On 2 November 2022, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, HE. Moussa Faki Mahamat, commended the Ethiopian Parties for reaching a cessation of hostilities following the announcement of the successful conclusion of the Ethiopian Peace Talks, launched on 25 October 2022, in Pretoria, South Africa. The negotiations were facilitated by the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa, former President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, together with the other members of the High-Level Panel for the AU-led Ethiopian Peace Process, former President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, and former Deputy President of South Africa, Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and member of the AU Panel of the Wise.

The Ethiopian Peace Talks between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), sought to secure a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the parties, paving the way for the restoration of peace, security and stability in the Tigray Region.

In his words, Chairperson Moussa Faki emphasized that:

“The African Union is committed to continue supporting the Parties to find lasting peace and reconciliation for all Ethiopians, and added that “this important step towards peace and stability in Tigray is mainly due to the leadership of the Parties themselves in the supreme interest of Ethiopia”.

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The AUC convened the 13th High Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace and Security in Africa from 21 – 23 October 2022, under the theme “Transformative Mediation for Africa’s Effective Governance and Peace Dividends.” The Retreat was opened by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, and H.E. Hon. Dr. Albert Kawana, Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security of Namibia, with participants from AU Policy Organs, Panel of the Wise, RECs/RMs, High Representatives and Special Envoys/Representatives working in Africa, as well as other stakeholders from bilateral and multilateral institutions.

The participants reflected on AU-led and supported mediation and peace processes, including the implementation of peace agreements, and taking stock of key achievements, lessons learned and best practices in a challenging and rapidly evolving regional and international peace and security landscape. These developments are defined by a multiplicity of actors and interests, continued threats to democracy and good governance, terrorism and violent extremism, foreign interference, the impact of geo-strategic phenomena, and the influence of digital technologies.

The agreement marks an important step in efforts to silence the guns, and provides a solid foundation for the preservation of Ethiopia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the immediate cessation of hostilities, the resumption of unhindered humanitarian access, the restoration of services as well as healing and reconciliation.
The AU PSC held its 14th Annual Retreat on its Working Methods in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 17 to 19 November 2022. The Retreat provided the forum for the PSC to review its work and also to reflect on the best methods of promoting peace, security and stability in Africa, within the framework of the APSA and AGA, as embodied in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

One of the key outcomes of this High-Level Retreat was the official launch of the ‘WiseYouth-Africa’ Network, which was established with the goal of enhancing the role of African youth in conflict prevention and mediation.
The AU Peace and Security Council, in collaboration with the Government of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), convened the 9th High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa, from 7 to 8 December 2022, in Oran, Algeria.

The Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security (DPAPS), with support from GIZ, has recruited an external consultant to support the Department through organisational change management processes aimed at strengthening the ability of the Department to deliver as one, effectively and efficiently fulfilling its mandate along the governance, conflict prevention, conflict management and post conflict reconstruction and stabilisation cycles.

Initiated by Commissioner Bankole Adeoye with a Senior Management Retreat in May 2022, the thrust of the change process is to enable PAPS to unpack and operationalise its current structure as a newly merged department of hitherto two separate departments and institutionalise new ways of delivering its mandate. This will include joint planning and programming with stakeholders along the conflict cycle in ways that will enhance the role of DPAPS in the leveraging and delivery of relevant support to RECS/RMs, Non-State Actors and Member States, for effective and impactful programme implementation. This new way of functioning will take time to anchor but is compelling as an approach.

The African Union (AU) and the Common Market for Southern and Eastern Africa (COMESA), from 4 to 8 August 2022, deployed their joint election observation mission to the August 9th General Elections in Kenya. The objectives of the Mission were to monitor the conduct of the 2022 General Elections as part of the AU-COMESA broad mandates to promote democracy and democratic elections in Africa in line with their overall vision of a peaceful, prosperous and integrated Africa.

The Joint Mission, comprised 93 observers, led by former President of Sierra Leone, Ernest Bai Koroma, supported by Ambassador Marie-Pierre Lloyd, member of the AU Peace and Security Council.
AU OBSERVES ANGOLAN GENERAL ELECTIONS

As part of its mandate to deepen democratic governance in Africa, the AU Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) led by Former Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia was deployed from 19 to 27 August 2022 to Angola to observe the 24 August 2022 general elections.

