

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Press Release No: ____/2026

Date: 29 June 2026

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AFRICAN UNION CONVENED SOUTH-SOUTH PARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE ON SECURITY SECTOR OVERSIGHT



The African Union Commission (AUC), in partnership with the African Security Sector Network (ASSN) and its partners, launched the **South-South Parliamentary Dialogue on Security Sector Oversight** at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The two-day dialogue, taking place from 29–30 June 2026, brought together parliamentarians, security practitioners and civil society representatives from Africa and Latin America to exchange experiences and strengthen parliamentary oversight of the security sector.

The dialogue provided a unique platform for South-South cooperation, enabling participants to share lessons and good practices on democratic security governance in the face of evolving political and security challenges. Discussions focused on strengthening parliamentary oversight of the security sector, promoting accountability and transparency, and examining how emerging technologies, changing security narratives and evolving threats are reshaping legislative responsibilities.

Opening the dialogue, **Dr Niagale Bagayoko**, Chair of the African Security Sector Network (ASSN), observed that democratic security governance is being tested by profound global changes.

"Global security governance today sits at the intersection of three converging pressures: a global order that is steadily losing its rules, hybrid forms of violence that are becoming permanent features of governance, and parliaments that are increasingly struggling to exercise the oversight on which democratic security governance relies."

She noted that Africa continues to confront persistent challenges including violent extremism, unresolved conflicts, illegal mining, maritime insecurity, climate change, pandemics, foreign interference and the misuse of emerging technologies. At the same time, Latin America is grappling with increasingly entrenched organised criminal groups that challenge state

authority and have prompted expanded military involvement in public security. Across both regions, these developments have intensified the need for effective legislative oversight.

Despite these challenges, Dr Bagayoko emphasised that both Africa and Latin America have demonstrated innovative institutional and legislative approaches to strengthening accountability. She expressed confidence that the dialogue would foster meaningful exchange of experiences and identify practical solutions to persistent legislative and governance gaps.

Delivering the opening remarks on behalf of the African Union, **Ms Patience Zanelie Chiradza**, Director of the Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate within the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, described the dialogue as a landmark initiative reflecting the enduring historical and political ties between Africa and Latin America.

She reaffirmed that South-South cooperation remains a cornerstone of the African Union's approach to promoting peace, sustainable development and shared prosperity.

Ms Chiradza highlighted the central place of Security Sector Reform and Governance (SSRG) within the African Union's peace and security agenda. She noted that the **AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by 2030** recognises that professional, accountable and democratically governed security institutions are essential for preventing conflict and sustaining peace. She stressed that parliamentary oversight has become more important than ever as governments respond to increasingly complex security threats.

"It is through parliament that security institutions are authorised, funded, scrutinised and held accountable. Communities affected by insecurity have elected their representatives to ensure that security institutions remain legitimate, accountable and responsive to the needs of the people."

Ms Chiradza further noted that the **African Union Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform (2013)** and the **AU Operational Guidance Note on Oversight and Accountability in the Security Sector** provide practical guidance for strengthening democratic oversight and promoting cooperation among Member States and international partners.

She reaffirmed the African Union's commitment to supporting Member States in strengthening parliamentary oversight and integrating legislatures into broader security sector reform processes. She also acknowledged the valuable contributions of ASSN, APCOF and other partners in advancing this important agenda.

Judging from the proceedings, the Dialogue successfully advanced cooperation between African and Latin American legislatures, strengthened understanding of democratic oversight of the security sector, and reinforced the importance of accountable, transparent and people-centred security governance across both regions. Over the two-day programme, participants engaged in rich and insightful discussions, underscoring the value of cross-regional knowledge exchange and expressing a strong commitment to sustaining such engagements in the future.

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Jocelyne Nahimana | Head, SSR/DDR Division, GCPD | Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security | African Union Commission | E-mail: NahimanaJ@africanunion.org | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

For Media inquiries, please contact:

Mr. Abraham Kebede Gizaw | PAPS Digital Communications Officer | Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security | African Union Commission | E-mail: AbrahamK@africanunion.org | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Information and Communication Directorate, African Union Commission | E-mail: DIC@africanunion.org | Web: www.au.int | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | Follow Us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)