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AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ADVANCES GOVERNANCE, CONFLICT PREVENTION, GENDER EQUALITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING IN MARCH 2026

Throughout March 2026, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) convened a series of meetings and consultations focused on political transitions, conflict prevention, sustainable peace financing, women's leadership, and institutional strengthening, reaffirming the African Union's commitment to promoting peace, security, stability, and democratic governance across the continent.

The month commenced with the Council's review of the political transition in Guinea-Bissau during its 1333rd meeting on 5 March. The Council welcomed the appointment of the AU Special Envoy for Guinea-Bissau



and underscored the importance of an inclusive and transparent transition process involving women, youth,



civil society, and political stakeholders. Members called for the protection of fundamental rights, the release of political detainees, and close coordination between the AU and ECOWAS in preparation for the presidential elections scheduled for December 2026. The Council also encouraged continued support from regional and international partners, including the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), to ensure a peaceful and credible transition.



On 9 March, the PSC held its annual Open Session on Women, Peace and Security under the theme of women's leadership in addressing emerging threats, including artificial intelligence and technology-facilitated violence. The session highlighted both the opportunities and risks associated with emerging technologies and emphasized the importance of safeguarding women and girls in digital spaces. Participants called for stronger legal and policy frameworks, increased investment in gender-responsive peace and security initiatives, and greater support for women's leadership in governance, mediation, and peacebuilding processes.

The Council also focused attention on strengthening Africa's capacity to finance its own peace and

security priorities. During consultations with the AU High Representative for Financing the Union and the Peace Fund, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, members examined strategies for enhancing the utilization of the AU Peace Fund and promoting sustainable, African-owned financing mechanisms for peace operations. Discussions emphasized resource mobilization, strategic partnerships, and greater financial self-reliance as critical pillars for supporting African-led peace initiatives.

On 10 March, the PSC reviewed the political situation in Madagascar, reiterating the importance of an inclusive and transparent transition process and urging continued cooperation between national authorities, the AU, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The Council called for the release of political detainees, respect for political freedoms, and increased humanitarian assistance to address the country's socio-economic challenges.

Conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy remained central themes during the Council's 1336th meeting on 17 March, which reviewed the activities of the Panel of the Wise. The Council commended the Panel's contributions to mediation, dialogue, and conflict prevention efforts across the continent and called for stronger cooperation with member states, enhanced early warning mechanisms, and increased support for women and youth participation in peace processes. Members also emphasized the importance of predictable and sustainable funding to strengthen the Panel's operational effectiveness.



The month concluded with significant efforts to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Peace and Security Council itself. From 26 to 30 March in Matsapha, Eswatini, the PSC Committee of Experts convened a preparatory workshop and induction programme for newly elected PSC members. The engagements focused on improving the implementation and monitoring of Council decisions, strengthening PSC subcommittees, enhancing understanding of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and addressing emerging challenges such as climate, peace, and security. Participants also explored sustainable peace financing, early warning systems, and the AU Master Roadmap on Silencing the Guns by 2030.



The Council's activities throughout March 2026 reflected a comprehensive approach to peace and security that integrates political dialogue, preventive diplomacy, democratic governance, gender equality, sustainable financing, and institutional effectiveness. Through these engagements, the AU continued to strengthen its capacity to respond to evolving challenges while advancing African-led solutions for peace, stability, and development across the continent.

On 7 April 2026, the PSC held its third Flag Installation Ceremony at the AU Headquarters, formally inaugurating its 16th cohort of members and marking the commencement of their mandate. The ceremony symbolized the transfer of responsibility as newly elected and re-elected members raised their national flags and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing Africa's peace and security agenda.



Presiding over the ceremony, Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Hadera Abera Admassu, welcomed newly elected members Benin, Gabon, Lesotho, Morocco, Somalia, and South Africa, while congratulating Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, and Uganda on their re-election. He emphasized the importance of cooperation, solidarity, and collective action in addressing the continent's evolving peace and security challenges. African Union Commission Chairperson, Mahmoud Ali Yousouf, also congratulated the new cohort and reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to supporting the Council's work. The event further paid tribute to the late Ambassador Kongit Sinegiorgis, a distinguished African diplomat and former Chair of the Panel of the Wise, in recognition of her contributions to peace, diplomacy, and African unity.



On 8 April, during its 1337th Open Session, the PSC examined the growing threat posed by hate crimes, hate speech, and genocide ideology across Africa. The Council underscored that intolerance, discrimination, and extremist narratives continue to undermine social cohesion, peace, and stability. Participants called for strengthened early warning systems, enhanced preventive measures, greater accountability for perpetrators, and increased investment in education, dialogue, and legal frameworks to counter hate-driven ideologies. Reaffirming the principle of “Never Again,” the Council emphasized the importance of promoting tolerance, human dignity, good governance, and responsible public discourse while advancing reconciliation and accountability through the implementation of AU transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction frameworks.

On 9 April, the PSC held informal consultations on the implications of the Middle East crisis for Africa's peace and security. Discussions highlighted the economic and security consequences of global instability on the continent, including inflationary pressures, energy and food insecurity, rising debt burdens, currency

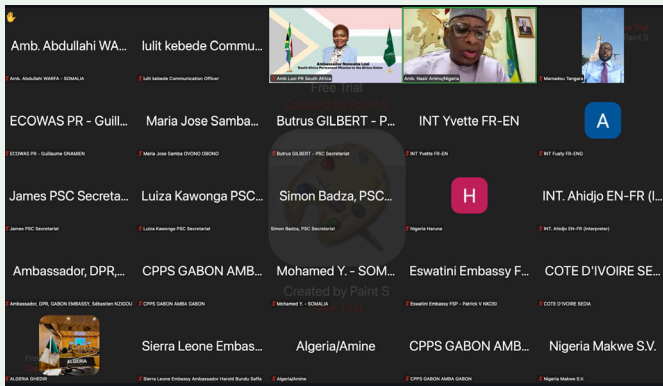
depreciation, and disruptions to maritime trade. Council members emphasized the importance of strengthening Africa's resilience through strategic autonomy, self-reliance, enhanced regional cooperation, and the expansion of intra-African trade.

The Council also reviewed developments in the Central African Republic (CAR), welcoming the successful conduct of the December 2025 elections as a positive step in the country's peacebuilding process. Members commended the contribution of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and welcomed progress made in the implementation of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, and repatriation initiatives. At the same time, the Council expressed concern over ongoing insecurity and human rights violations by armed groups, urging all parties to fully commit to peace efforts and calling for enhanced cooperation among the African Union, the United Nations, and ECCAS to consolidate stability and support long-term peacebuilding in the country.

These engagements reflected the PSC's continued commitment to strengthening Africa's peace and security architecture, promoting conflict prevention, addressing emerging threats, and supporting member states in advancing peace, stability, and sustainable development across the continent.



AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ADVANCES CLIMATE SECURITY, PEACE OPERATIONS, STABILIZATION AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY



The month of May began with the Council's consideration of the impact of climate change on crisis situations in the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel during its 1344th meeting on 4 May. The Council highlighted the growing links between climate change, environmental degradation, resource scarcity, displacement, and conflict, and emphasized the need for integrated and African-led responses that strengthen resilience, adaptation, and sustainable peace. Members also called for accelerated development of the Climate, Peace and Security framework and increased resource mobilization to support climate resilience and peacebuilding initiatives.