The AUEOM comprised forty-nine (49) observers drawn from twenty-five (25) AU Member States, including an expert support team. The AUEOM engaged with various stakeholders and observed the polling process with the objectives of providing an accurate and impartial assessment of the electoral process; offering recommendations for improvement of future elections based on the findings; and demonstrating AU’s solidarity and support towards the consolidation of democracy in Angola.

The 2022 general elections are the fifth since the country’s independence in 1975, and return to the multiparty system in 1992.

AU CONSOLIDATES PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT NEXUS IN TANGIER

The African Union Policy Conference on Promoting the Peace, Security and Development Nexus in Africa took place from 25 to 27 October 2022, in Tangier, Kingdom of Morocco. The Conference provided a unique engagement platform for African policy and decision makers and peace, security and development practitioners, as well as international partners, to identify areas and concrete measures to advance the AU-led strategic goals of building peace, resilience and prosperity.

The Conference which was organized jointly with the African Development Bank (AFDB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), African Export-Import Bank (AfreXim Bank), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) adopted the Tangier Declaration reaffirming the participants’ commitment to the
CPAPS PRESENTS KEY MESSAGES TO AU PSC AND AT COP 27

On 2 and 8 November 2022, the AU PAPS, with the support of the UNDP and GIZ, presented 15 Key Messages to the AU PSC and at COP 27 respectively. This was part of efforts to fulfil recommendations of the AU PSC on finalizing the Report of the Chairperson on Climate Change, Peace and Security Nexus (CCPSN), developing a climate change-related security risk assessment study framework to undertake climate fragility assessment within the various AU RECs/RMS, and finally coming up with a Common African Position (CAP). These Messages aimed at strengthening efforts in preventing climate change security impacts, minimising loss and damage, taking care of special needs of vulnerable persons, climate financing, and enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation in Africa. The messages also called for the improvement of food, water and energy security, addressing forced displacement, mobility and migration challenges, while equally promoting efforts in the context of climate change and peacebuilding for the benefit of women, children, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Commissioner Bankole Adeoye presented the messages at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, during the Ministerial Session Side Event on ‘Africa Day’ hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development (DARBE). These messages sought to rally consensus among African delegations towards the CAP, and to enable them speak with one voice and act in unison in promoting the African interest on climate change. The CAP is expected to also facilitate the work of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in their climate change negotiations with international partners. The CAP will be developed before COP 28, expected to take place in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

AU PSC AND UN PBC MEET ON ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE PEACEBUILDING CONTEXT

The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened a virtual consultative meeting on 28 November 2022. The meeting exchanged perspectives on effectively addressing the gaps and challenges posed by the adverse effects of climate-related security risks to peacebuilding, and recommended concrete areas to help generate synergies in operationalizing institutional responses.

The members of the PSC and the PBC recognized the adverse effects of climate change as a potential risk multiplier, aggravating existing socio-economic vulnerabilities, fueling existing inter and intra

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full implementation of the outcomes of the Policy Conference which identified the challenges and opportunities facing the continent and to continue providing the requisite support to this nexus issues in order to offer our Union a more enhanced and cost-effective means of maintaining peace and security on the continent.
community conflicts, and hampering the realization of the aspirations enshrined in Agenda 2063 as well as the AU flagship project – Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2030. They also underlined the necessity of establishing common action plans to support capacity-building of African countries to face adverse effects of climate change.

The AU PSC and UN PBC called on the secretariats of these initiatives to develop climate-security-focused action plans, jointly with the AU Commission and the Peacebuilding Commission, while emphasizing the need to raise necessary funds to support these action plans.

AU COMMISSION CONVENES, IN MAPUTO, 7TH CONTINENTAL FORUM OF ELECTION MANAGEMENT BODIES TO FOSTER INSTITUTIONAL RESILIENCE

The PAPS Department, in collaboration with the Association of African Electoral Authorities (AAEA), organized the 7th Annual Continental Forum of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) as part of its mandate to help advance democratic and participatory governance in Africa. The meeting held under the theme: “Building Resilience of Election Management Bodies to Safeguard Democracy in Africa” from 14 – 15 November 2022, and was followed by a General Assembly of the AAEA on 16th November 2022 in Maputo, Mozambique.
The Youth for Peace Africa Programme and OHCHR East Africa organized a consultation between African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAPs) and social media influencers, and a training on human rights and humanitarian law from 17 – 22 October 2022 in Kampala, Uganda. The objective of the workshop was to sustain the AU youth-led “No Room for Hate Speech” Campaign and to promote the rights of refugees and IDPs. The campaign, which is championed by the AYAPs, leverages the digital outreach of young social media influencers to sensitize African youth against misinformation, disinformation and “mal-information”, and to promote responsible speech and social cohesion.

