

## OVERVIEW

|                                                                 |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| CHAIRSHIP .....                                                 | 1  |
| AGENDA ITEMS.....                                               | 2  |
| A. COUNTRY SITUATIONS .....                                     | 2  |
| I. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.....                                | 2  |
| II. MALI .....                                                  | 2  |
| III. SOUTH SUDAN .....                                          | 3  |
| IV. MALI (INFORMAL) .....                                       | 4  |
| V. GUINEA BISSAU.....                                           | 4  |
| VI. LIBYA .....                                                 | 4  |
| B. PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS.....                                | 6  |
| I. OPEN SESSION ON PSOs.....                                    | 6  |
| II. AUSSOM MISSION .....                                        | 6  |
| III. AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE .....                                | 7  |
| IV. MNJTF / LAKE CHAD BASIN .....                               | 7  |
| C. THEMATIC ISSUES.....                                         | 9  |
| I. HATE CRIMES / GENOCIDAL IDE-<br>OLOGY IN AFRICA .....        | 9  |
| II. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE .....                               | 9  |
| III. CLIMATE CHANGE /SAHEL AND<br>THE LAKE CHAD.....            | 10 |
| IV. TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED<br>CRIME IN AFRICA .....            | 10 |
| V. MARITIME / GULF OF GUINEA ..                                 | 11 |
| VI. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING<br>TOGETHER IN PEACE .....      | 11 |
| VII. REFUGEES, IDPs & HUMANI-<br>TARIAN ASSISTANCE IN AFRICA .. | 11 |
| OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED.....                                    | 14 |
| VIII. THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS ...                                | 14 |
| IX. BRIEFING BY THE A3.....                                     | 14 |
| X. RETREAT ON AU PEACE FUND ...                                 | 14 |
| XI. RETREAT / PSC & APRM.....                                   | 15 |
| OTHER PSC ACTIVITIES.....                                       | 16 |
| XII. FLAG CEREMONY .....                                        | 16 |
| XIII. VISIT TO THE ETHIOPIAN AI<br>INSTITUTE.....               | 18 |

# The Second Quarter Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for the Year 2026

## CHAIRSHIP

During the second quarter of 2026, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) meetings were presided over by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In **April**, the PSC was chaired by Ethiopia under **H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene Kassa**, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the AU. The Council convened seven meetings, including one at Ministerial level chaired by **Hon. Dr. Gedion Timothewos Hessebon**, Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Deliberations focused on South Sudan, Somalia and AUSSOM, Mali, the Central African Republic, Peace Support Operations, Artificial Intelligence, and the fight against genocide and hate crimes. The Council also received a briefing from the A3 on its activities at the United Nations Security Council. Beyond regular sessions, the Council engaged in nine other peace and security engagements.

In **May**, the PSC was chaired by **Nigeria** under the leadership of **H.E. Ambassador Nasir Aminu**, PR of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the AU. During its chairship, seven meetings were held during which eight agenda items were considered including the situation in Guinea-Bissau, the operationalization of the African Standby Force and the Combined Maritime Task Force, transnational organized crime, climate change and security in the Lake Chad Basin, and the activities of the MNJTF. In addition to the regular meetings, the Council had engagements in five other Peace and Security related activities.

In **June**, **Nigeria** served as Stand-in Chairperson of the PSC on behalf of **Sierra Leone**, under the leadership of **H.E. Ambassador Nasir Aminu**. During the month, two meetings were held considering two agenda items including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the situation in Libya. The Council also held its third engagement with the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council, while the Military Staff Committee conducted its induction programme, both in Abuja, Nigeria.

|       |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April |  | H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene Kassa, Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the AU                                                         |
| May   |  | H.E. Ambassador Nasir Aminu, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the AU                                                                            |
| June  |  | H.E. Ambassador Nasir Aminu, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the AU and Stand-in Chair of the AU PSC on behalf of the Republic of Sierra Leone |

## AGENDA ITEMS

The PSC held a total of fifteen meetings, addressing eighteen agenda items, including six country-specific situations, six thematic issues two other peace and security-related matters, three PSOs and one regional related issues.

### A. COUNTRY SITUATIONS

#### I. SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:

The PSC, at its 1338<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 9 April 2026, considered the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) and reaffirmed its commitment to the country's sovereignty, unity, and pursuit of sustainable peace and stability. The Council welcomed the generally peaceful conduct of the harmonized elections of December 2025 and commended progress in the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (PAPR-CAR), including advances in the DDRR process.

The Council expressed concern over persistent security and humanitarian challenges, including the risk of instability arising from the potential drawdown of MINUSCA, continued activities of armed groups, and human rights violations. It underscored the need for inclusive political dialogue, strengthened national institutions, and enhanced support to justice, reconciliation, and security sector reforms. The PSC also highlighted the importance of addressing socio-economic challenges and illegal exploitation of natural resources to consolidate peace.

Furthermore, the Council emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among the African Union, the United Nations, ECCAS, and other partners in supporting CAR's stabilization and development. It called for increased humanitarian assistance and sustained international engagement to prevent a relapse into conflict, while encouraging the strengthening of governance systems and the effective presence of the State across the territory.

The PSC assigned the following roles to the AU Commission:

- Conduct a comprehensive study on the impact of the drawdown or withdrawal of MINUSCA and propose recommendations;
- Develop a strategy to strengthen the role of guarantors of the PAPR-CAR and support AU-led stabilization efforts;
- Continue providing electoral technical support and capacity

building to Member States;

- Support implementation of DDRR and national reconciliation processes, including PCRD initiatives;
- Enhance coordination with partners and support institutional capacity-building in CAR; and
- Provide humanitarian support through the relevant AU departments and strengthen the AU Liaison Office in Bangui.

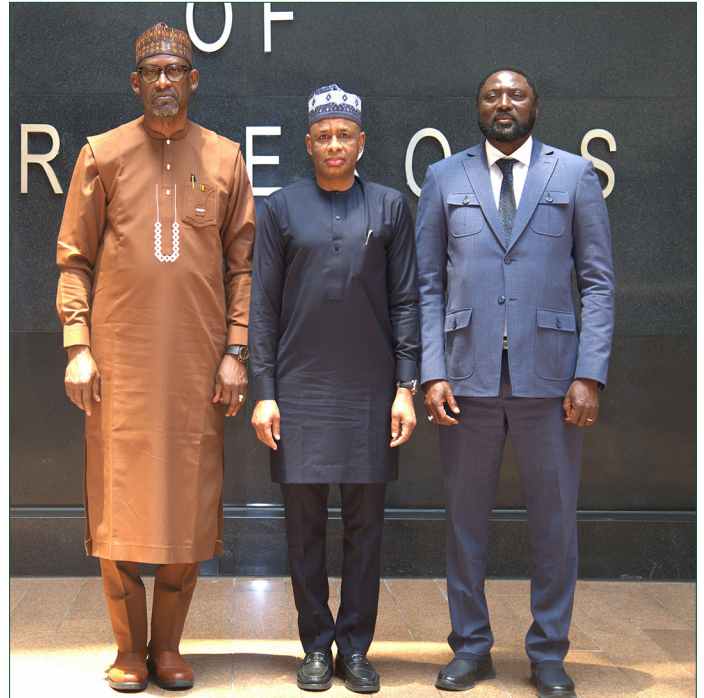
#### II. BRIEFING ON THE SITUATION IN MALI:

The PSC, during its 1342<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 28 April 2026, reviewed the deteriorating security situation in Mali, reaffirming the AU's commitment to Mali's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity.

