

Ninth Annual Consultative Meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

on

“Advancing synergies and regional approaches in support of nationally owned peacebuilding priorities in Africa”

21 October 2026, 2pm-5pm, ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Concept Note

I. Background

The African Union Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC) and the United Nations (UN) Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) share the goal of advancing peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Africa. Through the AU-UN partnership, they support nationally owned prevention, post-conflict recovery, and sustaining peace. Annual consultations have strengthened cooperation, mutual understanding, and African ownership and leadership.

The AU has strengthened its peacebuilding framework through the revised AU Policy on PCRD, the AU Master Roadmap to Silence the Guns, the Continental Structural Conflict Prevention Framework, and related governance, mediation, institution-building, and resilience initiatives.

Recognizing the central role of Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) within the African Peace and Security Architecture, the AU has continued to strengthen collaboration with regional actors in advancing peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including by supporting Member States' efforts to develop and implement, upon their request, voluntary nationally owned prevention strategies. Given their proximity to emerging risks and national contexts, RECs/RMs are often well positioned to support Member States, upon their request, in the development and implementation of voluntary national prevention strategies, facilitate regional cooperation on shared risks, and promote the exchange of experiences and good practices. Strengthening the linkages between continental, regional, sub-regional, and national prevention efforts remain essential to building sustainable peace across the continent.

In recent years, the AU-PSC has also highlighted the importance of strengthening peacebuilding efforts, addressing financing gaps for peacebuilding, supporting countries undergoing political and security transitions, and advancing the implementation of the revised AU's PCRD agenda. These priorities align closely with the PBC's growing emphasis on sustaining peace, transitions, and financing for peacebuilding, creating opportunities for deeper collaboration between the two bodies. The resolutions adopted as part of the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review, recognized the important role of regional organizations in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and encouraged closer engagement between the Commission and regional organizations, including the African Union, in support of nationally owned peacebuilding priorities.

Against this backdrop, the annual joint consultative meeting would provide an opportunity for members of the AU-PSC and the PBC to exchange views on how to strengthen African-led peacebuilding efforts,

including through greater support for regional prevention strategies and the role of RECs/RMs in assisting Member States to develop and implement voluntary national prevention frameworks.

The meeting will also seek to identify possible areas of cooperation for the period ahead, practical ways to enhance cooperation on peacebuilding, prevention, transitions, financing, and PCRD, and to advance the follow-up, within existing resources, to relevant recommendations emanating from the annual joint consultative meetings of the two bodies.

II. Objective

The meeting aims to advance AU-PSC–PBC cooperation on African-led peacebuilding and discuss how RECs/RMs with statutory mandates in the areas of peace and security can help Member States develop voluntary national prevention strategies and strengthen resilience to conflict risks.

It will promote African ownership and leadership while examining how both bodies can better support nationally owned peacebuilding and prevent relapse into conflict.

Discussions will consider how the PBC’s advisory, convening, advocacy, and resource-mobilization roles can support AU priorities and strengthen partnerships, including on transitions, peacebuilding finance, the PCRD agenda, and regional tools.

The meeting will also consider sustained engagement beyond annual consultations through better information-sharing, joint initiatives such as a possible joint field visit, and stronger follow-up on agreed actions.

III. Guiding Questions

- How can the AU, RECs/RMs, and Member States strengthen peacebuilding cooperation and support voluntary nationally owned prevention strategies?
- What lessons from African-led peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery can guide future AU-PSC–PBC cooperation?
- How can AU-PSC–PBC cooperation better support the AU’s PCRD agenda and sub-regional peacebuilding frameworks?
- What practical measures can be taken to deepen engagement between the AU-PSC and the PBC beyond annual consultations, including through regular information-sharing, joint visits, strengthened follow-up of agreed actions, and other forms of sustained cooperation? What have been the impediments to deeper engagement and cooperation and how can these be overcome?

IV. Timeline, Venue, and Format

It is proposed that the meeting be held on 21 October 2026, at the UN Headquarters, in New York, ahead of the AU-PSC's annual consultative engagements with the Security Council.

The meeting will be convened in-person, and will be conducted in the plenary format, with remarks being presented by the Chair of the AU-PSC, the Chair of the PBC, senior UN representative, and lead discussants from the AUPSC and PBC, followed by an interactive discussion.

V. Participants

The participants of the meeting will be limited to members of AU-PSC and PBC, supported by the UN Secretariat and AU Commission. Representatives of relevant UN and AU entities and of RECs/RMs with statutory mandates in the areas of peace and security may be invited to attend on the basis of a list agreed in advance between the two Chairs.

VI. Expected Outcome

The meeting is expected to strengthen AU-PSC–PBC cooperation on African-led peacebuilding, the AU’s PCRD agenda, and regional, sub-regional and voluntary national prevention strategies.

Participants are expected to identify practical collaboration, including a possible joint AU-PSC/PBC field visit to advance shared peacebuilding goals.

The meeting is also expected to deepen engagement beyond annual consultations through better information-sharing and structured follow-up on agreed priorities and actions.

The meeting is expected to produce a joint AU-PSC–PBC communiqué.