The Council subsequently examined Africa's strategies for combating transnational organized crime, noting the increasingly complex nature of criminal networks and the growing use of emerging technologies to facilitate illicit activities. Discussions underscored the importance of intelligence sharing, operational cooperation, strengthened cross-border actions, and strategic partnerships involving continental and international institutions. The Council reaffirmed support for AFRIPOL and called for greater investment in analytical, operational, and capacity-building efforts to enhance Africa's response to organized crime.

A key milestone during the month was the Joint Retreat of the Peace and Security Council, the Permanent Representatives' Committee, the Bureau of the PRC Subcommittee on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters, and the Board of Trustees of the

AU Peace Fund. Participants reviewed progress made in strengthening the governance and capitalization of the Peace Fund and emphasized the importance of predictable, sustainable, and African-owned financing mechanisms to support the continent's peace and security priorities. The retreat reinforced coordination between political decision-making and financial implementation while advancing efforts to sustain the AU's Silencing the Guns initiative.

On 14 May, the Council held informal consultation with Mali's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdoulaye Diop, during which it expressed solidarity with the Malian people following recent terrorist attacks and reiterated concerns regarding the humanitarian situation, particularly the plight of internally displaced persons. The Council encouraged continued efforts toward inclusive dialogue, national reconciliation, and the restoration of constitutional order while reaffirming its support for Mali's peace and stabilization efforts.

At its 1346th meeting on 15 May, the Council reviewed progress in the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF), reaffirming its role as a cornerstone of Africa's collective security architecture. Members welcomed progress toward implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on the Utilization of the ASF and stressed the importance of operationalizing critical capabilities, including the Continental Logistics Base, Rapid Deployment Capabilities, and C4IS systems. The Council also underscored the need for sustainable financing to strengthen the ASF's readiness and deployment capabilities.

The meeting also reviewed progress toward operationalizing the Combined Maritime Task Force (CMTF) for the Gulf of Guinea. Recognizing the strategic importance of maritime security, the Council called for stronger regional and international cooperation to combat piracy and maritime crime, safeguard maritime trade routes, support the blue economy, and advance the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

On 18 May, the Council received updates on stabilization efforts by the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in the Lake Chad Basin. Members acknowledged progress made in countering Boko Haram and advancing recovery and stabilization efforts while emphasizing the need for enhanced resource mobilization, humanitarian assistance, and support for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programmes. The Council further encouraged renewed diplomatic efforts to facilitate Niger's return to the MNJTF framework and highlighted the importance of protecting children and promoting the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding initiatives.

Additionally, the Council reviewed developments in Guinea-Bissau's political transition. Members reiterated the importance of an inclusive and credible transition process, called for the release of political detainees, urged respect for human rights and constitutional principles, and emphasized continued cooperation between the African Union, ECOWAS, the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), the United

Nations, and other international partners in supporting democratic governance and political stability.

The month concluded with efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the Peace and Security Council through an induction and orientation programme for the PSC Committee of Experts in Abuja, Nigeria. The programme reinforced the Committee's critical role in supporting Council deliberations, implementing decisions, and strategic policy engagement. Participants also held consultations with the Nigerian National Counter Terrorism Centre aimed at enhancing cooperation on counterterrorism and strengthening institutional partnerships.

Collectively, the Council's activities during May 2026 reflected the African Union's continued commitment to addressing emerging security threats, strengthening peace support operations, supporting political transitions, enhancing institutional capacity, and advancing sustainable African-led solutions to peace and security challenges across the continent.

AU ADVANCES PEACE, SECURITY, AND HUMANITARIAN AGENDA ACROSS AFRICA



On 3 June 2026, the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) reaffirmed its commitment to addressing Africa's growing humanitarian challenges by emphasizing the protection of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other vulnerable populations. The Council called for greater respect for international humanitarian law, improved humanitarian access, stronger burden-sharing among Member States, and the implementation of durable solutions guided by the Kampala Convention.

The PSC, on 9 June 2026, also reviewed the situation in Libya, welcoming progress in the country's political and economic landscape while expressing concern over persistent security challenges, foreign interference, and reported human rights violations against African migrants and refugees. The Council reiterated its support for a Libyan-led political process, national reconciliation, strengthened state institutions, and enhanced continental coordination on migration.



ACTIVITIES OF AU COMMISSION CHAIR AND PAPS COMMISSIONER

ADVANCING PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 17TH HIGH-LEVEL RETREAT IN LIBREVILLE



H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the African Union Commission convened the Chairperson's 17th High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa from 21–22 May 2026 in Libreville, Gabon. The retreat brought together key stakeholders to reflect on Africa's peace and security landscape and identify practical approaches to addressing ongoing challenges across the continent. The gathering served as an important platform for dialogue on strengthening peacebuilding efforts and reinforcing coordinated responses to conflict.



The retreat reaffirmed the need for coherent and coordinated regional and international engagement, with African institutions—particularly the African Union—playing a leading role in setting priorities and shaping responses. Deliberations underscored the importance of ensuring African ownership while aligning external support with continental priorities. Participants also recognized that increased and predictable financing from within Africa remains essential to strengthening the AU's strategic autonomy and enhancing its capacity to lead peace processes effectively.

Through the sessions, participants explored practical approaches to ceasefire management, national dialogue and reconciliation, including discussions on both challenges and opportunities in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. The exchanges stressed the importance of engaging relevant actors, rebuilding institutional credibility, strengthening facilitation mechanisms and ensuring that security responses are accompanied by political dialogue, governance reforms, economic inclusion, accountability and regional cooperation.



These discussions reinforced the AU's commitment to comprehensive and inclusive pathways to peace.

A key highlight of the retreat was a high-level Fireside Chat on “Leadership Perspectives on the State of Peace and Security in Africa,” featuring H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi, Former President of Botswana, and H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, Former President of Kenya.

The retreat concluded with remarks delivered by Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. He reaffirmed that ceasefires are not the destination, but a pathway toward inclusive national reconciliation and sustainable peace, while reiterating the Commission's continued commitment to working with member states, special envoys, partners and regional stakeholders to advance peace, stability and development across Africa.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE AU COMMISSION APPOINTS HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA AND THE RED SEA