The PSC expressed grave concern over coordinated terrorist attacks carried out on 25–26 April 2025 by the Azawad Liberation Front and Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wa-Muslimin (JNIM), which resulted in killings, displacement of civilians, and the assassination of Mali's Defence Minister, General Sadio Kamara. The Council condemned these acts in the strongest terms, extended condolences to the Malian people and authorities, and stressed the need for a comprehensive regional response to terrorism and violent extremism. It also urged Mali's transitional authorities to accelerate the restoration of constitutional order, strengthen national cohesion, and re-engage constructively with ECOWAS to facilitate dialogue and coordinated support.

The PSC assigned several responsibilities to the AU Commission, including:

- Reinforcing preventive diplomacy and high-level engagement with Mali's transitional authorities;
- Promoting inclusive political dialogue and a credible, time-bound transition roadmap;
- Scaling up technical and operational support to Mali's security sector, including capacity-building, early warning, and strategic advisory support;
- Ensuring compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law;
- Coordinating with ECOWAS, the UN, and partners on humanitarian and stabilization efforts; and
- Continuing to closely monitor developments in Mali and provide regular updates to the PSC.



Frame 1: H.E. Amb. Hirut Zemene Kassa, PR of Ethiopia to the AU during a PSC field visit to Juba, South Sudan. Frame 2: From left: H.E. Abdoulaye Diop, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali, H.E. Amb. Nasir Aminu, PR of Nigeria to the AU and H.E. Mamadou Tangara, SRCC for Mali and the Sahel Photo: PSC Secretariat.

### III. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE FIELD MISSION OF THE PSC TO SOUTH SUDAN:

The PSC of the AU, at its 1343<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 30 April 2026, considered and adopted the report of its field mission to South Sudan conducted from 23–25 April 2026. The Council reaffirmed the AU's commitment as a guarantor of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) and expressed solidarity with the people and Government of South Sudan in their pursuit of peace, stability, and prosperity. It commended the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) for efforts made under challenging circumstances while urging accelerated implementation of outstanding transitional tasks.

The Council expressed deep concern over the deteriorating political and security situation, growing tensions within the transitional leadership, and the resulting delays in implementing the peace agreement. It called on South Sudanese leaders to prioritize national interests, resolve differences through dialogue, and ensure adherence to the provisions of the R-ARCSS. The PSC also voiced concern over the continued house arrest of First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar and other political detainees, stressing the need for their release to facilitate dialogue and sustain the peace process.

The PSC underscored that there is no military solution to South Sudan's challenges and called for a permanent ceasefire, inclusive dialogue, and full implementation of the peace agreement. It highlighted the importance of preparing for credible, inclusive and Peaceful elections scheduled for December 2026 through inclusive decision-making, adequate preparations, and support from regional and international partners. The Council further expressed concern over the worsening humanitarian situation caused by conflict, displacement, climate shocks, and food insecurity, and appealed for strengthened civilian protection and humanitarian assistance.

The PSC assigned the following responsibilities to the AU Commission:

- Expedite the deployment of a multidimensional technical needs assessment team to South Sudan to support preparations for the December 2026 elections and the broader transition process.
- Continue providing technical support to South Sudan's transitional authorities.
- Coordinate resource mobilization efforts to support the RTGoNU and electoral institutions in preparing for the elections.

- Follow up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the PSC field mission report.
- Avail adequate resources to strengthen the capacity of the AU Mission in South Sudan to effectively discharge its mandate.

#### IV. INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF MALI:

On 14 May 2026, the PSC held an informal consultation with the Republic of Mali in Addis Ababa to exchange views on developments in the country and the wider Sahel region. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Nasir Aminu of Nigeria. H.E. Ambassador Mamadou Tangara, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Mali and the Sahel, delivered introductory remarks, followed by a statement by H.E. Abdoulaye Diop, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali. The consultation provided an opportunity for an exchange of views among PSC Members, the AU Commission, and invited participants on the evolving situation in Mali and the Sahel before concluding with closing remarks by the PSC Chairperson.

#### V. UPDATE ON THE POLITICAL TRANSITION AND SECURITY SITUATION IN GUINEA-BISSAU:

The PSC, at its 1347<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18 May 2026, reviewed the political transition and security situation in Guinea-Bissau. The Council expressed concern over the continued fragility of the political environment and reaffirmed the African Union's zero-tolerance policy on unconstitutional changes of government. It commended the efforts of the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the AU Special Envoy for Guinea-Bissau in supporting dialogue, de-escalation of tensions, and an inclusive political transition aimed at restoring constitutional order.

The PSC reiterated its call for the immediate and unconditional release of political detainees, including Mr. Domingos Simões Pereira, and urged the transitional authorities to uphold constitutional safeguards, due process, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. It expressed concern over restrictions on political parties, civil society organizations, and private media, stressing the need to restore political and civic space. The Council also urged military leaders to refrain from interfering in political affairs and called for an inclusive national dialogue involving all stakeholders, including women and youth, ahead of the planned December 2026 elections.

The Council highlighted the importance of addressing the structural causes of recurring political crises, strengthening the independence of electoral and judicial institutions, and ensuring a transparent and credible national population census. It further expressed concern over the deteriorating security and human rights situation, condemned politically motivated violence, and called for credible investigations into such incidents. The PSC also underscored the need to accelerate security sector reform and enhance international cooperation against transnational organized crime, particularly drug trafficking.

Roles assigned to the AU Commission:

- Continue sustained engagement with the authorities and all relevant stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau through the Office of the AU Special Envoy.
- Coordinate closely with ECOWAS and other international partners in supporting dialogue, mediation, and the restoration of constitutional order.
- Participate in the planned AU–ECOWAS joint assessment mission to evaluate developments on the ground.
- Support the implementation of the PSC decision to undertake a fact-finding mission to Guinea-Bissau during 2026.
- Maintain diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting an inclusive, peaceful, and constitutional political transition.

