

# PSC ACTIVITIES

## MONTHLY BRIEF



**JUNE 2023**

**PSC SECRETARIAT**  
PSC-Secretariat@africa-union.org

## SUMMARY

The Republic of Zimbabwe concluded its chairship of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) for June 2023. The meetings held over the period were chaired by H.E. Ambassador Sophia Nyamudeza, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the AU. The PSC engaged in six activities during the month, including a technical field mission to Somalia by the Military Staff Committee (MSC). Finally, Council considered and adopted the provisional programme of work for July 2023.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, the following meetings also took place during the month:

- (i) Update Briefing on the situation in the Central Africa Republic;
- (ii) Update Briefing on the situation in the Horn of Africa;
- (iii) Briefing on the Status of Implementation of the Common African Defence and Security Policy and other relevant instruments on defence and security on the Continent, with special focus on: Update on the Operationalization of the African Standby Force; and
- (iv) Annual Consultative Meeting between the PSC and the Pan-African Parliament.

## TECHNICAL FIELD MISSION TO SOMALIA



The Military Staff Committee (MSC) of the Peace and Security Council undertook a technical field mission to Somalia from 9 to 11 June. This mission was led by Brigadier General Ernest Shamu. The technical field mission aimed at obtaining first-hand information regarding the military and security realities on the ground in Somalia, in order to advise the PSC to take evidence-based decisions within the context of the drawdown of the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) troops, which is in compliance with UNSC Resolution 2670 (2022). It was on the basis of this resolution and Communiqué [[PSC/PR/COMM. 1121 \(2022\)](#)] on the revised timelines relating to the extension of the drawdown of 2,000 ATMIS troops beyond 31 December 2022, adopted by the PSC on 11 November 2022, that the UN Security Council extended Phase 1 of the ATMIS mandate until 30 June 2023.

The MSC held consultations with ATMIS under the leadership of the SRCC for Somalia. Additionally, the MSC was given an update on the challenges facing the drawdown process. Among the delegation the MSC engaged with were representatives of the Federal Government of Somalia, including the Minister of Defence, and representatives from the United Nations, led by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of UN Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), H.E. Catriona Laing. He was accompanied by the Head of the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), H.E. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira.

The outcome report of the technical field mission to Somalia is entitled: ***Report of the Technical Field Mission of the Military Staff***

**Committee of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to Somalia conducted from 9 to 11 June 2023.**

UPDATE BRIEFING ON THE SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

On 13 June 2023, the PSC held its 1157<sup>th</sup> meeting at ambassadorial level. The meeting focused on the update on the political situation in the Central African Republic.

**Key takeaways:**

- Council requested the Chairperson of the Commission to engage with H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa, to use his good offices and redouble his peace efforts by engaging with the Government and people of the CAR ahead of the Constitutional Referendum in order to promote national unity, social cohesion and stability in the country;
- The Government and all political and social stakeholders of the CAR are expected to take all necessary measures to ensure that the local elections are held on the scheduled agreed dates in 2023 in a transparent, credible and fair manner, as well as to ensure the participation of all segments of society;
- The AU Commission should provide technical support, including through deploying technical experts on elections, constitutionalism and governance, ahead of the forthcoming elections in July;
- The AU's Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) mechanism, working in close collaboration with the Government of the CAR, the UN and relevant partners, should identify the long-term peacebuilding and development needs and priorities in order to effectively initiate and promote stabilization, development and post-conflict reconstruction projects aimed at

addressing the root causes of conflict so as to consolidating the gains made through the implementation of the PAPR-CAR to avoid relapses;

- Council emphasized its request for the complete lifting of the arms embargo imposed on the CAR in order to enable the Central African Armed Forces (Forces armées centrafricaines - FACA) to effectively carry out their constitutional mandate of defending and protecting the country and its citizens; and
- The Chairperson of the AU Commission is expected to take all necessary measures, within available resources, to expedite the appointment of a new SRCC for the CAR and to ensure that the AU Liaison Office in Bangui is provided with all the necessary capacity and resources to enable it to function effectively.

*PAPR-CAR remains the viable and recognized framework for addressing the crisis in the country. The ongoing efforts should be strengthened to synergize the PAPR-CAR with the Luanda Joint Roadmap*

The meeting adopted Communiqué [[PSC/PR/COMM.1157 \(2023\)](#)].