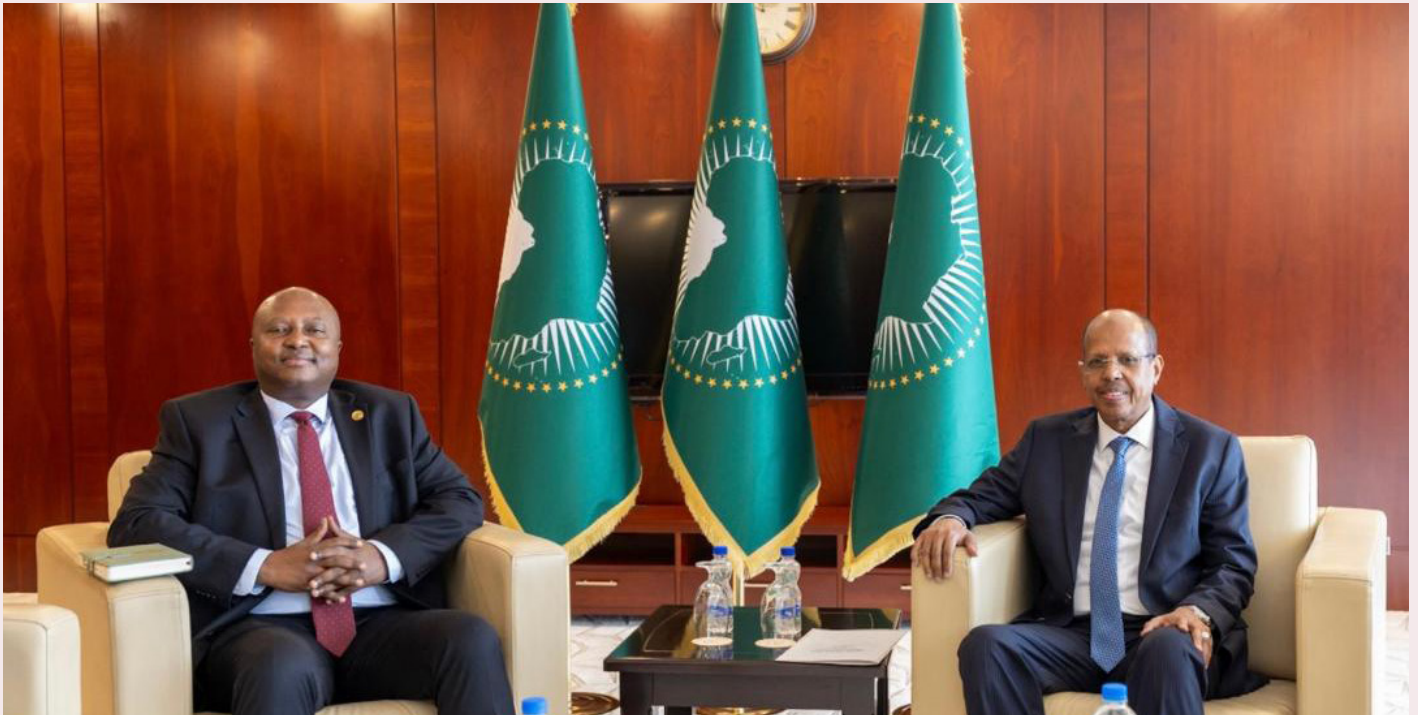
On 25 March 2026, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, announced the appointment of H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, as High Representative for the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea.

His activities are for now focused on peace and stability in South Sudan .

He will work in close coordination with relevant regional and international partners, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community (EAC),

the League of Arab States, the United Nations, and other partners, to ensure coherence, complementarity and effectiveness in collective efforts to promote peace, stability and security. This coordinated engagement is particularly critical given the strategic importance of the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea for international trade and the broader stability of the African continent.

APPOINTMENT OF AN AFRICAN UNION SPECIAL ENVOY FOR GABON AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA



On 25 March 2026, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, appointed H.E. Albert Shingiro, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Burundi, as Special Envoy to support the Republic of Gabon and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in implementing the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 19 May 2025 concerning the land and maritime delimitation and sovereignty over the islands of Mbanié, Conga and Cocoteros.

The appointment followed the quadripartite meeting on 14 February 2026, held under the auspices of the African Union, at which both parties reaffirmed their commitment to the coordinated and peaceful implementation of the Court's decision. Through this designation, the African Union reaffirms its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes and to promoting African solutions grounded in international law.

In the discharge of his mandate, the Special Envoy will undertake the necessary consultations with both States to facilitate consensus on the modalities for implementing the judgment, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

BUILDING PEACE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP: STRENGTHENING EARLY WARNING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION IN THE GAMBIA



The growing partnership between the African Union Commission (AUC), through its Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), and the National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Coordinating Centre (NCCRM) of The Gambia, established under the Office of the Vice President of The Gambia, plays a central role in monitoring human security threats, coordinating preventive responses, and linking national early warning efforts with regional and continental mechanisms. As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen conflict prevention capacities, the AU and NCCRM embarked on a series of reciprocal learning and experience-sharing engagements during 2026.

The first engagement took place from 16–18 March 2026, when a delegation from the NCCRM visited the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During the study visit, participants engaged with CEWS analysts, regional desk officers, mediation experts, and Situation Room staff to gain a deeper understanding of how the AU monitors, analyzes, and responds to emerging peace and security challenges across the continent.

The visit provided an opportunity for both institutions to reflect on challenges and opportunities in strengthening national early warning systems. Areas identified for future cooperation included improving analytical capacity, enhancing real-time monitoring, strengthening coordination among national institutions, and developing stronger mechanisms for preventive response.

Building on this momentum, representatives from the African Union, the Eastern Africa Civil Society Network (ECONET), the Southern Africa Partnership for the Prevention of Conflict (SAPPC), and the Southern African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (SACCORD) undertook a learning visit to The Gambia from 18–19 May 2026.

Hosted by the NCCRM, the visit provided participants with first-hand insights into The Gambia's experience in establishing and operationalizing a national early warning and response mechanism. Participants learned how the NCCRM works with government institutions, civil society organizations, and international partners to monitor potential conflict triggers, coordinate

preventive action, and promote peacebuilding efforts at both national and community levels.

For participants from Eastern and Southern Africa, The Gambia's experience provided valuable lessons on building effective national infrastructures for peace and strengthening the connection between early warning and preventive action. For the NCCRM, the engagement reinforced its relationship with the African Union and opened new opportunities for continued technical cooperation and institutional development.

These reciprocal exchanges demonstrate that conflict prevention is not achieved by institutions working in isolation. Rather, it is strengthened through partnerships, shared learning, and collective commitment to peace. By investing in stronger early warning systems and fostering collaboration across different levels of governance, the African Union and its partners are helping to build stronger institutions, sustainable peace and more resilient societies capable of preventing crises before they occur.

FROM ASSESSMENT TO ACTION: ZAMBIA TAKES A STEP TOWARDS STRONGER PEACE AND RESILIENCE



From 23-27 March 2026, national stakeholders came together in Livingstone to prioritize and cost key interventions aimed at addressing long-term drivers of instability. Representatives from government institutions, civil society organizations, COMESA, APRM and the African Union worked side by side to develop a roadmap that responds to Zambia's specific needs and priorities.

One of the most important outcomes was the integration of these conflict prevention priorities identified as mitigation strategy, into Zambia's Ninth National Development Plan (9NDP). This means that peacebuilding and resilience are no longer treated as

stand-alone activities but are increasingly becoming part of the country's broader development agenda.

The process also strengthened cooperation among national institutions and partners, creating a shared vision for preventing conflict and building resilience. By linking early warning, development planning, and preventive action, Zambia is taking practical steps to address challenges before they evolve into larger security or governance concerns.

For the African Union, the Zambia experience demonstrates the value of investing in prevention. It shows that early warning is most effective when it leads to action, national ownership, and long-term solutions that strengthen communities and institutions alike.

By integrating conflict prevention priorities into national development planning, Zambia has strengthened its capacity to address vulnerabilities proactively, enhance resilience, and promote sustainable peace through nationally owned solutions.



