent media, he decried the risks faced by journalists, including threats and arbitrary arrests, and called for improved working conditions. In line with the WPF theme on the impact of artificial intelligence on press freedom and the media, he stated, “As artificial intelligence transforms how information is produced and disseminated, we urge that journalists be at the centre of the transition, not marginalised by it. We welcome the African Union’s early engagement

on AI and its societal impact and call for inclusive deliberations that account for African contexts and realities.”

Mr. Erick Oduor, Secretary General of the Kenya Union of Journalists and President of the Federation of Eastern African Journalists, called for “special instruments to guarantee the safety and welfare of journalists and media workers,” as well as for journalists to uphold the ethics of the profession.

Ms. Patience Chiradza, AU Director of Governance and Conflict Prevention, and Ms. Leslie Richer, AU Director of Information and Communication, led the roundtable discussions that focused on the media’s role as agents of democratic socialisation across Africa. Participants committed to advancing responsible and ethical reporting on the continent while leveraging new technologies and partnerships.

The event gathered over twenty-five media practitioners and stakeholders representing the continent’s democratic and media landscapes.

## POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF DDR HIGHLIGHTED AT AU CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP



The African Union Commission, in collaboration with UNDPQ, UNOAU, and the Berghof Foundation, convened a high-level consultative workshop on the Political Dimensions of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) from 19 to 20 March 2025 in Addis Ababa. The workshop brought together AU Member States, RECs/RMs, AU Missions, training institutions, and international partners to discuss how politically informed DDR strategies can enhance peace processes and governance reforms. Guided by the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS) Module 2.20, the sessions emphasised DDR as a vital political instrument that must be embedded within peace negotiations, transitional governance, and conflict mediation efforts. Key themes included inclusive

governance, addressing political grievances, regional cooperation, sustainable reintegration, and the inclusion of women and youth in DDR processes.

Experts and high-level speakers, including the AU Governance and Conflict Prevention PAPS Director, Ms. Patience Chiradza, Berghof Foundation’s Dr. Veronique Dudouet, and officials from Germany and UNDPQ, highlighted that DDR must move beyond technical disarmament to address root and political causes of conflict. Commitments emerged to build politically driven DDR strategies, integrate DDR into AU peace efforts, and strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and knowledge sharing. The event marks a critical shift in DDR thinking, moving it toward a strategic tool for long-term stability and inclusive peacebuilding in Africa.

## SEVENTH AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION-NANHRI POLICY DIALOGUE: ADVANCING JUSTICE FOR AFRICANS THROUGH REPARATIONS

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) hosted the Seventh Policy Dialogue from May 7-9, 2025, at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The event focused on the theme: “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations.”

This Policy Dialogue brought together representatives from AU organs, National human rights institutions (NHRIs), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UN agencies, civil society, academia, and the diplomatic corps. The goal was to strengthen collaboration, build NHRI capacity, and develop actionable strategies to advance reparatory justice. The initiative aligns with the African Union’s 2025 Theme of the Year, emphasizing reparatory justice to address historical injustices such as slavery, colonialism, and systemic discrimination.

The Dialogue affirmed the urgency of reparatory justice and produced several key commitments: 1. Reparatory Justice: Recognizing reparations as vital for addressing historical injustices and advancing human rights; 2. Role of NHRIs: Enhancing NHRI capacity through training, advocacy, documentation, reporting, and the establishment of national reparations committees; 3. Continental Mechanisms: NANHRI will create a reparations committee, while



the AUC will establish a continental reparations fund and a Common African Position on Reparations; and 4. Global Engagement: Encouraging international actors to support reparations through technical assistance, advocacy, and resource mobilization. The participants urged AU Member States to prioritize reparations with legislative and financial support; Civil Society to deepen advocacy and public education; Media to amplify awareness and discourse; and International Partners to provide resources and expertise for reparations efforts.

As next steps, the adopted Declaration outlines strategies to build NHRIs and relevant stakeholders capacity, develop national action plans, monitor and evaluate progress, and foster partnerships and public engagement.

## GUINEA-BISSAU ROLLS OUT THE PILOT PHASE OF THE AU PROJECT FOR THE INCLUSION AND MAINSTREAMING OF THE ACDEG IN SCHOOL CURRICULA

On January 13, 2025, the Pilot Phase of the African Union Project for the inclusion and the mainstreaming of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance in school curricula (ACDEG Project) was officially launched in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, by H.E. Mr. Herry Mané, Minister of National Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Ovidio Barbosa Pequeno,

Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission in Guinea-Bissau; Dr. Gibrilo Djaló, Secretary of State for Education; Mr. José Medina Lobato, Mayor of the City of Bissau; representatives of Bissau-Guinean Ministries, the diplomatic corps, experts from the education sector, youth, CSOs and relevant development partners in Bissau. This follows the official launch in Abidjan in 2024. The ACDEG Project emanates from a recommendation of the first

meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST I) held on October 30, 2015, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During this meeting, Member States urged the African Union Commission, “to promote the inclusion of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance in the school curricula as well as in teacher training”.