**Ambassador Matias Bertino Matondo, former Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission (SRCC) for the CAR**



## CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE PSC FOR JULY 2023

Council considered and adopted its [Provisional Programme of Work for July 2023](#). The Programme provides an overview of activities for the month. These include scheduled meetings and field missions, among others.

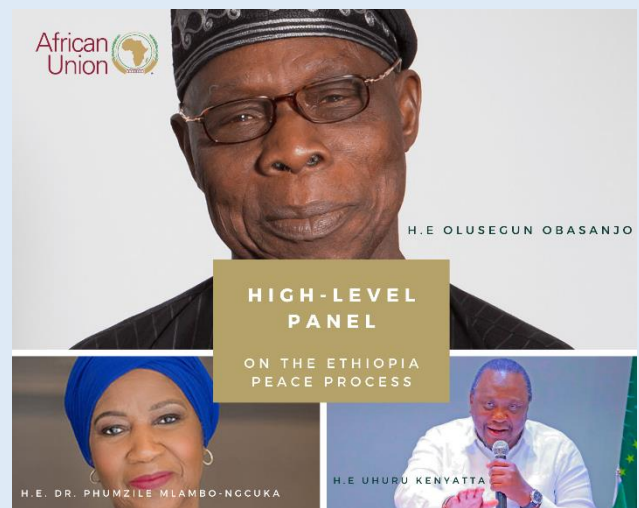
## UPDATE BRIEFING ON THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

The PSC held its 1158<sup>th</sup> meeting on 15 June 2023. The meeting held at ambassadorial level reaffirmed Council's commitment to respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Sudan. Furthermore, it reemphasized its determination to completely silence the guns in Africa by the year 2030 and to create conducive conditions for the realization of the aspirations of AU Agenda 2063 and the AU vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.

### Key takeaways:

#### Northern Ethiopia:

- Council endorsed the extension of the deployment of the Mechanism until 31 December 2023, in order to facilitate the consolidation of the gains made thus far and to sustain the current momentum of the implementation of the COHA;
- The AU Commission is expected to undertake a needs assessment for the extension of the deployment of the MVCM and to pay particular attention to the timelines and funding requirements in order to avoid its premature withdrawal;



*Council applauded the tireless efforts of the High-Level Panel, led and facilitated by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa. Other members of the Panel were H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of the Republic of Kenya, and H.E. Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and Member of the AU Panel of the Wise.*

#### Somalia:

- Council encouraged the Federal Government of Somalia to expedite the force generation programme to ensure the preservation of the gains made thus far and the maintenance of the momentum of the fight against Al-Shabaab, vis-à-vis the ongoing process of the drawdown of 2,000 ATMIS troops by end of June 2023;
- Council expressed its condolences to the immediate families of the deceased and, in particular, to the Government of the Republic of Uganda for the tragic loss of its peacekeepers. It also wished a speedy recovery to all those who sustained injuries from the attacks.

#### South Sudan:

- The Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) is expected

to expedite the implementation of all outstanding transitional tasks within the remaining time, including the graduation and deployment of Necessary Unified Forces; completion of the permanent constitution-making process; enactment of the National Electoral Commission Act and the reconstitution of the National Electoral Commission and Political Parties Council.

#### Sudan:

- Council supports the efforts being deployed by IGAD in addressing the conflict in Sudan and, in this respect, welcomes and endorses the Final Communiqué of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government held on 12 June 2023 in Djibouti, the Republic of Djibouti. One of the outcomes of particular interest to Council was the adoption of a Roadmap for the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of Sudan;
- Council called for the commencement of a broader political process that would elicit common agreement among all key stakeholders addressing the challenges facing the country and underscored the centrality of an inclusive dialogue towards reaching a sustainable solution to the challenges facing the country; and
- Member States in a position to receive and host refugees fleeing from Sudan are urged to do so, while international partners are also called upon to offer the necessary support.

Communiqué [[PSC/PR/COMM.1158 \(2023\)](#)] was issued after the meeting.

#### BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON AFRICAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY POLICY AND OTHER RELEVANT INSTRUMENTS ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY ON THE CONTINENT

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Council held its 1159<sup>th</sup> meeting on 22 June 2023. The meeting held at ministerial level was chaired by Honourable Fredrick Shava, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe. The specific focus of the meeting was on the update on the Operationalization of the Africa Standby Force, which included the key achievements made to date and a recognition of the challenges being faced in the implementation of the policy.