FEMWISEAFRICA SAHEL WOMEN'S DIALOGUE STRENGTHENS WOMEN'S ROLE IN PEACEBUILDING



FemWise-**AFRICA** Sahel Women's Dialogue Strengthening **Women Mediators** and **Peacebuilders** in Conflict Prevention and Transformation

Date - 25-27 March | Dakar , Senegal

From 25 to 27 March 2026 in Dakar, the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWiseAfrica) convened the Sahel Women's Dialogue, bringing together women mediators and peacebuilders to strengthen their role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding across the Sahel region.



The Dialogue was held under the leadership of Hon. Justice Effie Owuor, FemWiseAfrica Co-Chair, and facilitated by FemWiseAfrica members H.E. Djibrine Achta Sy, former Minister of Chad, and H.E. Diye Ba, former Minister of Mauritania. It opened with a strong call to bridge grassroots women's mediation initiatives with African Union-led political processes, particularly in the context of ongoing transitions across the Sahel, and to reinforce inclusive approaches to peacebuilding.

Participants engaged in in-depth discussions on the evolving political and security landscape in the Sahel, highlighting both challenges and opportunities for women mediators. Emphasis was placed on their frontline role in sustaining dialogue, fostering social cohesion, and supporting peaceful navigation of complex political transitions.

The Dialogue also underscored the critical contributions of grassroots women mediators in addressing key conflict drivers in the region, including violent extremism, climate-related tensions, intercommunal and cross-border disputes, and migration-related challenges.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to advancing women's leadership in conflict prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding, while strengthening coordination among women-led networks across the Sahel to sustain impact and enhance collective effectiveness.



FemWiseAfrica reaffirmed its commitment to supporting women mediators and strengthening strategic linkages with African Union mechanisms, including the Panel of the Wise, the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, and the Special Envoy for the Sahel, to reinforce inclusive and sustainable peace processes across the region.

AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES FOURTH COHORT OF YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE



The African Union Commission welcomed the Fourth Cohort of the African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAPs) during an induction and orientation programme held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, welcomed the newly appointed Youth Ambassadors as they commenced their two-year mandate from April 2026 to March 2028. The initiative forms part of the African Union's commitment to advancing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda by

empowering young leaders to contribute to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, dialogue and mediation efforts across the continent. The newly appointed cohort comprises five distinguished youth leaders representing Africa's five regions: Ms. Amina Bello (Central Africa), Mr. Patrick Kumi (Eastern Africa), Ms. Hassnaa Tamam (North Africa), Ms. Ruth Kangwa (Southern Africa), and Mr. Bakary Dena Sonko (West Africa).

The induction and orientation programme marked the official commencement of the Ambassadors' mandate



and provided a platform to familiarize them with the African Union's peace and security priorities, institutional frameworks and engagement mechanisms. Through their regional representation and peacebuilding experience, the Youth Ambassadors are expected to support advocacy, outreach and youth engagement initiatives that promote sustainable peace and security across Africa. The appointment of the Fourth Cohort reinforces the African Union's continued investment in youth leadership and strengthens the role of young peacebuilders in advancing the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda across the continent.

AU YOUTH FOR PEACE AFRICA MISSION SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF MALI'S NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY



On 24 March 2026, the African Union Commission's Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (AUC PAPS), through its Youth for Peace Africa (Y4P) Programme, launched an advocacy mission in Mali to support the development and adoption of a National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS).

The delegation, comprising representatives from the AU Mission for Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL), the Youth for Peace Africa Programme, and African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace for West Africa, Simone Mbodé Diouf, held consultations with key stakeholders to advance the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in the country.



During a meeting with the Mali Chapter of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP-Mali), participants reviewed progress made in promoting youth participation in peace and security efforts and explored opportunities for enhanced collaboration among stakeholders. Discussions also focused on advancing the implementation of the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (CFYPS) and strengthening youth-led contributions to peacebuilding initiatives in Mali.



The delegation further met with the President of the National Youth Council of Mali to discuss the objectives of the mission and the importance of meaningful youth engagement in peace and security processes. The discussions highlighted the critical role of the National Youth Council in advocacy efforts and in supporting the development of Mali's National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security.

As part of the mission, AUC PAPS, through the Youth for Peace Africa Programme, the African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace for West Africa, AU MISAHEL, and WANEP-Mali, convened a multi-stakeholder

conference aimed at advancing the National Action Plan process. The conference focused on the five priorities of the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security — Participation, Prevention, Protection, Partnerships and Coordination, and Disengagement and Reintegration (DR) — with the goal of identifying context-specific solutions to strengthen youth contributions to peace, security, and sustainable development in Mali.

The initiative reflects the African Union's continued commitment to empowering young people as key actors in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and the promotion of lasting stability across the continent.

AU YOUTH FOR PEACE PROGRAMME SUPPORTS LAUNCH OF BURUNDI COALITION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY



On 28 March 2026 in Bujumbura, the African Union Youth for Peace (Y4P) Programme supported the official launch of the Burundi Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (BCYPS), bringing together young people, government representatives, youth-led organizations, civil society actors, and development partners.

The new coalition aims to institutionalize coordination of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda in Burundi by strengthening collaboration among stakeholders and promoting youth participation in peacebuilding and decision-making processes. It is expected to serve as a national platform for advancing inclusive and coordinated action on youth, peace, and security priorities.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Gonzague-Patrick Balagizi of the African Union Liaison Office in Burundi, representing the African Union, underscored the importance of intensifying awareness and engagement efforts to broaden participation in the Youth, Peace

and Security agenda, highlighting the role of national leadership in advancing this cause. He also noted the significance of the commitment of H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, who continues to champion the YPS agenda at the African Union level.

The launch marks a key step in strengthening national ownership of the YPS framework in Burundi and advancing the African Union's broader commitment to empowering young people as critical actors in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and sustainable development.



AU YOUTH FOR PEACE PROGRAMME CONVENES CAPACITY BUILDING SESSION



On 30 May 2026 in Windhoek, Namibia, the AU Youth for Peace Programme, together with national partners, convened a capacity building session to support the development of Namibia's first National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security. The programme brought together government, parliamentary, and youth stakeholders to strengthen understanding of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, share regional best practices, and enhance coordination for policy development. Discussions focused on aligning the future NAP-YPS with national priorities and ensuring effective implementation mechanisms. The AU Commission reaffirmed its support for Namibia's efforts to develop an inclusive and youth-centred national framework.



Technical discussions focused on peace, security, and governance dynamics affecting young people. The sessions also explored the five pillars of the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (CFYPS) and the role of youth as active peacebuilders and contributors to national stability.

The programme also considered how Namibia's future NAP-YPS can be aligned with existing national policies and development priorities, while avoiding duplication and strengthening policy coherence. Emphasis was placed on integrating practical implementation mechanisms throughout the NAP development process, including stakeholder consultations, institutional coordination, resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and the definition of priority actions and timelines.

The African Union Commission reaffirmed its continued commitment to supporting Namibia, the National Youth Council, and youth-led organizations in the development of a comprehensive, inclusive, and youth-centred National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security.

AU BORDER PROGRAMME ENGAGEMENTS BETWEEN MARCH AND JUNE 2026



DISCLAIMER: THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN, AS WELL AS THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP, DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE AFRICAN UNION.

The African Union Border Programme (AUBP) continues to advance peaceful border management and deeper regional integration through a series of impactful technical meetings and stakeholder engagements.

