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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1098TH MEETING

11 AUGUST 2022
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/CN.1098 (2022)

CONCEPT NOTE

**EXPERIENCE SHARING SESSION BETWEEN THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC) AND
THE AFRICAN GOVERNANCE PLATFORM**



EXPERIENCE SHARING SESSION BETWEEN THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC) AND THE AFRICAN GOVERNANCE PLATFORM

1. The 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union AU Heads of State and Government dedicated the theme of the 16th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly on the African Shared Values and provided a mandate for putting in place a *Pan African Architecture on Governance* which gave way to the establishment of the African Governance Architecture (AGA).
2. In an effort to operationalize African Governance Architecture (AGA), the Assembly of Heads of State and Government Declaration affirmed the importance of establishing an African Governance Platform (AGP) in [[Assembly/AU/Decl.1 \(XVI\)](#)], as a basis for facilitating the harmonization of instruments and coordination of initiatives in governance and democracy.
3. Consequently, the African Governance Platform was established as the institutional mechanism of the AGA, composed of AU Organs, Institutions and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with a formal mandate to promote and sustain democracy, governance and human rights in Africa. The Platform serves as a first concentric circle that draws inspiration and inputs from representatives of AU Organs, Institutions and RECs and the second circle of continental stakeholders in the private sector, development partners, civil society and the diaspora.
4. The composition of the AGP is as follows:- the AU Peace and Security Council; The AU Commission represented by PAPS; The African Commission on Human and People's Rights; The African Court on Human and People's Rights; The Pan-Africa Parliament; The Africa Peer Review Mechanism; The Economic, Social and Cultural Council; The Advisory Board on Corruption; The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; The African Union Commission on International Law; and AUDA-NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency. The Regional Economic Communities (COMESA, ECCAS, ECOWAS, UMA, IGAD, EAC, CEN-SAD, and SADC).
5. The Platform is governed by Rules of Procedure which have been adopted by the Declaration [[Assembly/AU/Decl.1 \(XVI\)](#)] on the Summit: "*Towards Greater Unity and Integration through Shared Values*" at the 16th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2011.
6. The main objective of the AGP is to operationalize and coordinate joint programs and flagship initiatives of the African Governance Architecture (AGA). The African Governance Platform shall elect from among its members, a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and a Rapporteur who shall serve for a non-renewable term of two years. Statutory meetings of the AGP are held twice a year where meetings take place at the technical level involving representatives of the institutions and at the political level involving elected officials of the institutions.
7. The AGA Secretariat, now transitioned to the AGA-APSA Secretariat due to the AU Reforms is based within the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (PAPS) and is

mandated to among other things supposed to coordinate the day-to-day affairs of the African Governance Platform, additionally serves as the Secretariat for the PRC Sub Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance.

8. The PSC Protocol provides the scope for sustained collaboration between the PSC and the UN and its institutions. In 2018, the 1st AU-UN High-Level Dialogue on Human Rights was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with the following outcomes:

- a) The AU and the UN entities actively coordinate their human rights-related initiatives and engagements with the Department of Political Affairs Peace and Security (DPAPS) and OHCHR as Focal Points to avoid duplication and ensure effectiveness and complementarity;
- b) The existing collaboration between the AU and the UN on the promotion and protection of human rights should be strengthened in the context of early warning and conflict prevention;
- c) The OHCHR, UNOAU, and other UN entities and agencies to provide the necessary technical support to the DPAPS and engage with PSC on the integration of human rights in the early warning analysis and reporting within the framework of AGA and APSA. As a result, the African Vice-Chairpersons of the United Human Rights Council (UNHRC) have been invited to participate in the Session and highlight the collaborative synergies that can be built through AGA in the promotion of respect for human rights on the continent.

I. RATIONALE

9. Our continent is going through a challenging period with regressions in democracy governance creating ripple effects in the African Union Member States. This critical time calls for the utilization of all institutions and avenues to create synergies among our institutions and the Member States. Although the Peace and Security Council (PSC) is part of the AGP, there has never been any meeting between the PSC and AGP so far. As a mechanism created to contribute to enhancing good governance, democracy and human rights and ultimately effectively prevent conflicts - creating a working linkage between PSC and AGP is very vital.

10. This experience-sharing session although the first of its kind, will indeed not be the last as regular sessions have the potential for Members of the PSC and AGP to address trends, challenges, and prospects, identify the way forward to address the root causes of conflict, create synergies that have a multiplier effect; ideate solutions that can positively influence Africa's peace and security trajectory.

11. Therefore, it is under the leadership of the H.E. Amb. Jainaba Jagne, Permanent Representative of the Republic of The Gambia and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for the month of August this experience-sharing programme has been organized.

12. The program will provide an opportunity for the Chairperson of AGP to share experience and good lessons of the joint flagship activities of the Platform, in order to institutionalize this session between the PSC and the AGP regularly.

13. In this regard, the session between the PSC and the African Governance Platform with the participation of the two African Vice-Chairpersons of the UHRC shall take place virtually, on Thursday 11th August 2022.

II. OBJECTIVE

14. The session of the PSC and the AGP is aimed at sharing the experience of the African Governance Platform (AGP) its history, mandate, achievements and challenges so far in enhancing coordination and synergy on issues of Democratic governance, human rights, peace and Security. The briefing will also engage the African Vice-Chairpersons of the UNHRC to have an appreciation of the AGA-APSA and where possible to facilitate synergy in the promotion of respect for human rights.

III. SPECIFIC GOALS

15. The specific goals include:

- a) Understanding the AGA and its AGP and brief the PSC on the ongoing AGA Flagship activities that jointly implemented by all members;
- b) To share experiences of AGP beyond flagship initiatives that will directly focus on engaging the PSC - in an effort to facilitate coordination synergies by ensuring the platform engages the PSC collectively; and
- c) Institutionalization of the experience sharing of the PSC and the AGP on annual basis.

IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

16. The Expected Outcomes include:

- a) Deeper understanding, by the PSC, of the role of AGA and its AGP and the joint Flagship initiatives to have an appreciation of the AGA and APSA;
- b) Creation and enhancement of synergies and coordination between the PSC and the AGP; and
- c) Institutionalization of this annual engagement and experience sharing of the PSC and the AGP.

V. MANAGEMENT

17. The engagement between the PSC and the AGA Platform Members and the

participation of the African Vice-chairpersons of the UNHRC will be jointly facilitated by the PSC Secretariat and the AGA-APSA Secretariat.

VI. DATES AND VENUE

18. The Engagement is scheduled to take place virtually on 11 August 2022 at 10h00.

VII. WORKING LANGUAGES

19. The Workshop will be conducted in **English, French** with simultaneous interpretation availed for the period of the engagement.

VIII. PARTICIPANTS

- a) PSC Members;
- b) H.E Amb Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department;
- c) Hon. Rémy Ngoy Lumbu, Commissioner for ACHPR and the Chairperson of the AGA Platform;
- d) AGA Platform Members;
- e) Two African Vice Chairpersons of the United Nations Human Rights Council;
- f) PSC Secretariat Staff; and
- g) AGA-APSA Secretariat Staff.

IX. CONTACT DETAILS OF THE COORDINATING TEAM

For further inquiries, please contact:

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Communiqué of the 1098th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council, Held on 11 August 2022 on Experience Sharing Between the PSC and African Governance Architecture (AGA) Platform Members.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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