Following the validation of the pedagogical material by representatives of the Member States and RECs/RMs in Maputo, Mozambique, from December 4-6, 2023, and their alignment by a Steering Committee of Experts, the Pilot Phase of the ACDEG Project was

officially launched in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on June 27, 2024, for the West African region. During this event, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau were selected as pilot countries for the implementation of the project in the region.

The country-specific launch in Guinea-Bissau is aimed at raising awareness of national stakeholders on the ACDEG as an important normative framework and on the ACDEG Project as a tool to promote and expand African citizens' knowledge on the principles and values of the Charter. It was supported by the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES).

## **SPECIALIZED TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE TRAINING HELD IN ABIDJAN**

The African Union Commission, in partnership with the Ivorian Ministry of Justice, and in collaboration with the Initiative for Transitional Justice in Africa—led by the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and the Mouvement Ivoirien des Droits Humains (MIDH), with support from the European Union—convened a three-day specialized training on African Union transitional justice policy. The training, held from 9 to 11 April 2025 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, targeted a diverse range of national stakeholders, including state and non-state actors from French-speaking African Union Member States.

The Training was officially opened by Mr. Jean Yves Mel Essis, Magistrat and Adviser of the Ministry of Justice of Cote d'Ivoire. The core objective of the training was to enhance participants' understanding of transitional justice, and to equip them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to design and implement transitional justice in accordance with the provisions of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP) and international standards. The training placed particular emphasis on building and strengthening local and national capacities in transitional justice, as envisioned in the AUTJP. Over 50 participants attended the training, drawn from state actors, non-state actors, and regional partners.

## **CAPACITY-BUILDING ON THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE (ACDEG) CONCLUDES WITH RENEWED COMMITMENT FROM MEMBER STATES**

The African Union Commission (AUC), through its Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (PAPS) and with the facilitation of the African Governance Architecture and the African Peace and Security Architecture (AGA-APSA) Secretariat, convened a capacity-building workshop on the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) on 22-23 May 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The workshop aimed to strengthen the technical capacities of Member States on the ACDEG and foster renewed political will to ratify, domesticate, implement, and report on the Charter.

Adopted in 2007 and entered into force in 2012, the ACDEG is a vital legal instrument that underscores Africa's collective commitment to upholding



constitutional order, entrenching respect for human rights, and strengthening the rule of law beyond electoral democracy. It is a cornerstone of the AU's Agenda 2063, which envisions an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens.

To date, 46 Member States have signed the Charter, 39 have ratified it, yet only two State Parties have submitted their implementation reports. The workshop, which targeted the Member States that have not ratified, focused on five key outcomes:



Enhanced Understanding of the ACDEG; Reaffirmation of Democratic Governance as a Pillar of Peace and Security; Identification of Challenges and Solutions; Harnessing complementarity; and Reporting. The deliberations have generated renewed momentum, inspiring a shared vision among Member States to accelerate progress on the Charter. Participants expressed optimism that the outcomes of the meeting would lead to concrete actions, including increased ratification and timely submission of State Party reports.

## HISTORIC AFRICAN WOMEN FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PLATFORM LAUNCHED

The African Women for Transitional Justice Platform (AW4TJ), which was officially launched on November 19, 2024, at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, held its first meeting in January 2025.

The AW4TJ brings together diverse stakeholders, practitioners and experts dedicated to advancing the role of women in transitional justice across Africa, while promoting gender-sensitive practices in conflict management and justice.

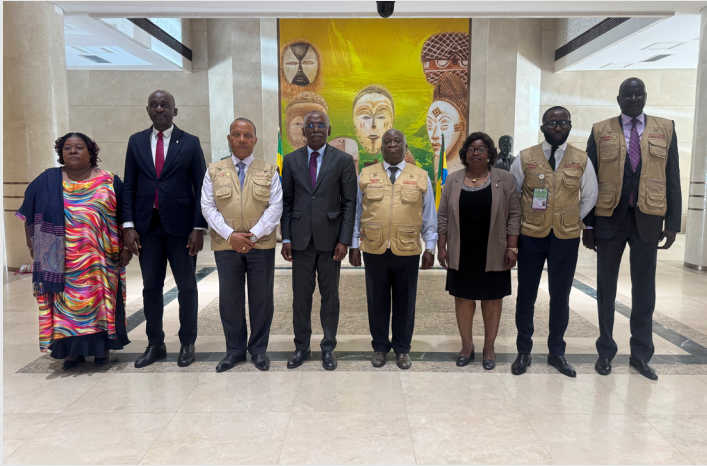
The AW4TJ was established to empower African women intervention in transitional justice processes and to constructively situate their pivotal role in conflict prevention, mitigation, and management. The launch underscores the intersection of women and conflict, while also recognizing that women and girls disproportionately suffer as victims from both the direct and indirect effects of violent conflict. The platform aims to ensure that women's experiences, perspectives, and needs are prioritized in the pursuit of a just, peaceful, and stable Africa.