#### Key takeaways:

- The Commission is expected to expedite the strategic review of the ASF, taking note of the Conclusions of the Inaugural Lessons Learned Forum adopted by the PSC at its 1129<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 20 December 2022, as well as to ensure the alignment of the ASF Concept to enable its effective utilization;
- Member States should intensify their efforts in addressing the issue of predictable, adequate and sustainable funding for the peace and security activities and priorities of the AU, including through a commitment to ensure that annual contributions to the AU Peace Fund are made according to the approved scales of assessment, as well as through ongoing engagements to determine the modalities for the use of UN-assessed contributions to support Africa-led peace and security priorities authorized by the UNSC on a case-by-case basis.

Communiqué [[PSC/MIN/COMM.1159 \(2023\)](#)] was the outcome document.

## CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE PSC AND PAP

Council held its last meeting of the month on 27 June 2023. This was the 1160<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council. The first agenda item was the Annual Consultative Meeting between the PSC and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP). Held at ambassadorial level, the meeting focused on the relations between the PSC and PAP with regard to peace and security issues.

### Key takeaways:

- Cooperation with PAP should be enhanced in the area of conflict prevention, with particular regard to efforts to be made with a view to preventing post-election violence;
- The AU Commission should continue to work closely with PAP towards the implementation of the provisions of Article 18, sub-sections 1, 2 and 3 of the PSC Protocol, regarding the relationship between the PSC and PAP; and PAP should ensure that its reports on its responsibilities relating to the promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent are regularly submitted to the PSC.

## PSC EFFORTS IN ENGAGING PAP

*The Pan-African Parliament has established a permanent Committee on Co-operation, International Relations and Conflict Resolution (CCIRCR) as an instrument to enable the Parliament deal with matters of peace and security. Since its establishment, PAP has been undertaking efforts in a range of governance and conflict situations on the African continent in close coordination with the AU Commission, through the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (D-PAPS)*

Communiqué [[PSC/PR/COMM.1160 \(2023\)](#)] was issued after the meeting.

## BRIEFING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE QUADRIPARTITE SUMMIT ON THE COORDINATION AND HARMONIZATION OF PEACE INITIATIVES IN EASTERN DRC

The second agenda item of the 1160<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PSC held on 30 June 2023 was the outcomes of the Quadripartite Summit on the coordination and harmonization of peace initiatives in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, comprising the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as well as the concerned countries, namely the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Rwanda. The summit was held on Tuesday, 27 June 2023 in Luanda, the Republic of Angola under the Auspices of the African Union.

### Key takeaways:

- The Quadripartite Summit adopted the “Joint Framework on the Coordination and Harmonization of Peace Initiatives in eastern DRC by the EAC, ECCAS, ICGLR, SADC, and the UN under the auspices of the AU”. This Framework seeks to promote the coherence of the existing peace initiatives of the Quadripartite, in line with the relevant instruments and decisions and with a clear division of responsibilities and agreed timelines;
- A “Multilevel Coordination Working Group” should be established and made up of the representatives of the DRC and Rwanda, the AU, the Chairs of the EAC, ICGLR, SADC and ECCAS, as well as the UN. The focus should be on the political, diplomatic, military, humanitarian and socio-economic dimensions in order to facilitate the continued exchange of information to foster coherence. The Working Group should be coordinated under the auspices of the AU;
- The AU Commission should convene a meeting of the Defence Chiefs of the

members of the Quadripartite to coordinate existing and planned deployments in eastern DRC, in agreement with the Government of the DRC;

- The Quadripartite Summit directed the AU Commission, in coordination with members of the Quadripartite, to mobilize resources for the efficient and effective implementation of the Joint Framework on Coordination and Harmonization as adopted by the Quadripartite Platform; and
- It was decided that the Quadripartite Summit should be institutionalized as a platform for coordination, harmonization and high-level consultations on the situation in eastern DRC.

Communiqué [[Quadripartite Summit/1/2023](#)] was the outcome document.