#### VI. UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN LIBYA:

At its 1351<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 9 June 2026, the PSC reviewed the situation in Libya and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the country's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. The Council reiterated its support for a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process, emphasizing that national reconciliation, inclusive dialogue and credible elections remain the only sustainable path to lasting peace and stability.

The PSC welcomed positive developments, including the adoption of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, progress in security cooperation through the 5+5 Joint Military Commission, the joint military exercise in Sirte, and the agreement on a unified national budget. It also acknowledged the efforts of neighbouring countries, the AU High-Level Committee on Libya, the United Nations and other partners in supporting Libya's peace and stabilization efforts.

The Council, however, expressed concern over the fragile

security situation, foreign interference, continued violations of the arms embargo, illicit trafficking, economic challenges, human rights abuses against African migrants and refugees, and the proliferation of illicit weapons. It called for strengthened national institutions, greater humanitarian support, enhanced AU-UN cooperation, climate resilience investments, and the implementation of measures to promote reconciliation, sustainable development and preparations for credible elections.

The PSC assigned the following roles to the AU Commission:

- Continue providing political support to the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and the Libyan peace process.
- Work with the UN and partners to support inclusive national reconciliation and institution-building.
- Coordinate humanitarian assistance to Libya and vulnerable migrants.
- Support preparations for credible and inclusive elections.
- Facilitate the relocation of the AU Liaison Office to Tripoli and ensure the necessary budgetary provisions.
- Consider appointing a Special Envoy on Migration, subject to the availability of resources.

## Country-Specific Situations During Q2:

- 1 Situation in the Central African Republic
- 2 Situation in Mali
- 3 Consideration of the Field Mission Report of the Peace and Security Council to South Sudan
- 4 Informal Consultation with the Republic of Mali
- 5 Political Transition and Security Situation in Guinea-Bissau
- 6 Situation in Libya

## B. PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

### I. OPEN SESSION ON PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN AFRICA:

The PSC, at its 1341<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 27 April 2026, considered the state of Peace Support Operations (PSOs) in Africa. The Council reaffirmed that PSOs remain a critical instrument for conflict management, stabilization, and the realization of the AU Agenda 2063 objective of silencing the guns. It commended Member States, Troop and Police Contributing Countries, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), the United Nations, and partners for their continued contributions to peace and security on the continent.

The PSC welcomed the achievements of AU-led and authorized PSOs despite persistent challenges, including inadequate and unpredictable financing, logistical constraints, and limited force enablers. It reiterated the responsibility of the United Nations Security Council in maintaining international peace and security and called for accelerated implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023) to ensure sustainable support for AU PSOs. The Council also urged Member States to strengthen African ownership by increasing resources for peace operations.

The Council emphasized the need for more agile, targeted, and time-bound missions, supported by hybrid approaches that integrate security, governance, stabilization, and development. It underscored the importance of enhancing rapid deployment capabilities, command and control systems, logistics, accountability frameworks, gender mainstreaming, and cooperation with RECs/RMs, the UN, and partners. The PSC further highlighted the value of conflict prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding to reduce reliance on costly peace operations.

Roles assigned to the AU Commission:

- Develop, in coordination with the UN Secretariat, recommendations on expediting the implementation of UNSC Resolution 2719 (2023), including options for deploying PSOs under the Chapter VIII framework.
- Prioritize lean, targeted, and time-bound PSOs when making recommendations to the PSC.
- Undertake a comprehensive study on AU PSOs covering mandates, capabilities, financing, partnerships, and operational modalities, and submit recommendations within six months.

- Establish an annual Ministerial Forum on AU PSOs, in collaboration with the UN, to mobilize financial, technical, logistical, and strategic support.
- Strengthen AU capacities for strategic management, logistics, rapid deployment, accountability, and coordination with RECs/RMs and partners.

### II. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON JOINT AFRICAN UNION – FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA – UNITED NATIONS PROGRESS AGAINST BENCHMARKS AND AUSSOM MISSION CONFIGURATION PLAN:

The PSC, at its 1342<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 28 April 2026, considered the Joint AU–Federal Government of Somalia (FGS)–United Nations Progress Against Benchmarks Report and the AU Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) Mission Configuration Plan. The Council welcomed progress made by Somalia in strengthening governance and preserving security gains against Al-Shabaab, while reaffirming the AU's commitment to Somalia's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity. It also encouraged continued dialogue between the Federal Government and Federal Member States to enhance national cohesion and coordinated counter-terrorism efforts.

The PSC underscored the importance of stabilizing areas liberated from Al-Shabaab through effective governance, institution-building, and sustained logistical support. It commended the sacrifices of AUSSOM personnel and Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs), while urging Somalia to strengthen force generation, capacity building, and local defence mechanisms to preserve security gains and support an eventual conditions-based exit strategy. The Council also endorsed the Joint AU–FGS–UN Assessment Report and AUSSOM Configuration Plan.

The Council expressed deep concern over the continued threat posed by Al-Shabaab and the lack of predictable, adequate, and sustainable financing for AUSSOM. It emphasized the urgent need for enhanced resource mobilization, full deployment of mission personnel, and continued international support to Somalia. The PSC further stressed that any future drawdown of AUSSOM should be conditions-based to prevent the emergence of a security vacuum and ensure the consolidation of hard-won gains.

Roles assigned to the AU Commission:

- Convene a High-Level Resource Mobilization Conference to support AUSSOM's operational and financial requirements.

- Explore the use of AU Peace Fund resources, including the Crisis Reserve Facility, to help address AUSSOM's funding gap.
- Urgently convene a meeting of AUSSOM TCCs/PCCs at Chiefs of Defence Forces level to consider force configuration options and their implications.
- Submit a detailed report and recommendations from the TCCs/PCCs meeting to the PSC.
- Transmit the Assessment Report and PSC Communiqué to the UN Secretary-General, the A3, and other UN Security Council members as a reference document.
- Continue engagements aimed at securing predictable and sustainable financing for AUSSOM.

### III. UPDATE ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE:

The PSC, at its 1346<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15 May 2026, reviewed progress in the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF). The Council reaffirmed the ASF's continued relevance as a key pillar of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and an essential instrument for responding rapidly to emerging peace and security challenges across the continent. It welcomed efforts by the AU Commission, RECs/RMs, and partners to strengthen coordination, readiness, and rapid deployment capabilities.

The PSC commended the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the ASF Strategic Review and welcomed the adoption of these recommendations by the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS). The Council also welcomed the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Utilization of the ASF and called for its timely operationalization through strengthened coordination, clear implementation modalities, and sustained political commitment by Member States and regional stakeholders.