The platform marks a significant step forward in the implementation of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP), which highlights the essential role of women in transitional justice processes. In response, the AW4TJ addresses issues specific to women and girls in conflict and post-conflict contexts, empowering them to define their roles in shaping transitional justice at local, regional, and global levels.



## AU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS

### AU OBSERVES 12TH APRIL 2025 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN GABON



The African Union Commission Chairperson, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, deployed the AU Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to the 12th April 2025 Presidential Election in the Republic of Gabon, representing a key step towards concluding the political transition in the country following the August 2023 coup d'état in Gabon and its suspension by the AU Peace and Security Council.

The AUEOM, which was deployed to Gabon from 5 to 16 April 2025, was led by H.E. Patrice Trovoda, the former Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, and supported by H.E. Domitien Ndayizeye, the former President of the Republic of Burundi and a Member of the AU Panel of the Wise. It consisted of fifty observers from twenty-four African countries, drawn from the AU Commission, Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), Pan-African Parliament (PAP), African Peer Review Mechanism, AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), Election Management Bodies (EMBs), and African civil society, including women, youth, and academia.

Ahead of the elections, H.E. Patrice Trovoda met with key national stakeholders, including H.E. Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, the transitional President; the transitional Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Interior; the President of the Constitutional Court; the Mediator of the Republic; the President of the High Authority for Communication; Ms. Zenaba Gninga, the sole female presidential candidate; and representatives of the Network of Citizen Observers (ROC). He also engaged with the Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), members of the African Diplomatic Corps in Libreville, and heads of Election Observer Missions.

Firmly committed to the principles of impartiality and objectivity and strictly complying with international standards for election observation and the legal framework in the Gabonese Republic, the observers were deployed across the country's nine provinces to observe the elections. It is worth noting that the AUEOM was preceded by an AU Needs and Pre-Election Assessment Mission in Gabon from 17 to 23 February 2025.

## AFRICAN UNION ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS IN MALAWI ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AHEAD OF THE IMPENDING 2025 GENERAL ELECTIONS



The African Union delegation led by Mme. Bineta Diop, AU Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, and Hon. Lady Justice (Retired) Effie Owuor, Chairperson of FEMWISE-Africa, convened a Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Women's Political Participation in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 12 to 13 May 2025. The conference was organised by the African Union in collaboration with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), implemented through GIZ; the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN); and FEMWISE. The gathering brought together key actors from the Government of Malawi, civil society, political parties, development partners, the media, aspiring women candidates, and grassroots organisations committed to promoting women's leadership and participation in democratic processes.

The conference provided a vital platform for addressing the persistent legal, institutional, economic, and cultural barriers that continue to hinder women's full engagement in political leadership. Participants engaged in a constructive dialogue that examined the root causes of gender exclusion in Malawi's political landscape, while identifying practical opportunities, normative frameworks, and collective strategies to advance inclusive governance — especially in preparation for the upcoming general elections scheduled for 16 September 2025.



Conference participants called on the Parliament and Government of Malawi to consider introducing mandatory gender quotas through amendments to the electoral laws, to enact a gender-responsive public campaign financing framework, and to explore the possibility of transitioning from a first-past-the-post system towards a more inclusive electoral model, in line with the recommendations of the 2017 Special Law Commission on Electoral Reform.

Electoral stakeholders, including the Malawi Electoral Commission, the police, and the judiciary, were reminded of their important role in responding promptly and effectively to electoral violence, including cyberbullying, and in safeguarding women's participation throughout the electoral cycle. The media was encouraged to contribute to a more gender-responsive political environment by amplifying women's voices, challenging stereotypes, countering disinformation, and ensuring fair and equal access to airtime for women candidates. Women themselves were encouraged to prepare early, strengthen cross-party collaboration, enhance digital and communication skills, and actively shape inclusive narratives in political spaces.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### JOINT PLANNING AND REVIEW MEETING: AU, RECs/RMs AND EU MEET IN NAIROBI TO FINALIZE THE SUCCESSOR TO THE EU APSA IV PROGRAMME



