



**7TH ANNUAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF
THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL AND
THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION
Tuesday, 15 OCTOBER 2024, 3:00 P.M., NEW YORK**

CONCEPT NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Peace and Security Council of the AU (AU PSC) and the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) have held six annual consultative meetings since 2018, with the most recent meeting held on 13 November 2023 in Addis Ababa at the AU Commission. The Joint Statement issued subsequent to the 6th meeting of November 2023, stressed, inter alia, the need to enhance cooperation to advance AU peacebuilding efforts, including the implementation of the AU Policy on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUPRCD); comprehensive and coordinated approaches to peacebuilding activities in Africa; strengthening the partnership through strategic and concrete steps, including the lead up to the adoption of the revised AUPRCD policy, the UN Summit of the Future, and the review of the UN peacebuilding architecture in 2025.

2. Both the AU and the UN recognize the importance of tackling the root causes of conflict, and sustaining peace and recognize that investing in prevention saves lives and is also cost-effective, and that, therefore, peacekeeping must consider peacebuilding in all its ramifications right from the start of mission mandate. In that regard, the collaboration between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (UN PBC) continue to strengthen in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa. The UN PBC and the AU PSC strive to strengthen their efforts in coordinating engagement across a range of possible responses to conflict, including through exchanging views between the AUPSC and the UN PBC. The collaboration is essentially guided by the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security (2017) and the AU-UN Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2018).

3. Significantly, at the last PBC-AU PSC meeting on 13 November 2023, the two bodies agreed to institutionalize the meetings and further strengthen their cooperation in peacebuilding efforts. As a result of that decision, this year on 3 May, the PBC took an important step by agreeing to a standing invitation for the AU to participate in all its meetings. This is very much in line with the UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on A New Agenda for Peace, which calls for strengthened partnerships with regional organizations. The formalizing of the AU's participation as a standing invitee in all the meetings of the UN PBC and deliberations enable a holistic engagement, coordination and inclusiveness and highlights the crucial role played by the AU in support of regional efforts for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The PBC-AUPSC collaboration can further be enhanced by the ongoing informal (regional) consultations to review the progress on the implementation of the review of the peacebuilding architecture, which provides opportunities to reflect the African common position and perspectives.

4. Recent developments at the UN, including the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 78/257 and Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023) further offers opportunities for enhanced

collaboration between the PBC and the PSC. The PBC will further benefit from the participation of the AU in ensuring a multi-dimensional, integrated and comprehensive approach to addressing peace and security issues, particularly on the African continent. Similarly the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy based on the guidance by AU PSC Communiqués [PSC/PR/COMM.(CMLVIII)] adopted during the 958th meeting of the PSC held on 23 October 2020 and [PSC/PR/COMM.1047] adopted during the 1047th meeting held on 12 October 2021, respectively, and the AU Assembly Decision AU/Dec. 815(XXXV) adopted by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Union held on 5 – 6 February 2022, which widened the scope of AU PCRD activities to incorporate peacebuilding and cover the entire conflict cycle¹ indeed further opens up opportunities for fostering of stronger collaboration between the PBC and the PSC. The revised policy strives to enhance operational alignment among relevant AU policy frameworks and regional efforts, as well as the evolving international discourse on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including the operationalization of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Nexus and in tandem with the UN efforts on A New Agenda for Peace

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

5. The purpose of the meeting is to review the status of the implementation of identified activities as per the joint statement of the 6th annual meeting, to ensure that plans are being implemented, as well as examine opportunities to further enhance synergies and cooperation between the AU PSC and the UN PBC in accompanying AU member states in their peacebuilding efforts. The 7th annual meeting of 15 October while recognizing challenges, will also look at achievements and opportunities for improved peace building and sustenance of peace in Africa.

III. MODALITY OF THE MEETING

6. The meeting will be in person format, with the members of the AU PSC and the PBC meeting at the Economic and Social Council Chamber in New York, at the UN Secretariat.

IV. DRAFT AGENDA OF THE MEETING

Welcome Remarks: UN PBC Chair, AUPSC Chair

Agenda Item 1: Status of the implementation of the 6th Annual Joint Statement of the PSC/PBC meeting of November 2023;

The meeting will examine a matrix of implementation to validate the implementation of tasks and activities emanating from the 6th Annual meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Achievements and Challenges of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa;

It is important to acknowledge, over the past years, the several achievements in peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa, notwithstanding the remaining challenges.

Agenda Item 3: Transitions from missions to peacebuilding in Africa:

Several peacekeeping missions in Africa have recently closed and a few others have announced potential drawdown and closure dates. There is a need for a systematic

¹ <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20230601/outcomes-cairo-workshop-review-african-union-post-conflictand-reconstruction>

international and regional approach to a seamless transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding, whether as part of an exit strategy or already in built in mission mandate.

Statements will be made by:

H.E. Ambassador Sérgio França Danese, Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission.

H.E. Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for October 2024, and

- AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security;
- Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of UNOAU; and
- Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support.

Interventions from the floor

Closing remarks:

- Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission; and
- Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for October 2024.

V. OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

12. The meeting will further chart a course and outline activities to be implemented by both the AU PSC and the UN PBC before the next annual meeting, as well as provide concrete measures and steps to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace and improved modalities for transitioning from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

The outcome of the meeting will be documented and captured in a joint statement to be issued at the end of the 7th annual meeting