The Council underscored the need to enhance interoperability, logistics, strategic lift capabilities, rapid deployment mechanisms, and the Continental Command, Control, Communication and Information System (C3IS). It stressed the importance of strengthening maritime capabilities, including operationalizing the Combined Maritime Task Force in the Gulf of Guinea, and emphasized the need for predictable and sustainable financing, including the effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023).

Roles assigned to the AU Commission:

- Develop and implement an operational work plan to support the continuous enhancement, readiness, and effectiveness of the ASF.
- Expedite, together with RECs/RMs, the entry into force and operationalization of the ASF Memorandum of Understanding.
- Continue resource mobilization efforts to support ASF structures, including the Continental Logistics Base and regional logistics depots.
- Finalize, in consultation with Member States, RECs/RMs, and stakeholders, the operational work plan emerging from the ASF Strategic Review.
- Strengthen ASF operational readiness through strategic planning and the finalization of the operational guidance framework.
- Provide the PSC, by July 2026, with an updated dashboard outlining technical, logistical, and operational requirements and gaps requiring urgent attention.

### IV. UPDATE ON THE STABILISATION ACTIVITIES OF THE MNJTF IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN:

The PSC, at its 1347<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18 May 2026, reviewed the stabilization activities of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin. The Council welcomed progress made under the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience (RS-SRR 2.0), including the adoption of regional priorities and action plans. It commended troop-contributing countries, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), the MNJTF, and partners for sustaining counterterrorism efforts and supporting regional stabilization.

The PSC applauded the operational gains achieved through Operation LAKE SANITY III, including the degradation of Boko Haram and ISWAP logistics networks, improved security conditions, increased humanitarian access, and progress in the return and reintegration of displaced persons and former combatants. However, it expressed concern over the continued threat posed by terrorist groups, the temporary suspension of Niger's participation in the MNJTF framework, operational capability gaps, and persistent funding shortfalls affecting stabilization efforts.

The Council emphasized the need for balanced military and non-

military approaches, stronger border governance, enhanced regional cooperation, sustainable financing, and greater inclusion of women and youth in stabilization and recovery initiatives. It also called for renewed efforts to address the root causes of insecurity and violent extremism in the region.

Roles assigned to the AU Commission:

- Enhance support and collaboration with the LCBC and MNJTF in implementing the adjusted RS-SRR 2.0.
- Support the MNJTF with critical force enablers and operational equipment from the Continental Logistics Base.
- Liaise with the African members of the UN Security Council (A3) to explore the application of UNSC Resolution 2719 for financing MNJTF activities.
- Report back to the PSC on progress regarding funding options and support to the MNJTF.
- Continue providing financial and operational support to stabilization, recovery, and resilience efforts in the Lake Chad Basin region.

## Peace Support Operations During Q2:

- 1 Open Session on Peace Support Operations in Africa
- 2 Consideration of the Report on Joint African Union – Federal Government of Somalia – United Nations Progress Against Benchmarks and AUSSOM Mission Configuration Plan
- 3 Update on the Operationalization of the African Standby Force
- 4 Update on the Stabilisation activities of the MNJTF in the Lake Chad Basin

## C. THEMATIC ISSUES

### I. HATE CRIMES AND FIGHTING GENOCIDAL IDEOLOGY IN AFRICA AND THE 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN RWANDA:

The PSC, at its 1337<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 8 April 2026, convened an Open Session on Hate Crimes and Fighting Genocidal Ideology in Africa, alongside the commemoration of the 32nd anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The session underscored the importance of remembrance under the theme “Remember, Unite, Renew,” reaffirming the AU’s commitment to the sanctity of human life, human rights, and the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities.

The Council recalled relevant AU and international legal instruments, including the Genocide Convention and Agenda 2063, and emphasized the need to combat hate speech, genocide denial, and incitement to violence. It highlighted the importance of accountability, protection of civilians, and preservation of evidence, while encouraging Member States to adopt national legislation and strengthen institutions to prevent hate crimes and genocidal ideologies.

The PSC further stressed the role of education, youth engagement, and positive narratives in promoting tolerance and social cohesion, as well as the need for enhanced cooperation among Member States and partners. It underscored the importance of early warning, social media engagement, and grassroots initiatives to prevent the escalation of tensions into violent conflict and mass atrocities, while calling for strengthened continental mechanisms and research efforts.

The PSC assigned the following roles to the AU Commission:

- Strengthen early warning mechanisms to detect risks of genocide and mass atrocities;
  - Support Member States in addressing root causes of hate ideology and building community resilience;
  - Promote use of AU frameworks such as Transitional Justice and PCRD policies;
  - Support establishment of a Continental Research Centre on Hate Speech and Genocide Ideology; and
  - Enhance monitoring and countering of hate speech, including on digital platforms.
- Finalizing and submitting a comprehensive study and Common African Position on AI and its impact on peace, security, democracy and development;
  - Integrating AI tools into APSA/AGA systems, including the Continental Early Warning System;
  - Establishing an African Fund for AI to support infrastructure and innovation;
  - Exploring the creation of an African Centre of Excellence on AI;
  - Monitoring AI developments and providing periodic reports with policy recommendations.

## II. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA:

The PSC, at its 1339<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting held on 16 April 2026 in Addis Ababa, deliberated on “Artificial Intelligence: Governance, Peace and Security.” The Council underscored the strategic importance of AI for Africa’s development, peace and security, while recalling prior AU decisions and the Continental AI Strategy (2024). It emphasized Africa’s sovereign right to harness AI in line with its priorities and highlighted the need to maximize opportunities while mitigating risks such as disinformation, cyber threats and misuse in conflict settings.

The PSC reaffirmed the importance of inclusive and ethical AI governance, stressing transparency, accountability, and respect for international law. It called for the development of African-led AI systems, including in local languages, and urged Member States to accelerate national AI strategies aligned with Agenda 2063. The Council also highlighted the need for Africa to shape global AI governance processes and safeguard digital and data sovereignty, while promoting investment in infrastructure, human capital and innovation ecosystems.

Furthermore, the Council recognized the growing role of AI in conflict prevention, mediation, and peace operations, while cautioning against its weaponization and misuse. It encouraged stronger partnerships among Member States, RECs/RMs, private sector and international partners, and supported initiatives such as establishing AI centres, networks and funding mechanisms. The designation of Ethiopia’s Prime Minister as AU Champion for AI and Digital Health was also welcomed, alongside ongoing continental and national efforts to strengthen AI capacity.

The Council assigned several key roles to the AU Commission, including:

### III. IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE CRISIS SITUATION IN THE SAHEL AND THE LAKE CHAD:

The PSC, at its 1344<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 4 May 2026, considered the impact of climate change on crisis situations in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin (LCB). The Council recognized climate change as a major threat multiplier that exacerbates conflict, displacement, food insecurity, poverty, water scarcity, droughts, floods, desertification, and instability. It stressed the need for climate-sensitive, Africa-led responses that address the root causes of insecurity while strengthening resilience among affected communities.