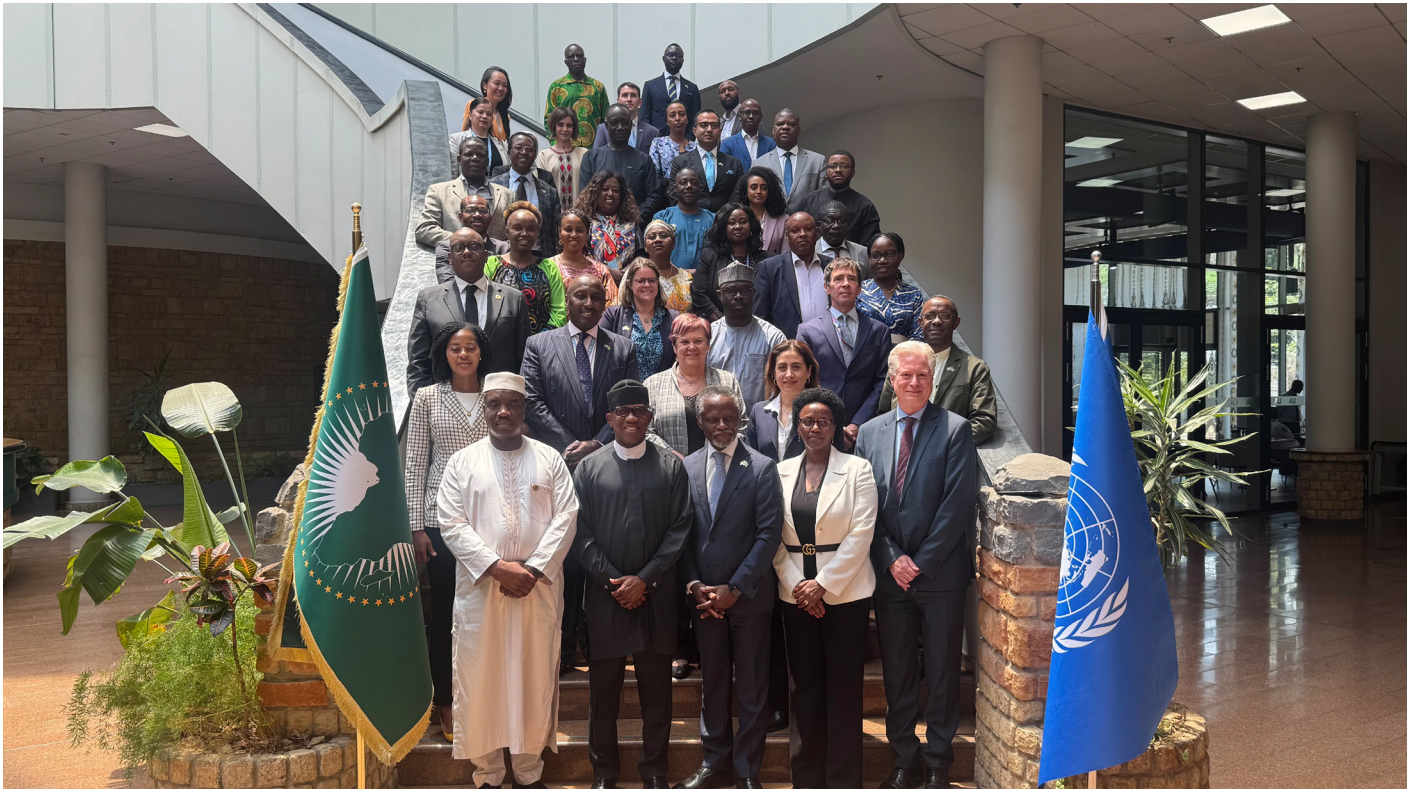
Building on the outcomes of the inaugural joint planning retreat held in June 2024, the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), and the Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) convened a follow-up planning and review meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 16 May 2025. The objective was to finalize preparations for the successor

EU Support Programme, scheduled to commence on 1 January 2026.

This upcoming programme will consolidate various EU-supported initiatives under a single integrated framework, encompassing support to the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), the African Governance Architecture (AGA), the Human Rights Compliance Framework, and the Crisis Reserve Facility (CRF) of the AU Peace Fund.

<https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/joint-planning-and-review-meeting-au-recs-rms-and-eu-meet-in-nairobi-to-finalize-the-successor-to-the-eu-apsa-iv-programme-22-may-2025.pdf>

## ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON THE UN-AU PARTNERSHIP



On 5 March 2025, the Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) Department of the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) co-organised the Annual Retreat on the UN-AU Partnership at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, and H.E. Parfait Onanga-Ayanga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNOAU Head, led the discussions.

Commissioner Bankole shared the AU PAPS priorities, including strengthening conflict prevention, combating

terrorism, promoting good governance and democracy, fostering smart partnerships, and adapting to the AU Reforms to effectively implement the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA).

SRSO Parfait Onanga called for a renewed commitment to multilateralism and reassured that the UN is fully committed to supporting the AU and member states in implementing the APSA and AGA.

The discussions centred on enhancing UN-AU collaboration to promote effective governance, as well as conflict prevention and resolution in member states.



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# PEACE DIVIDENDS

Newsletter of the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security



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