From 25 to 27 March 2026 in Lusaka, Zambia, the Lake Tanganyika riparian states, namely; the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Burundi, and Zambia, held a Joint Technical Committee meeting to review the draft memorandum of understanding on demarcation and reaffirm their international boundary.

From 15 to 17 April, the SADC Secretariat and AUBP, with support from GIZ, convened a regional workshop on border governance coordination in Johannesburg, South Africa. Twelve SADC Member States reviewed the implementation of the AU Border Governance Strategy (AUBGS), the SADC Migration Policy Framework, and the Niamey Convention. Participants shared best practices and adopted recommendations to accelerate ratification of the Niamey Convention, align national policies, and establish an annual SADC border governance platform.

The AUBP participated in a joint preparatory mission with the Republics of Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as GIZ, on Lake Kariba (Siavonga and Kariba) from 13 to 17 April 2026. The mission paid courtesy visits to the District Commissioner of Zambia and the District Development Coordinator of Zimbabwe, met with local stakeholders, and established communication channels in preparation for a sensitisation workshop and a pilot demarcation using floating buoys, both scheduled for July 2026.

Following the exploratory mission, Zambia and Zimbabwe, supported by the AUBP and GIZ, conducted a joint sensitisation and public awareness campaign on the Lake Kariba boundary demarcation. The campaign took place from 1 to 3 June in Siavonga (Zambia) and from 4 to 6 June in Kariba (Zimbabwe). The workshops focused on safe, compliant behaviour in borderland fisheries, community ownership, and cooperation. The campaign also highlighted the value of floating buoys as a practical demarcation tool and produced a draft SoP to guide future interactions and prevent conflict.

AU-MEMBER STATES-RECs CONSULTATION ON UPDATING THE AU MASTER ROADMAP FOR SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA BY 2030



The Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), of the African Union Commission (AUC), convened a two-day consultative meeting on the Silencing the Guns (StG) Initiative under the theme: “Towards Achieving a Peaceful and Secure Africa by 2030” at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Held from 19 - 20 May 2026, the meeting brought together representatives of AU member states, regional economic communities (RECs), relevant Departments of the AUC, and partners to review and update the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by 2030.

Participants assessed progress made under the political, economic, social, environmental, and legal pillars of the initiative, while identifying implementation gaps, emerging threats, and priority actions needed to accelerate progress. Discussions strongly emphasised the need for enhanced coordination among AU institutions, Member States, and RECs/RMs to strengthen policy coherence and advocacy, coordination, and reporting.

In his opening statement, the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, underscored the importance of sustained political commitment, collective action, and African-led financing mechanisms to address the root causes of conflict and strengthen long-term peacebuilding efforts.

Participants reaffirmed the continued relevance of the AU Master Roadmap as a continental framework for advancing peace, security, and stability in Africa, while emphasising the need for more flexible and realistic implementation approaches aligned with evolving security dynamics and the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Key discussions highlighted the urgency of addressing unconstitutional changes of government, external interference, cybercrime, irregular migration, human trafficking, climate-related security risks, and

youth unemployment. Participants also emphasised strengthening anti-corruption institutions, preventive diplomacy, governance analysis, and legal frameworks.

Cross-cutting recommendations included strengthening institutional, Member States and RECs coordination through designated focal points, enhancing monitoring and reporting mechanisms, mobilising sustainable financing, and reinforcing partnerships with international institutions/organisations and the private sector.



The outcomes and recommendations would be integrated into the revised AU Master Roadmap to ensure stronger implementation, accountability, and African ownership of the Silencing the Guns initiative.

In his closing remarks, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, in a statement delivered on his behalf by Sheku Tejan Sesay, Acting Coordinator of the Silencing the Guns Unit, emphasised that: “The updated Roadmap must embody realism, inclusivity, and above all, African ownership and agency.”

AUC CONVENES TECHNICAL EXPERTS’ CONSULTATIVE AND VALIDATION MEETING ON KEY AFRICAN UNION PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS FRAMEWORKS IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA



The Peace Support Operations (PSO) Division of the African Union (AU) Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, led by General Cheick Dembele, convened a Technical Experts’ Consultative and Validation Meeting in Gaborone, Botswana, from 27 April to 2 May 2026. The meeting brought together representatives from the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), the United Nations (UN), members of the Military Staff Committee (MSC), and technical experts to review and refine key policy and operational frameworks aimed at strengthening African Union Peace Support Operations (PSOs).

The meeting focused on three strategic initiatives currently being advanced by the Commission: the development of the Operational Framework on the Enhancement of the African Standby Force (ASF); the Draft African Union Planning and Decision-Making Framework for Peace Support Operations; and the Draft AU–UN Joint Planning Guidelines for AU-Mandated and UN-Authorized AU-Led Peace Support Operations pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023).

Discussions on the Operational Framework on the Enhancement of the ASF centered on translating the recommendations of the ASF Strategic Review into practical implementation measures. The framework is intended to guide the comprehensive strengthening of the ASF in line with decisions adopted by the 17th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) and directives from AU Member States to review the ASF Policy Framework.

The meeting also reviewed the Draft African Union

Planning and Decision-Making Framework for Peace Support Operations, which provides standardized guidance on the conceptualization, mandating/authorization, planning, deployment, and management of AU Peace Support Operations (PSOs). The revised framework seeks to enhance coordination among the AU, RECs/RMs, and other stakeholders while incorporating lessons learned from previous and ongoing peace support operations.

In addition, the meeting examined the Draft AU–UN Joint Planning Guidelines for AU-Mandated and UN-Authorized AU-Led Peace Support Operations. Developed jointly by the AU and the United Nations, the Guidelines establish a harmonized framework for joint planning, decision-making, and operational



coordination, while supporting the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023) concerning financing arrangements for AU-led PSOs.

Participants reviewed the recommendations emerging from the consultative process and validated the proposed frameworks.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND EXPERIENCE-SHARING WORKSHOP CONCLUDES IN NAIROBI



The African Union Commission (AUC) convened an Institutional Capacity Building and Experience-Sharing Workshop, on 6 June 2026, in Nairobi Kenya. The workshop aimed at strengthening operational effectiveness, institutional learning, and coordination across African Union peace missions.

The workshop brought together senior officials and experts from the AUC, AU peace missions, Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), and international partners supporting AU peace operations. Discussions drew lessons from the AU Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), the AU Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mission (AU-MVCM), and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF).

Participants examined key issues related to mandate implementation, compliance and accountability, sustainable financing, partnerships, post-conflict stabilization, reconstruction, and the implementation of quick impact projects. The workshop also explored approaches to institutional learning, knowledge management, resource mobilization, and strengthening Member States' contributions to peace operations.

The meeting concluded with discussions on the future of AU peace missions, including the impact of emerging technologies, evolving security challenges, and strategies to enhance mission coherence, effectiveness, sustainability, and long-term impact across the continent.



GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION UPDATES

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE, PEACE, AND SECURITY THROUGH ADEQUATE HOUSING: AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION CHAMPIONS URBAN RESILIENCE AT THE SECOND AFRICA URBAN FORUM



The African Union Commission (AUC) organised the Second Africa Urban Forum from 8-10 April 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya, under the theme, “Adequate Housing for All: Advancing Socio-economic and Environmental Transformation towards the Realisation of Agenda 2063,” as a fundamental matter of human security, social cohesion, and good governance.