The PSC called on Member States and partners to increase support for climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience initiatives, particularly for vulnerable populations such as youth and pastoralist communities. It underscored the importance of conflict-sensitive financing, improved natural resource governance, and stronger cross-border cooperation mechanisms to mitigate tensions arising from climate-related pressures. The Council also emphasized the value of climate data and technology-driven solutions in informing conflict prevention and social cohesion policies.

The Council welcomed regional stabilization and resilience initiatives led by the Lake Chad Basin Commission, ECOWAS, ECCAS, and other partners. It highlighted the need for enhanced coordination among stakeholders, sustainable climate financing, and the expedited finalization and implementation of the Common African Position on Climate, Peace and Security as a continental framework for addressing climate-related security challenges.

Roles assigned to the AU Commission:

- Strengthen climate-risk analysis within AU early warning, contingency planning, and adaptation frameworks.
- Review the AU Strategy for the Sahel to reflect emerging climate-security dynamics.
- Prepare and submit to the PSC a matrix outlining AU actions undertaken and priority climate needs in the region.
- Undertake a comprehensive mapping of climate-change impacts and needs in the Lake Chad Basin and Sahel.
- Develop, with ECOWAS, ECCAS, and the LCB Commission, a matrix of practical recommendations to address climate-related challenges and strengthen regional resilience.
- Accelerate the finalization and implementation of the Common African Position on Climate, Peace and Security.

### IV. DISCUSSION ON AFRICAN STRATEGIES FOR COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME IN AFRICA:

The PSC, at its 1345<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6 May 2026, discussed African strategies for combating transnational organized crime. The Council expressed deep concern over the growing convergence of terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, environmental crime, illicit financial flows, and organized criminal networks across the continent. It noted that these interconnected threats are undermining peace, security, governance, and development efforts, particularly in the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, Horn of Africa, and Great Lakes regions.

The PSC highlighted the increasing nexus between terrorism and criminal economies, including the use of cyber-fraud, cryptocurrencies, and illicit trafficking networks to finance armed groups. Concerns were raised over money laundering, environmental crimes, trafficking in persons, synthetic drug production, and the exploitation of vulnerable populations. The need for stronger intelligence-sharing, cross-border cooperation, joint law-enforcement operations, and harmonized legal frameworks to address these evolving threats was emphasized.

The Council called on Member States to strengthen anti-money laundering measures, improve surveillance capabilities, enhance natural resource governance, and integrate socio-economic, governance, and development interventions into strategies aimed at countering organized crime. It also stressed the importance of incorporating organized crime analysis into early warning systems, mediation efforts, peace operations, security sector reform, and post-conflict reconstruction initiatives.

Roles assigned to the AU Commission:

- Finalize, with AFRIPOL, AUCTC, CISSA, and APRM, a Matrix of Risks and Threats to Peace and Security in Africa before the end of 2026.
- Undertake a study on the financing sources of criminal networks to identify measures for disrupting their operations.
- Establish, with AFRIPOL, a continental mechanism and African warrant framework inspired by INTERPOL notices.
- Support the establishment of a Continental Criminal Intelligence Mechanism for mapping and analyzing criminal networks.
- Mobilize financial and human resources to strengthen AFRIPOL's analytical, operational, and capacity-building activities.

#### **V. BRIEFING ON EFFORTS TOWARDS THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE COMBINED MARITIME TASK FORCE IN ADDRESSING PIRACY IN THE GULF OF GUINEA:**

The PSC, at its 1346<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15 May 2026, reviewed progress towards the operationalization of the Combined Maritime Task Force (CMTF) to combat piracy and maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea. The Council expressed concern over persistent threats, including piracy, organized crime, illegal fishing, armed robbery at sea, and the dumping of toxic waste, while reaffirming the importance of maritime security for Africa's economic integration, Blue Economy agenda, and implementation of the AfCFTA.

The PSC also noted growing attempts by terrorist groups to expand into West Africa's coastal states and stressed the need for comprehensive responses that address both security threats and their root causes. It encouraged stronger judicial cooperation, intelligence-sharing, extradition arrangements, and prosecution mechanisms among Gulf of Guinea countries to combat maritime crimes more effectively.

The Council welcomed progress made in operationalizing the CMTF, including the adoption of its Concept of Operations (CONOPS), and commended countries that had declared operational readiness. It emphasized that the CMTF is a critical African-led mechanism for strengthening maritime governance, enhancing the maritime dimension of the African Standby Force, and advancing the objectives of the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy and the Lomé Charter.

Roles assigned to the AU Commission:

- Collaborate with and provide logistical / material support to the CMTF, including through the Continental Logistic Base.
- Support countries in the region, together with the UN, in countering the expansion of terrorist activities to coastal states.
- Conduct the Ex AMANI III Command Post maritime exercise with support from Member States and partners.
- Take urgent steps to establish the Committee of African Heads of Navies and Coast Guards (CHANS) before the end of 2026.
- Establish and operationalize a Maritime Security Unit/Coordination Mechanism within the AU Commission.
- Organize and facilitate maritime security coordination initiatives with RECs, regional organizations, and relevant stakeholders.

#### **VI. COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE:**

The PSC, at its 1348<sup>th</sup> meeting on 18 May 2026, commemorated the International Day of Living Together in Peace and reaffirmed its commitment to promoting peaceful coexistence, human rights, and the aspirations of Agenda 2063. The Council expressed concern over persistent threats to peace in Africa, including unconstitutional changes of government, terrorism, violent extremism, intercommunal conflicts, hate speech, and disinformation, and urged Member States to address the root causes of conflict while strengthening good governance, social cohesion, and peaceful dispute resolution.

The PSC encouraged Member States to commemorate the Day annually through public awareness, media, and educational initiatives, particularly by integrating peace education into national curricula and youth programmes. It also recognized Algeria's role in championing the UN resolution establishing the Day, encouraged the African members of the UN Security Council (A3) to organize annual commemorative events at UN Headquarters, and reaffirmed its decision to retain the observance as a standing item on its Annual Programme of Work.

#### **VII. OPEN SESSION ON REFUGEES, IDPS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN AFRICA:**

The PSC, at its 1350<sup>th</sup> Open Session held on 2 June 2026, considered the humanitarian situation in Africa, focusing on refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and humanitarian assistance. The Council expressed deep concern over the worsening humanitarian landscape across the continent, driven by armed conflicts, terrorism, political instability, climate-related disasters, food insecurity, public health emergencies and economic pressures. It underscored the need to address the root causes of forced displacement through conflict prevention, mediation, peacebuilding, good governance and sustainable development, while strengthening community resilience and preparedness mechanisms.