The AYAPs and social media influencers developed continent-wide youth engagement strategies and agreed to work closely to promote the ‘#CombatHateSpeech’ campaign online and offline. This phase of the campaign builds on the 2021 “No Room for Hate Speech” campaign which was launched as part of the commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2021, in Zanzibar, Tanzania, and forms part of efforts to promote youth participation in conflict prevention.

SECOND PHASE OF AU YOUTH-LED “NO ROOM FOR HATE SPEECH” CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED
AU COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON APPOINTS MOHAMMED EL-AMINE SOUEF AS NEW SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO SOMALIA AND HEAD OF THE AU TRANSITION MISSION IN SOMALIA

On 1 September 2022, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, HE. Moussa Faki Mahamat, appointed, Ambassador Mohammed El-Amine Souef, of Comoros, as his Special Representative for Somalia and Head of the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). Amb. Souef served as the Head of the Regional Office in Gao of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). A former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Union of Comoros, Amb. Souef also worked as the Head of Regional Office with the Head African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

AFRICAN UNION LAUNCHES SERIOUS GAME “MISSION55 CONFLICT IN ANAKA” TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

The AU Youth for Peace Africa Programme with the support of the GIZ and the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNAO), developed and launched a serious game known as “Mission55 Conflict in Anaka” (https://mission55.games/) on the International Day of Peace 2022, to help raise awareness, educate and inform the public, particularly youth, on the mandate of the AU to promote good governance, peace and security in Africa.

Ms Patience Chiradza, Director for Governance and Conflict Prevention, on behalf of Commissioner, PAPS, underlined the significant contributions of AYAPs and called on African youth to continue to leverage new technologies in deepening their knowledge and understanding toward meaningfully contributing to sustainable peace in Africa. In a similar vein, the German Ambassador, Stephan Auer underscored the importance of games in reinforcing outreach to youth through smartphones, and understanding the work of the African Union in crisis prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding.
The Africa Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflicts (AP CAAC) undertook a solidarity mission to Mozambique from 28 to 30 November 2022 to advocate for children’s rights in conflict situations. The mission, which was led by H.E. Jainaba Jagne, Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the African Union (AU) and Co-Chair of the AP CAAC, comprised H.E. Crisantos Obama Ondo, Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the AU, representatives of the Ambassadors of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria and the AU Commission, as well as the Save the Children Liaison Office to the AU, in its capacity as the secretariat of the Platform.

It was geared towards supporting the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique and other stakeholders to promote the welfare of children affected by armed conflicts.

The delegation commended the Government of Mozambique for its efforts in addressing the security and humanitarian situations mainly affecting the Northern part of the country, and encouraged it to continue to lead efforts, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to promote the rights of children affected by armed conflict.

As the AU Commission commemorated the 2nd PCRD Awareness Week under the theme “Towards Repositioning Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Africa” from 24 to 30 November 2022, HE Abdel-Fattah El Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and AU Champion on PCRD, was joined by HE Moussa Faki Mahamat, AU Commission Chairperson, to issue statements in support of PCRD efforts in Africa. The week helped to draw the attention of all stakeholders to peacebuilding efforts towards avoiding relapse of countries emerging from conflicts. This event focused on creating and enhancing awareness on the extent, scope, consequences and risks of resurgence of violence, mobilizing support and interest on post-conflict needs and requirements of African countries, and aligning existing frameworks and mechanisms to boost coordination between the Member States, AUC, RECs/RMs and UN Agencies, funds and programmes.

It also provided the platform to support the intra-African mutual assistance and self-reliance and facilitate robust engagement with all stakeholders towards building a network of African practitioners of PCRD.
AU PAPS REVIEWS THE PCRD POLICY

PAPS Department launched a process to review the PCRD Policy adopted in 2006 in Accra from 9–15 September 2022. The main objective of the launch, facilitated by an external consultant, was to update and to enrich the Policy to respond to the emerging challenges facing the continent, and the countries emerging from conflict. The ongoing review process is putting an emphasis on youth as the engine of change in any post-conflict setting, as well as new threats to peacebuilding efforts, including climate change and environmental security.