H.E. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, officially opened the event and underscored Kenya’s commitment to the Affordable Housing Programme, noting that more than 270,000 housing units are being built across over 200 sites nationwide,

creating over 640,000 jobs. He emphasized that access to decent and affordable housing is a fundamental component of human dignity, highlighting ongoing efforts to upgrade informal settlements and enhance the quality of life for urban residents. President Ruto also called on African governments to provide strong political leadership at the highest level and to develop effective mechanisms for mobilizing resources at scale.

Speaking on behalf of the AU Commission, Ms. Patience Zanelie Chiradza, Director for Governance and Conflict Prevention, articulated the core link between housing and security. She explained that the lack of adequate housing fuels exclusion, inequality, and grievance. Informal settlements, she noted, can become environments of insecurity. The Forum underscored how urban displacement, climate pressure, and rapid migration into cities are intensifying competition for land, housing, and resources—direct drivers of local conflicts across Africa.



The Forum brought together Heads of State, policymakers, local governments, and civil society. It highlighted that Africa is experiencing the world's fastest urban transition, making cities critical arenas for both economic growth and potential instability.

DEMOCRACY MUST PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE”: AU PAPS COMMISSIONER WELCOMES THE NEW AU ADVISORY PANEL ON DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS



The African Union (AU) Advisory Panel on Democratic Elections and Governance convened its 2026 annual meeting, on the 15th of May 2026, marked by opening remarks from the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Amb. Bankole Adeoye, who set a forward-looking tone for the newly constituted panel. He emphasized that the panel's priorities should focus support the department in advancing indigenous models of democracy and governance rooted in Africa's unique contexts and values.



Central to this vision are fundamental principles such as the separation of powers, the supremacy of the constitution, and the effective delivery of social goods and tangible democratic dividends to citizens. Underscoring the practical expectations of governance, the Commissioner remarked that democracy in Africa must go beyond theory and institutions, it “must put food on the table.” His statement highlighted the growing call for governance systems that not only uphold democratic norms but also respond directly to the socio-economic needs of the people.

The Commissioner also expressed his appreciation to the outgoing AU Advisory Panel on Democratic Elections, commending them for their outstanding contribution to strengthening electoral processes during their tenure. He warmly welcomed the incoming panel, encouraging its members to harness intergenerational collaboration by engaging closely with the outgoing panel. He emphasized the value of linking the vibrancy and fresh perspectives of the new members with the experience and institutional knowledge of their predecessors to further advance democratic governance across the continent.

AU CONDUCTS QUICK IMPACT PROJECT MISSIONS TO THE GAMBIA AND THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



The AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, through the Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Unit, conducted a two-day needs assessment mission to The Gambia to identify priority areas for AU-led Quick Impact Projects supporting peacebuilding, reconciliation, and democratic transition efforts. The mission engaged key government institutions, CSO's, and stakeholders committed to strengthening transitional justice, community welfare, and sustainable peace in The Gambia.

The PCRD Unit also conducted a similar Quick Impact Project Mission to Bangui, Central African Republic. The two-day mission aimed to assess priority needs and identify Quick Impact Projects in support of the implementation of the revised AU PCRD Policy. The mission engaged government institutions, health sector stakeholders, youth associations, and local partners to strengthen access to quality healthcare, youth

inclusion, peacebuilding, and sustainable development in the Central African Republic.

The AU remains committed to supporting the two countries through strategic partnerships and impactful interventions ahead of the AUC-PCRD Awareness Month and the commemoration of 20 years of the AU PCRD Policy adopted in Banjul in 2006.



AU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS

5TH JOINT SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR AFRICAN UNION SHORT-TERM ELECTION OBSERVERS HELD IN MOROCCO



The African Union Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) Department, in partnership with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, successfully convened the 5th Edition of the Joint Specialized Training for African Union Short-Term Election Observers from 20 to 24 April 2026 in Rabat, Morocco.

This 5th Edition of the joint specialized training equipped 70 trainees from across the continent with technical capacity in election observation, covering the full electoral cycle — from pre-election assessment and election day observation to post-election reporting and analysis. Participants engaged in practical sessions on information gathering, reporting, ethical considerations, and election day simulation, equipping them with the skills required to support credible, transparent, and inclusive elections in Africa.

At the opening ceremony, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, on behalf of the AUC Chairperson, presented a distinguished award to H.E. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the advancement of Africa's democratic governance, peace and security. This distinction reflects the African Union's firm acknowledgment of the Kingdom of Morocco's growing and structuring role as a key continental

actor, under the leadership and vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. Through a proactive and forward-looking diplomacy, Morocco continues to contribute in shaping the collective African responses to evolving peace and security challenges, while advancing the objectives of Agenda 2063 and strengthening the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

In parallel, the African Union Commission and the Policy Center for the New South co-organized the 3rd Dialogue-Seminar on Elections and Democracy in Africa, under the theme: “Digitalizing Democracy: Youth-Driven AI Strategies in a Changing World”, on 21 April 2026. The Dialogue-Seminar examined the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies in shaping democratic processes across Africa. Discussions highlighted both the opportunities presented by AI—particularly in enhancing civic engagement and transparency—and the risks associated with misinformation, deepfakes, and digital interference in electoral processes.

The Dialogue-Seminar culminated in the adoption of the Rabat Action Plan, which outlines key recommendations to strengthen democratic governance in the digital age. The Action Plan emphasizes the importance of empowering youth-driven AI strategies, safeguarding civic space, enhancing digital literacy, and ensuring that technological advancements contribute to free, fair, and credible elections across the continent.

AFRICAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO THE 15 MARCH 2026 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO



At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Congo, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission deployed a short-term AUEOM to assess and report on the conduct of the 15 March 2026 Presidential election in the Republic of Congo.

The AUEOM was led by H.E. Nana AKUFO-ADDU, former President of the Republic of Ghana and consisted of 34 Short-Term Observers from 20 African countries, including an ambassador accredited to the African Union in Addis Ababa, members of the Pan-African Parliament, representatives of African election management bodies, members of African civil society organizations, and representatives of youth organisations.



The AUEOM based its assessment on the legal framework governing elections in the Republic of Congo, the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections, and the standards and obligations stipulated in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), among others. Accordingly, the Mission interacted with key electoral stakeholders, as well as with other international election observation missions and Technical and Financial Partners in the country.

A preliminary statement containing initial findings and recommendations on the conduct of the elections was released on 17 March 2026. In this statement, the Mission welcomed the fact that the presidential election was conducted in a credible, transparent, and fair manner in accordance with international, continental, and regional standards, as well as the national legal framework for election. It also stated that this is a cause for satisfaction and a prelude for further strengthening of democratic governance in this African Union member state, the Republic of Congo.

AFRICAN UNION OBSERVES DJIBOUTI ELECTION



The African Union (AU) deployed its Election Observation Mission (AUEOM), from 3 to 14 April 2026, to the Republic of Djibouti for the presidential election that took place on 10 April 2026.

At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Djibouti, the African Union Commission (AUC), deployed a short-term AUEOM to assess and report on the conduct of the presidential election.

The Mission was led by His Excellency Bernard Makuza, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda and it comprised twenty-six (26) short-term observers drawn from sixteen (16) AU Member States, including ambassadors accredited to the African Union in Addis Ababa, representatives of African election management bodies, members of African civil society organisations, and representatives of youth organisations. These observers were deployed across the country's six regions. In total, they observed 422 polling stations (PS), representing 59% of the '12 PS located across the entire national territory. 73% of the PS visited were located in urban areas, 20% in rural areas and 7% in peri-urban areas.