The Council emphasized the importance of an integrated humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, ensuring protection of civilians, refugees and IDPs, particularly women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. It called for strict compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL), unhindered humanitarian access, enhanced climate adaptation financing and strengthened disaster risk reduction mechanisms. The PSC

also highlighted the adverse impact of declining humanitarian funding and urged greater international burden-sharing and support for countries hosting large refugee populations.

Recognizing Africa's growing humanitarian challenges, the Council stressed the need to strengthen continental mechanisms, including the African Humanitarian Agency (AHA), Africa Risk Capacity (ARC), the Special Emergency Assistance Fund (SEAF) and the Continental Mechanism of Civil Capacity for Disaster Preparedness and Response (3CMDPR). It welcomed the African Humanitarian Coordination Platform and reiterated the AU's commitment to refugee protection, solidarity with displaced populations and support to Member States affected by humanitarian crises. The Council further called for enhanced registration, monitoring and data management systems to improve humanitarian responses and resource allocation.

Roles assigned to the AU Commission:

- Expedite the humanitarian financing study and submit concrete proposals on sustainable and predictable

humanitarian financing mechanisms.

- Continue supporting Member States in implementing continental humanitarian, development, integration, migration and displacement-related frameworks.
- Provide regular updates to the PSC on the humanitarian situation across the continent.
- Accelerate the operationalization and sustainable financing of the African Humanitarian Agency (AHA).
- Strengthen coordination with RECs/RMs, the United Nations, humanitarian agencies and partners in responding to humanitarian crises.
- Consider and facilitate the timely submission of the draft AU Declaration on Strengthening International Humanitarian Law for possible adoption.
- Continue conducting humanitarian assessment missions and solidarity support initiatives for affected Member States.

## Thematic Considerations During Q2:

- 1 Hate Crimes and Fighting Genocidal Ideology in Africa and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda
- 2 Artificial Intelligence: Governance, Peace and Security in Africa
- 3 Impact of Climate Change on the Crisis Situation in the Sahel and the Lake Chad
- 4 Discussion on African strategies for combating Transnational Organised Crime in Africa
- 5 Briefing on efforts towards the Operationalisation of the Combined Maritime Task Force in addressing Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea
- 6 Commemoration of the International Day of Living Together in Peace
- 7 Open Session on Refugees, IDPs and Humanitarian Assistance in Africa



Left: H.E. Amb. Nasir Aminu Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the AU and Chair of the PSC for April 2026 (Stand-in-Chair for May 2026) Right: H.E. Amb. Hirut Zemene Kassa, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the AU and Chair of the PSC for April 2026. Photo: PSC Secretariat.



## OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE PSC

### I. THE IMPACT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS ON THE PEACE AND SECURITY SITUATION OF AFRICA:

The PSC held its 20<sup>th</sup> Informal Consultation on 9 April 2026, virtually, to examine the impact of the Middle East crisis on Africa's peace and security landscape. The session included opening and closing remarks by the PSC Chairperson for April 2026, H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene Kassa, and a presentation by the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

The consultation provided an opportunity for PSC Members to deliberate on emerging risks, geopolitical implications, and potential spillover effects of the crisis on the continent. Discussions focused on security, economic, and humanitarian dimensions, as well as the need for coordinated responses. The meeting concluded with reflections on strengthening Africa's preparedness and strategic positioning in addressing external shocks affecting peace and stability.

### II. BRIEFING BY THE AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (A3) ON ITS ACTIVITIES:

The PSC, during its 1340<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 20 April 2026, considered a briefing by the African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) on their activities and evolving peace and security issues before the UN Security Council (UNSC). The Council recalled previous AU Assembly decisions and PSC communiqués emphasizing the importance of African unity, common positions, and stronger coordination between the PSC and the A3 in advancing Africa's interests within the UNSC.

The PSC commended the A3 for promoting and defending Common African Positions within the UNSC and reaffirmed the group's role as the principal platform for articulating Africa's collective voice on international peace and security matters. Council stressed the importance of maintaining unity, discipline, and cohesion among the A3, particularly amid growing geopolitical polarization and external pressures within the UNSC. It also highlighted the need for timely coordination between the PSC and A3 to ensure that AU positions are effectively reflected in Security Council deliberations and outcomes.

Council further emphasized the need for stronger institutional coordination, enhanced information sharing, and more strategic engagement between Addis Ababa and New York. It encouraged

the A3 to assume greater leadership in pen-holding and co-pen-holding arrangements on African issues and reiterated the importance of implementing AU decisions and Common African Positions consistently in UNSC processes. The PSC also called for accelerated implementation of UNSC Resolution 2719 (2023) on financing AU-led peace support operations and stressed the importance of safeguarding Africa's strategic autonomy and influence within global peace and security governance.

The PSC assigned several responsibilities to the AU Commission, including:

- Assessing the feasibility of holding one quarterly PSC–A3 briefing at AU Headquarters;
- Developing a Matrix of Common African Positions on peace and security matters for use by the A3 in UNSC negotiations and advocacy;
- Preparing an Annual Plan of Action to advance AU positions and PSC decisions within the UNSC;
- Strengthening information-sharing and coordination mechanisms between the PSC and A3;
- Enhancing the institutional capacity of the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations (AUPOM) through adequate resource support; and
- Supporting the preservation of A3 institutional memory and continuity through strengthened technical and administrative assistance.

### III. JOINT RETREAT OF THE PSC, PRC GSC BUREAU & BOT ON AU PEACE FUND:

The Joint Retreat of the PSC, PRC GSC Bureau, and Board of Trustees on the AU Peace Fund, held on 8 May 2026 in Addis Ababa, focused on strengthening the deployment, sustainability, and effectiveness of the AU Peace Fund. Discussions examined the rationale for the Fund's revitalization, the strategic implications of the 2023–2025 policy decisions on the use of interest-only financing, and measures to enhance efficiency through improved strategic positioning, endowment growth, replenishment mechanisms, and utilization of Peace Fund interest. The retreat also provided a platform for an interactive exchange among key AU stakeholders to identify challenges, opportunities, and recommendations for ensuring the Fund's long-term sustainability and effectiveness in supporting the AU's peace and security agenda.



Joint Retreat of the PSC, PRC GSC Bureau and Board of Trustees on the AU Peace Fund, held on 8 May 2026. From left: Chair of the BOT, Peace Fund; H.E. Donald Kaberuka, High Representative for Financing the Union and the Peace Fund; H.E. Amb. Selma Malika Haddadi, Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission; H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for PAPS; and H.E. Amb. Nasir Aminu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the AU and Chair of the PSC for May 2026. Photo: PSC Secretariat.

#### IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE FIFTH JOINT RETREAT OF THE PSC AND THE APRM:

The PSC, at its 1349<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21 May 2026, adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth Joint Retreat between the PSC and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), held under the theme of strengthening governance, early warning, and preventive diplomacy. The Council welcomed the Joint Burayu Declaration, reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing collaboration between the PSC and APRM to

promote peace, security, stability, and good governance, and commended progress in integrating governance-based early warning mechanisms into continental conflict prevention efforts. It also requested the AU Commission and APRM Secretariat to implement the retreat's conclusions and report on progress, while urging Member States to invest more in conflict prevention and strengthen the link between early warning and preventive action.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY THE PSC

### I. FLAG INSTALLATION CEREMONY:

On 7 April 2026, the AU Commission, through the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, organized the third Flag Ceremony for newly elected and re-elected members of the PSC at the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Building in Addis Ababa. The ceremony served as a symbolic and high-visibility platform to officially welcome incoming members, mark their assumption of duties, and reinforce collective commitment to advancing peace and security across the continent.

The event featured an opening ceremony with the AU Anthem, followed by remarks by H.E. Amb. Hadera Abera, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, and H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the AU Commission. The central highlight was the formal installation of national flags of the incoming PSC members—Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo,

Gabon, Lesotho, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, and Uganda—symbolizing their official seating and participation in the Council.

The programme also included a family photo session and a reception featuring a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony, providing an opportunity for informal engagement and strengthening institutional cohesion among PSC members, AU officials, and partners. The ceremony brought together newly elected, re-elected, and outgoing PSC members, AU officials, the United Nations (UN) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The event concluded with remarks by H.E. Hirut Zemene, Chairperson of the PSC for April 2026, as well as statements by the representatives of the UN and the ICRC. It also featured an exhibition commemorating the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, underscoring the AU's continued commitment to humanitarian action, peacebuilding, and raising awareness on the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war.



Members of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), representatives of the African Union Commission, invited guests and other stakeholders pose for a group photo.



Current composition of the PSC pose for a group photo with representatives of the AU Commission. Also pictured are H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the AU Commission (far left), and H.E. Amb.Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for PAPS (far right). Photo: PSC Secretariat.



photo during the PSC Flag Installation Ceremony held on 7 April 2026 at the AU Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Photo: PSC Secretariat.

## II. PSC VISIT TO THE ETHIOPIAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) INSTITUTE AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM:

On Saturday, 18 April 2026, members of the PSC undertook a field visit to the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute and the Science and Technology Museum in Addis Ababa. The programme included a guided tour of the AI Institute with technical briefings and demonstrations on practical AI applications, followed by a visit to the Science and Technology Museum showcasing innovations in digital transformation and emerging technologies.

The visit was particularly significant to the work of the PSC as it provided first-hand exposure to the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in advancing peace and security on the continent. It enhanced the Council's understanding of how AI can strengthen early warning systems, conflict prevention, data analysis and decision-making within the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The engagement also underscored the importance of integrating emerging technologies into policy frameworks, while ensuring ethical governance and mitigating associated risks. Overall, the visit contributed to informing the PSC's deliberations on AI governance, reinforcing evidence-based policymaking, and supporting the Council's strategic role in addressing evolving security threats in Africa.

## III. FIELD MISSION TO JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN:

The PSC conducted a field mission to South Sudan from 23–25 April 2026 to assess progress in implementing the Revitalized

Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) and preparations for elections scheduled for December 2026. The mission found that South Sudan is at a critical juncture, with implementation of key peace agreement provisions largely stalled due to political tensions, mistrust among parties, continued detention of First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar, insecurity, and resource constraints. While the government reaffirmed its commitment to holding elections and completing the transition, concerns were raised over proposed amendments to the peace agreement, slow constitutional and judicial reforms, and limited financial and technical capacity to conduct credible elections.

The PSC also noted a deteriorating security and humanitarian situation. Fighting between government forces and opposition-linked groups, ceasefire violations, stalled security sector reforms, and rising political tensions have undermined progress toward peace. Humanitarian conditions remain severe, with widespread displacement, food insecurity, inflation, climate-related shocks, and reduced international funding affecting millions. Stakeholders emphasized that there is no military solution to the crisis and called for dialogue, release of political detainees, inclusive implementation of the peace agreement, and stronger support from the AU, IGAD, UN, and international partners. The PSC concluded that urgent political consensus, enhanced trust-building measures, and sustained support are essential to ensure a peaceful transition and credible elections in December 2026.



Members of the AU Peace and Security Council, led by H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene Kassa, exchange views with representatives of the Government of South Sudan during the PSC Field Mission to Juba. Photo: PSC Secretariat.

#### IV. 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JOINT RETREAT BETWEEN THE PSC & APRM:

The 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Retreat of the PSC and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), held in Burayu, Ethiopia on 29–30 April 2026, focused on strengthening institutional synergies in governance, early warning, and preventive diplomacy. Participants underscored that governance deficits, economic fragility, structural inequalities, and weak political will remain key drivers of conflict and unconstitutional changes of government in Africa. While the AU possesses robust normative frameworks and early warning mechanisms, implementation gaps and delayed responses continue to hinder effective conflict prevention.

The retreat reviewed progress since the inaugural PSC–APRM engagement in 2021 and noted important achievements, including the establishment of a joint technical team between the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and APRM, the use of Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessments (CSVRA), evidence-based governance reporting, and APRM's contribution to the “Silence the Guns” initiative. However, challenges persist, notably weak political commitment, inadequate financing, limited technical capacity, and the disconnect between early warning and early action.

Participants also examined APRM review reports from several Member States and identified recurring governance vulnerabilities such as weakened institutions, shrinking civic space, poor policy implementation, and inadequate accountability systems. The retreat emphasized the need

for stronger governance reforms, data-driven early warning, youth and women's participation, climate resilience, and enhanced cooperation among AU institutions, RECs/RMs, CISSA, AFRIPOL, and other stakeholders. It further called for the operationalization of the APRM Early Warning Framework and completion of the continental mapping of peace agreements to strengthen preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention.

Key roles assigned to the two bodies:

##### APRM

- Identify governance vulnerabilities and structural risks through reviews, CSVRAs, and governance assessments.
- Generate evidence-based governance data and early warning reports to support conflict prevention.
- Finalize and operationalize the APRM Early Warning Framework and Peace Agreements Mapping Exercise.
- Present actionable recommendations to the PSC and monitor implementation through National Programmes of Action.
- Strengthen collaboration with CEWS, CISSA, AFRIPOL, RECs/RMs, and the AU Panel of the Wise.

##### PSC

- Utilize APRM findings to guide preventive diplomacy, mediation, and conflict prevention efforts.
- Integrate governance indicators into peace and security



Members of the AU Peace and Security Council, led by H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene Kassa, and members of the APRM during their 5<sup>th</sup> annual retreat held in Burayu, Ethiopia. Photo: PSC Secretariat.

decision-making and early response mechanisms.

- Promote implementation of APRM recommendations through policy decisions and follow-up actions.
- Lead continental efforts to bridge the gap between early warning and early action.
- Strengthen institutional cooperation with APRM to address governance-related drivers of conflict and instability.

#### V. 17<sup>TH</sup> HIGH LEVEL RETREAT, LIBREVILLE, GABON, 20 - 22 MAY

The 17<sup>th</sup> High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace and Stability in Africa, held in Libreville, Gabon, on 21–22 May 2026, brought together current and former African leaders, AU officials, mediators, regional organizations, and partners to examine the theme “Powering Ceasefire, National Dialogue and Reconciliation for Durable Peace.” Through high-level plenaries, fireside discussions, and regional sessions focusing on the Great Lakes, Sahel, and Horn of Africa, participants assessed the effectiveness of ceasefire agreements, the role of inclusive national dialogue, and pathways to sustainable reconciliation. The Retreat emphasized African-led solutions, stronger mediation efforts, youth and women’s participation, and enhanced coordination among the AU, RECs/RMs, and international partners.

In his statement as Chairperson of the PSC for May 2026, H.E. Ambassador Nasir Aminu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the AU, underscored the growing complexity of conflicts

in Africa and called for a shift from viewing ceasefires as end goals to treating them as entry points for durable peace. He highlighted three priorities: strengthening the implementation and monitoring of ceasefire agreements; ensuring national dialogues are genuinely inclusive, particularly through the meaningful participation of women and youth; and positioning reconciliation, truth-telling, accountability, and community healing at the centre of peacebuilding efforts. He stressed the need for honest reflection on past shortcomings and urged the development of practical, actionable recommendations to strengthen mediation, dialogue, and conflict resolution across the continent.

#### VI. JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE PSC AND ECOWAS MSC

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the PSC and the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council (MSC) was held on 30 June 2026 in Abuja, Nigeria, under the theme: “Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Resource Mobilization to Address Evolving Peace and Security Threats in Africa.” The meeting brought together members of both Councils, senior officials and technical staff to review the peace and security situation in West Africa and assess progress made in implementing decisions adopted during the 2025 Joint Consultative Meeting. Discussions focused on the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government, terrorism, violent extremism, political transitions, democratic governance and emerging security challenges affecting the region.



Members of the AU Peace and Security Council, led by H.E. Amb. Nasir Aminu, PR of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the AU and Stand-in-Chair of the PSC for May 2026, together with members of the ECOWAS-MSC during their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual retreat held in Abuja, Nigeria. Photo: PSC Secretariat.

The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of the AU and ECOWAS to strengthen collaboration within the frameworks of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA). Particular emphasis was placed on the operationalization of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 and the mobilization of sustainable resources for African-led peace support operations. Participants also explored

strategies to enhance coordination, policy coherence and joint responses to peace and security challenges in West Africa. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a Joint Communiqué outlining agreed actions, reinforcing shared responsibility and establishing mechanisms to strengthen cooperation between the PSC and ECOWAS MSC.

## MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

The AU Commission organized an Induction Programme for Members of the Military Staff Committee (MSC) of the PSC from 29–30 June 2026 in Abuja, Nigeria, to strengthen the Committee's institutional capacity and enhance its effectiveness in supporting the PSC. The programme familiarized members, particularly newly appointed Defence Advisors and Attachés, with the MSC's mandate, working methods, rules of procedure, and role within the APSA. On behalf of the Chief of Defence Staff of Nigeria, Air Vice Marshal Idi Sani, Director of Search and Rescue at Defence

Headquarters, welcomed delegates and thanked the AU Commission for selecting Nigeria to host the programme. The MSC was chaired by Brigadier General Abubakar Conteh of Sierra Leone.

The programme featured presentations, simulation exercises, and experience-sharing on peace support operations, PSC working methods, collaboration with the UN Security Council Military Staff Committee, and the PSC Digital Repository. It concluded with recommendations to strengthen the MSC's effectiveness, adoption of key elements of the summary report, and brainstorming on the Committee's programme of activities for the remainder of 2026.



*Members of the Military Staff Committee of the AU Peace and Security Council, led by Brigadier General Abubakar Conteh, Chairperson of the Military Staff Committee for June 2026, 29-30 June 2026 in Abuja, Nigeria. Photo: PSC Secretariat.*



*Mr. Daniel Tenkir, Expert of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the CoE of the PSC for April 2026. Photo: PSC Secretariat.*

## COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

The Committee of Experts (CoE) convened two meetings during the second quarter and deliberate on various matters on the PSC agenda including:

87<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 14 April 2026 on the preparation for the PSC Ministerial Session on Artificial Intelligence: Governance, Peace and Security in Africa.

88<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21 April 2026 on the preparation for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Retreat PSC/APRM.

## SUB-COMMITTEE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM



*Mr. Victor Makwe, Expert of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the CoE of the PSC for May 2026. Photo: PSC Secretariat.*

The PSC Sub-Committee on Counter-Terrorism, held its inaugural meeting on 13 May 2026 in Addis Ababa, focusing on advancing Africa's collective response to terrorism through consideration of the Draft 5-Year AU Continental Counter-Terrorism Strategic Plan of Action. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Makwe Samuel Victor of Nigeria. Mr. Idriss Mounir Lallali, Acting Director of the AU Counter Terrorism Centre (AUCTC) briefed the Experts, followed by deliberations by members on strengthening continental counter-terrorism efforts.

From 24–27 May 2026, the AU Commission organized an Induction and Orientation Programme for the Committee of Experts in Abuja, Nigeria. The programme enhanced participants' understanding of the PSC's mandate, working methods and drafting skills, while also introducing the PAPS Digital Repository as a tool for institutional memory. The programme concluded with an engagement with the Nigerian National Counter-Terrorism Centre, aimed at strengthening cooperation and sharing best practices in counter-terrorism.



*Members of the CoE undertaking their induction programme, 24 - 26 May 2026, in Abuja, Nigeria. Photo: PSC Secretariat.*



African Union Commission  
 Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security  
 P. O. Box 3243, Roosevelt Street  
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.  
 Tel: +251 115 513 822, Fax: +251 115 519 321  
<https://papsrepository.africanunion.org>  
 Twitter: @AUC\_PAPS #PSC

**SILENCING  
THE GUNS.**

Towards a Peaceful and  
Secure Africa

A Flagship Project of  
**Agenda  
2063** The Africa  
 we Want

© African Union Commission, June 2026. All rights reserved