INAUGURAL LESSONS LEARNED FORUM (LLF) ON AU PSOS TO RECONCEPTUALIZE THE ASF

The AU Commission held the Inaugural LLF on AU PSOs and the ASF from 1 – 3 November 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria, and identified lessons from African PSOs since 2003 to inform the reconceptualization and full utilization of the ASF. The forum focused on five major segments namely: (a) Mandating, Mission Planning, Deployment and Exit of PSOs: Lessons for the reconceptualization of the ASF; (b) Mandate Implementation and Mission Management; (c) Compliance and Accountability to International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights, as well as Conduct and Discipline; (d) Strengthening regional cooperation, international strategic partnerships and resourcing of PSOs; and (e) Experiences and Lessons for the Future. The LLF was declared open by Honourable Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, with the support of the AU Commissioner of Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

Participants agreed to continue this Forum as a biennial initiative to enhance the activities of the ASF and PSOs. It also requested the Commission and RECs/RMs to utilize the lessons identified to further enhance ongoing Africa-Led PSOs and inform the review of the ASF Concept and reconceptualization of the ASF with a view to ensuring it is aligned with the African Union Doctrine on Peace Support Operations, as well as fit for purpose, to address peace and security challenges on the continent.

AU PSOD DEVELOPS ATMIS STATEMENT OF UNITS REQUIREMENT (SUR)

In line with AU PSC Communique 1068th of 8 March 2022, the PSOD developed the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) SUR. The SUR is a very critical requirement of the ATMIS military reconfiguration plan as it identifies the capabilities needed for the mission to accomplish the mandated tasks.

The SUR will guide and facilitate the capability generation process of the required ATMIS military component.
On 11 November 2022, Commissioner Bankole Adeoye, together with the UN ASG for Human Rights, H.E. Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, and the EU Head of Delegation to the AU, H.E. Ms. Birgitte Markussen, launched the trilateral AU-EU-UN Partnership Project for the Enhancement and Operationalisation of the Compliance and Accountability Framework for AU PSOs. The programme was attended by key offices in the AU Commission, T/PCCs, experts from the UN OHCHR and PoC office from New York and Geneva; AU RECs/RMs, Member States and representatives of mandated and authorised AU PSOs.

The three principals held the inaugural Strategic Steering Committee (SSC) meeting - the highest decision-making organ for the project. The Compliance and Accountability Project also held a workshop to review the AU Guidelines on Protection of Civilians in AU PSO and the draft Selection & Screening Policy for Personnel of the AU PSOs. Representatives of ATMIS, MNJTF and SAMIM presented the various mechanisms they have put in place to mainstream IHL and IHRL concepts in their operations.

AFRICA AMNESTY MONTH MARKED IN LOME, TOGO

As part of the commemoration of the Africa Amnesty Month (AAM), for 2022, the AU Commission, in partnership with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, provided technical and financial support to Liberia, Togo and Tanzania to undertake activities under the AAM. The activities focused on nationwide sensitization campaigns, community workshops on disarmament and arms control, weapons collection and public destruction of weapons. The beneficiary Member States developed and implemented their programs with only peripheral support from the Commission and UN Office for Disarmament (UNODA), to adhere to the principle of national ownership. At least 2,902 firearms were collected in Liberia, 6,208 from Tanzania and 824 from Togo.

It is recalled that the AU Assembly declared September of each year, as “Africa Amnesty Month”
Within the framework of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP), the National Border Commission of Cote d’Ivoire (CNFCI) organized an international forum on borders known as the Abidjan Border Forum (ABF), from 18 to 20 October 2022, under the theme, “Borders and Collective Security: for the sustainable development of border areas”.

The Forum served as a platform of exchange between national and international experts, CSOs, practitioners, academics among others, to discuss and propose recommendations which will strengthen peace, security, and development of border areas. The participants of the Abidjan Border Forum unanimously decided to hold the Forum every two years in Abidjan.
The AUBP participated in the launching of the UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre (ABC) flagship Research titled “Promise, Peril, and Resilience: Voices of Agro-pastoralist in Africa’s Borderland Regions”. The AUBP highlighted that the partnership between the AUBP and UNDP’s ABC was growing by the day and that the research of the ABC was in line with the AU’s focus to prioritize capacity building for the successful implementation of the AUBP.