The Mission delivered its Preliminary Statement on 12 April 2026, presenting its initial findings and recommendations. The statement noted that the election took place in a calm atmosphere, characterised by discipline, civic-mindedness and responsibility in every respect; also stated that the opening, voting and closing of the poll took place without incident and in accordance with the national legal framework and the secrecy of the vote was respected, and there were sufficient voting booths, ballot boxes and electoral materials in almost all of the polling stations visited.





KENYAN JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS VISITS THE AU HEADQUARTERS

The Kenyan Judiciary Committee on Elections, led by Hon. Lady Justice Njoki Ndungu, paid a courtesy and working visit to the African Union's Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department on 19 May 2026. The consultations at the AU Headquarters focused on the Committee's mandate and explored opportunities

to strengthen democratic elections across Africa. The discussions emphasised the need to enhance collaboration between national judiciaries and the African Union Commission to promote transparent, credible, and accountable electoral processes.



AFRICAN UNION OBSERVES THE 7TH GENERAL ELECTION IN ETHIOPIA



The African Union (AU) deployed an election observation mission (AUEOM) to the 1 June 2026 Elections in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Led by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of the Republic of Kenya, the Mission deployed 59 accredited observers from 35 African countries, including officials from election management bodies, members of civil society organisations, election experts, human rights specialists, representatives of youth organisations, and gender and media experts.

The observation mission covered eight regions of Ethiopia, namely Addis Ababa, Oromia, Dire Dawa, Sidama, South Ethiopia, Harari, Benishangul-Gumuz and Somali, where they observed voting procedures at 495 polling stations across 38 constituencies, covering peri-urban and urban areas, including the opening, voting, closing and, where possible, counting procedures, in line with AU and international standards for democratic elections.

The Mission met with relevant national stakeholders, including members of the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE). The Mission issued a preliminary statement on 3 June 2026 outlining its findings and assessment of the elections' conduct. Among other observations, the AUEOM noted citizens' participation in the elections, despite the disenfranchisement of some regions due to security challenges. The AUEOM also welcomed NEBE's commitment to facilitate



elections in the affected areas subsequently and encouraged continued dialogue among Ethiopian stakeholders to address the political and security issues affecting the organisation of the elections.

A final and comprehensive report will be published within 30 days of the final election results being announced.



AU AND MANO RIVER UNION STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR THE SILENCING THE GUNS INITIATIVE



The African Union Commission (AUC), represented by the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, and the Mano River Union Secretary-General, Simeon M.B. Ambrose, on 12 June 2026, convened a high-level political engagement aimed at strengthening community participation and women's leadership in the Silencing the Guns initiative, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.



The two-day meeting brought together delegates from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone to discuss preventive diplomacy, regional security challenges, and the critical role of women in advancing peace and stability across border communities.

Discussions focused on addressing the proliferation of small arms, porous borders, and other emerging security threats, while laying the groundwork for a regional volunteer network to strengthen early warning systems and community-based monitoring mechanisms. Participants

underscored the importance of community resilience, women's leadership, and youth participation in achieving the goal of a conflict-free Africa.

The engagement concluded with commitments to enhance women's participation in peace and diplomacy, support border communities, and strengthen cooperation between the African Union and the Mano River Union in advancing the Silencing the Guns agenda and promoting sustainable peace across the region.

PARTNERSHIPS

QUINTET CONSULTATIONS ADVANCE EFFORTS TOWARD AN INCLUSIVE SUDANESE-LED POLITICAL PROCESS



The African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States, the European Union and the United Nations (the Quintet) conducted consultations with a broad spectrum of Sudanese political and civilian stakeholders in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3 to 5 June 2026. The consultations were convened as a follow-up to the Berlin Conference held in April 2026 and focused on exploring pathways

to establish a proposed Preparatory Committee for an inclusive inter-Sudanese political dialogue. The engagement sought to encourage dialogue among Sudanese civilians and political actors, promote confidence-building measures and support efforts to establish a credible and inclusive political process capable of addressing the root causes of the conflict and advancing prospects for sustainable peace.



The consultations provided an opportunity for Sudanese stakeholders from across the political spectrum to engage constructively and develop draft texts for further consideration. Participants submitted contributions to the Quintet, laying the groundwork for future substantive discussions involving a broader and more representative range of Sudanese voices. The Quintet reaffirmed its commitment to supporting a



Sudanese-led and Sudanese-owned political process within a coordinated regional and international framework. The consultations concluded with a renewed call for the respect of Sudan's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, while emphasizing the importance of de-escalation efforts and the creation of conditions conducive to a negotiated and durable peace.

AFRICAN UNION AND UNITED NATIONS CONVENE FOURTH HIGH-LEVEL JOINT RETREAT ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA



Ahead of the Chairperson's 17th High-Level Retreat on the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office to the African Union convened the Fourth High-Level Joint Retreat of AU and UN Special Representatives, Permanent Representatives and Special Envoys on 20 May 2026 in Libreville, Gabon. The retreat brought together senior representatives of both institutions to deepen joint analysis,

strengthen coordination and enhance cooperation in addressing evolving peace, security and governance challenges across Africa. Held shortly after the Tenth African Union–United Nations Annual Conference and the signing of the Declaration reaffirming the principles of the three AU–UN cooperation frameworks, the meeting provided an opportunity to advance the strategic partnership through practical cooperation at both regional and field levels.



Under the theme “Regional Partnership for Peace and Democratic Consolidation,” the retreat reaffirmed the shared commitment of the African Union and the United Nations to building a coordinated, coherent and effective partnership in support of peace, security and stability in Africa. H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, underscored the value of a sustained and structured AU–UN partnership anchored in the complementarity between Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the African Union, H.E. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga,

emphasized the importance of translating shared vision into concrete action, while Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, reiterated that AU–UN partnership remains an imperative in advancing peace and security efforts across the continent .

AU, UNOAU, ISS AND IPSS COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS



On , 8 June 2026 , the African Union Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, the United Nations Office to the African Union, the Institute for Security Studies and the Institute for Peace and Security Studies concluded the Joint Commemoration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa. Held under the theme “Invest in Peace,” the commemoration paid tribute to the service, professionalism and sacrifice of all United Nations peacekeepers, including from African Union Member States. The programme included a photo exhibition, a

commemorative ceremony, a minute of silence, wreath laying in honour of fallen peacekeepers, keynote remarks and a panel discussion with university students and peace and security practitioners.

<https://peaceau.org/uploads/joint-press-release-peacekeepers-day-2026-07-june.pdf>

AU AND EU CONCLUDE TECHNICAL ENGAGEMENT ON ATMIS SOMALIA SUPPORT PACKAGE

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Union (EU) successfully concluded a two-day technical engagement under the ATMIS Somalia 2023 Assistance Measure of the European Peace Facility, held on 11–12 June 2026 at the AU Headquarters.

The consultations brought together representatives from the AUC, the European Union's Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), and Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to review the implementation of the ATMIS Somalia support package and strengthen coordination on financial, contractual, and operational matters related to the mission.

Dedicated technical sessions were held with the five Troop Contributing Countries—Uganda, Burundi,

Djibouti, Kenya, and Ethiopia—providing a platform for constructive dialogue, experience sharing, and enhanced cooperation in support of African-led peace support operations.

The engagement concluded with a reaffirmation of the strong AU–EU partnership and a shared commitment to improving accountability, operational effectiveness, and sustainable support for peace operations. The AUC reiterated its commitment to working closely with Member States and partners to advance peace, security, and stability in Somalia and across the continent.

AU-EU-UN STRATEGIC STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK CONVENES



The AU-EU-UN Strategic Steering Committee (SSC) of the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework (AUCF) convened its annual meeting on 9 May 2026 at the African Union Headquarters to define the strategic direction of the project's next four-year phase.

Building on the achievements of the framework's first phase, which recorded a 97 percent implementation rate and successfully introduced a digital Case Management System, participants reviewed progress and identified priorities for the 2026–2030 period.

Participants reaffirmed the importance of the trilateral partnership between the African Union, the European Union, and the United Nations in promoting civilian protection, strengthening conduct and discipline standards, and enhancing accountability within AU peace support operations in line with UNSC R 2719 (2023).



AU AND UN WOMEN AMPLIFY SUDANESE WOMEN'S VOICES FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE AT CSW70



On 16 March 2026, the African Union (AU), in partnership with UN Women, convened a high-level side event in New York on the margins of the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70). The event, titled “Amplifying Sudanese Women’s Voices

for Peace and Justice: Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda through Multilateral Action,” was hosted at the African Union Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

The dialogue brought together Sudanese women leaders, policymakers, and international partners to highlight the critical role of women in efforts to end the conflict and build sustainable peace in Sudan. Participants emphasized that there can be no military solution to the crisis and called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire as the foundation for a peaceful resolution.

Sudanese women at the event underscored the importance of their full and meaningful inclusion in peace processes and decision-making forums. They called for a unified approach in shaping Sudan's future, greater justice and accountability for atrocities committed during the conflict, and solutions grounded in local realities and historical grievances.



The African Union reiterated its solidarity with the people of Sudan, particularly women, youth, and children, and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting a peaceful and inclusive resolution to the conflict.

CENTRAL AFRICA CONSULTATION ADVANCES TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY



The African Union Commission (AUC), through its Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), in collaboration with GIZ, convened a Regional Consultation for Central Africa on the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda from 31 March to 1 April 2026 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Bringing together women leaders, members of FemWise-Africa, civil society organizations and institutional stakeholders from across the region, the consultation assessed progress, identified persistent challenges and generated actionable recommendations to advance the WPS Agenda, marking 25 years since the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000).

The consultation identified key structural challenges, including limited political will, inadequate financing, fragmented coordination, weak data systems and insufficient accountability mechanisms. At the same time, participants showcased promising practices such as the use of gender quotas and legal frameworks, civil society–state partnerships, digital platforms to amplify women’s voices, and community-

based early warning and mediation initiatives. The meeting concluded with a strong call to translate commitments into tangible and measurable results through strengthened governance and accountability systems, sustainable financing, inclusive participation and enhanced regional coordination. The outcomes of the consultation will contribute to the African Union’s continental study on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and inform future policy development, programming and partnerships, while reinforcing the Commission’s commitment to supporting women mediators and peacebuilders through FemWise-Africa and advancing a more inclusive peace and security architecture across Africa.



SILENCING THE GUNS.

Towards a Peaceful and
Secure Africa

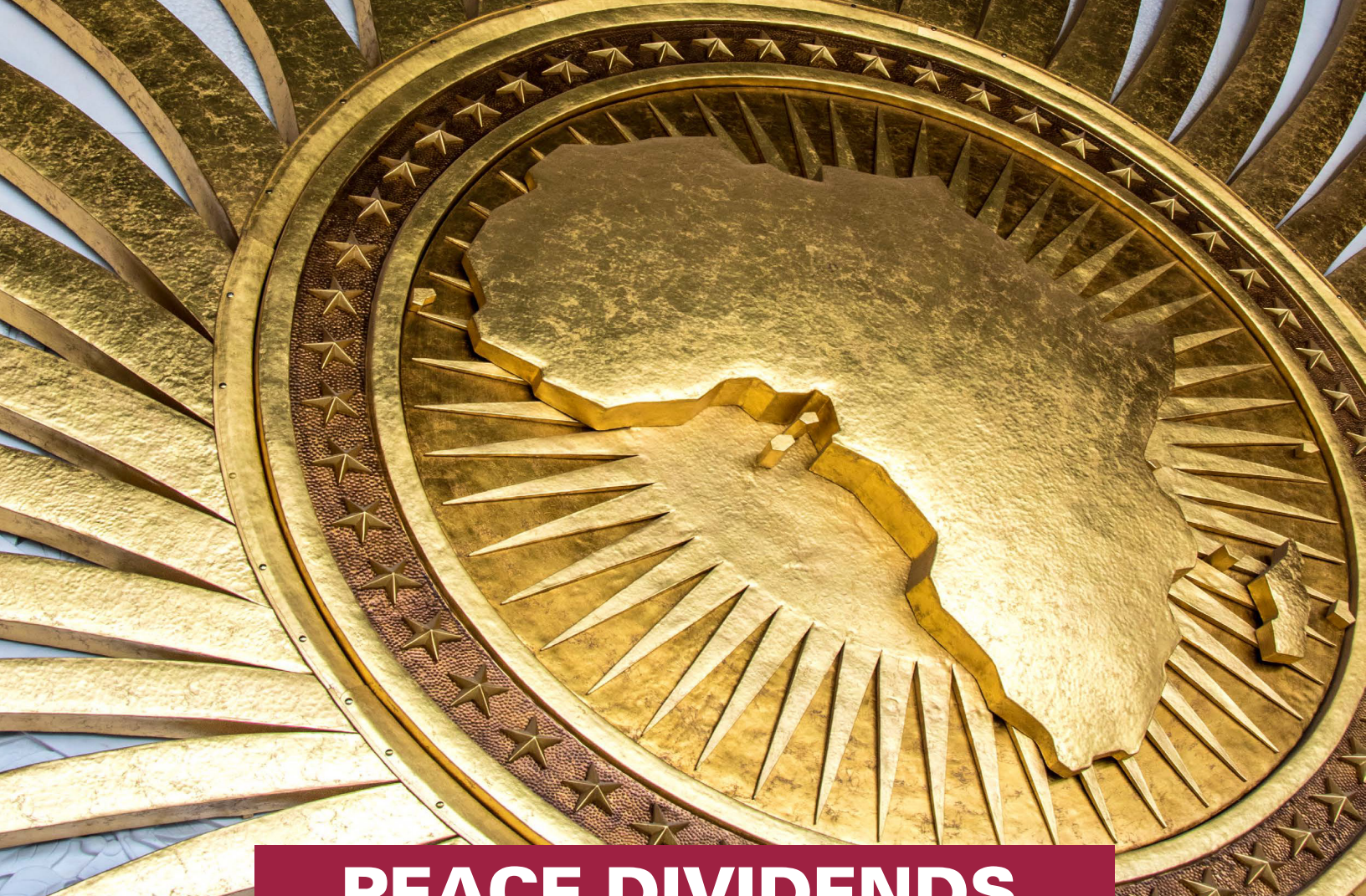


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