#### ACTIVITIES ENVISAGED FOR JULY 2023



The month of July will be chaired by the Republic of Senegal. Over the period, the PSC expects to engage in seven activities, including the 43<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 5<sup>th</sup> Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU and the RECs/RMs. The PSC will also consider and adopt the draft provisional programme of work for August 2023.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE AU COMMISSIONER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PEACE AND SECURITY (PAPS)



**Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS)**

On behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission, H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye congratulated the outgoing Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Sophia Nyamudeza, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the AU, for her commendable chairship of the Council for the month of June 2023. The Commissioner also congratulated H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Lamine Thiaw, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Senegal to the AU, on his assumption of the chairship of the Council for the month of July 2023. The Commissioner assured the Republic of Senegal of the Commission's readiness to provide all the required support throughout the month and beyond.

## Key Speakers/Invited Guests – June 2023

S/N	Meeting/Activity	Key Speakers	Outcome
1.	1157 <sup>th</sup> PSC meeting, 13 June 2023  Situation in the Central African Republic	<p>H.E. Ambassador Sophia Nyamudeza, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of June 2023</p> <p>H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security</p> <p>H.E. Domitien Ndayizeye, Chairperson of the Panel of the Wise and former President of the Republic of Burundi</p> <p>H.E. Sylvie Baïpo Temon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Central Africans Abroad of the CAR</p> <p>H.E. Gilberto Da Piedade Verissimo, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)</p> <p>H.E. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the AU and Head of the United Nations Office to the AU</p> <p>H.E. Ambassador Birgitte Markussen, Head of the European Union Delegation to the AU</p>	Communiqué - <a href="#">[PSC/PR/COMM.11 57 (2023)]</a>
2.	1158 <sup>th</sup> PSC meeting, 15 June 2023  Update Briefing on the Situation in the Horn of Africa	<p>H.E. Ambassador Sophia Nyamudeza, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of June 2023</p> <p>H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security</p> <p>H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa</p>	Communiqué - <a href="#">[PSC/PR/COMM.11 58 (2023)]</a>



		<p>H.E. Ambassador Ayele Lire, Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the AU</p> <p>Representative of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)</p> <p>Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to the AU</p>	
3.	Consideration and adoption of the Monthly Provisional Programme of Work for July 2023	H.E. Ambassador Sophia Nyamudeza, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of June 2023	Adoption of the <a href="#">Provisional Programme of Work for July 2023</a>
4.	<p>1159<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting, 22 June 2023</p> <p>Status of Implementation of the Common African Defence and Security Policy and other Relevant Defence and Security Instruments on the Continent</p>	<p>Hon. Frederick Shava, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of June 2023</p> <p>H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security</p> <p>Representatives of COMESA, EAC, EASFCOM, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and NARC</p>	Communiqué- <a href="#">[PSC/MIN/COMM.1 159 (2023)]</a>
5.	<p>1160<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting, 30 June 2023</p> <p>(i) Consultative Meeting Between the PSC and PAP</p>	<p>H.E. Ambassador Sophia Nyamudeza, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of June 2023</p> <p>H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security</p> <p>Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira, President of the Pan-African Parliament</p>	Communiqué- <a href="#">[PSC/PR/COMM.11 60 (2023)]</a>
	(ii) Briefing on the Outcome of the Quadripartite	H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, AU	Communiqué- <a href="#">[Quadripartite Summit/1/2023]</a>

	<p>Summit on the Coordination and Harmonization of Peace Initiatives in Eastern DRC</p>	<p>Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa and Chairperson of the ICGLR</p> <p>H.E. Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo</p> <p>H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, Chairperson of the EAC and the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region, and AU Champion for Youth, Peace and Security in Africa</p> <p>H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Republic of Gabon and Chairperson of ECCAS</p> <p>H.E. Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of the AU Peace and Security Council for the month of June 2023</p> <p>H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice- President of the Republic of Namibia, representing the President of the Republic of Namibia and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs</p> <p>Hon. Vincent Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, representing H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda</p> <p>H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of the Republic of Kenya and Facilitator of the EAC-led Nairobi Process</p> <p>Ambassador Dr. Peter Mutuku Mathuki, Secretary General of the EAC</p> <p>Ambassador Gilberto da Piedade Verissimo, Chairperson of the ECCAS Commission</p>	
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		<p>Ambassador Joao Samuel Caholo, Executive Secretary of the ICGLR</p> <p>Ambassador Elias Magosi, Executive Secretary of SADC</p> <p>Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the AU and Head of the United Nations Office to the AU, representing the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres</p>	
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# Monthly Brief for the Activities of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) - June 2023.

**PSC Secretariat**

African Union Commission

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