In encouraging Member States to adopt the AU Strategy for Better Integrated Border Governance (Border Governance Strategy) – the AUBP noted that they are seeking to bridge the security/development gap by placing borderland communities at the center of security and development efforts. Initiatives such as the launch of the ABC flagship research on the voices of the pastoralists supports the AU’s efforts in strengthening the capacities of border stakeholders.

The AU, UNDP, OHCHR, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and partners organized the first African Business and Human Rights Forum in Accra, Ghana, from 12 to 13 October 2022, to take stock of progress and discuss challenges and opportunities for promoting responsible business and human rights conduct and corporate accountability in Africa. The forum aimed at contributing to Africa’s efforts to create awareness on business and human rights among various stakeholders, including business enterprises and to ensure that all member states

FIRST EVER AFRICAN BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM TO PROMOTE CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY IN AFRICA CONVENED BY AU AND PARTNERS
On 1st December, the African Union and the United Nations held their 6th Annual Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Chairperson of the AUC HE. Moussa Faki Mahamat, and the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Gutierrez, welcomed the continuing strong cooperation and collaboration between the two organizations and reviewed progress in implementing the “UN-AU Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security” and the “AU-UN Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” They noted the considerable progress made while acknowledging that recent global developments, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have set back peace, security and development efforts.

The Annual Conference welcomed the recent developments in Ethiopia and reviewed current challenges in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes regions, including the transitions in Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali and the Sudan.

are fully engaged in its implementation, guided by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The AU also called on the Member States to consider adopting the AU Draft Policy on Business and Human Rights which underlines three fundamental principles, namely, states’ duty to protect, business responsibility to respect human rights in business conduct and access to remedies for affected communities. These could be achieved, among other things, by putting in place legislative, administrative, judicial and non-judicial measures and benchmarks, strengthening regional mechanisms and developing national action plans (NAPs) aimed at advancing human development and transforming lives and livelihoods at local levels in collaboration with private sector actors, civil society organizations and development partners annually in Africa.
The Commissioner PAPS, H.E. Bankole Adeoye, participated in the 11th European Union Commission – African Union Commission meeting held in Brussels on the 28th of November 2022. The Commissioner also held discussions with Charles Fries, the Deputy Secretary General for Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) and they exchanged views on recent developments in the Sahel, CAR, Somalia and Great Lakes region. The Commissioner further led discussions in working group 4 on Peace, Security, and Governance where both Commissions reviewed progress made and challenges encountered since the February 17th Summit. They identified synergies and specific actions for progress, particularly in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis response and governance. More specifically they discussed matters pertaining to maritime security, human rights and the international humanitarian law compliance framework, electoral observation, rule of law and illicit financial flows (IFF) and Transnational Organized Crime (TOC).

On behalf of the Chairperson of the AUC, Commissioner Bankole Adeoye signed the Joint Financing Agreement with the Danish Delegation to the AU. The grant which is to the tune of USD7.48m for the period 2022 and 2023, is aimed towards supporting conflict prevention, democratic governance as well as women peace and security initiatives. The Commissioner commended the Danish government for their continued support to AUC and PAPS activities in particular.
The Commissioner for Political Affairs and Peace and Security, Amb. Bankole Adeoye, signed the grant agreement in support of the African Union Mission in Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL) with the Government of Sweden represented by the Head of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in Addis Ababa, Ms. Ulla Andren. This support will assist MISAHEL to accompany the transition period in Mali and to support the Sahelian countries in their efforts towards achieving stabilization and sustainable development.

The Seventh AUC-NATO staff talks were held from 17-18 October 2022 at the NATO Headquarters, in Brussels, Belgium, to foster security cooperation amongst the two organizations, and to enhance the operationalization of the ASF. The discussions focused on operational, logistical and capacity-building support to the African Union. This annual engagement was put on hold since the last AU-NATO staff talks held on 14-15 May 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, due to the outbreak of the COVID pandemic. Both institutions appreciated the opportunity for the resumption of this strategic consultations to further AU-NATO cooperation.

**UPCOMING PAPS EVENTS**

**18-19 February, 2023**

36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly. Theme: Implementation of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA)