

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UMOJA WA AFRICA



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

UNIÓN AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321

Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

HIGH-LEVEL COLLOQUIUM IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUPSC

25 MAY 2024

DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

DAR ES SALAAM DECLARATION

ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (AUPSC)

DAR ES SALAAM DECLARATION ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUPSC

We, the Members of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU),

On 24 May 2024, on the eve of the 20th Anniversary, the PSC in cooperation with the University of Dar es Salaam, hosted a Public Lecture on PSC@20 on the theme: “The Peace and Security we Want,” at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Public Lecture provided an opportunity for the PSC to engage with the public that included the Youth, Think Tanks, Researchers, Civil Society Organizations and Members of the private sector on the state of peace and security on the Continent and the preeminent role of the PSC in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts in Africa.

At our High-Level Colloquium, held on 25 May 2024, in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in marking the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the PSC, having critically reviewed the work undertaken by the PSC during the past two decades, in the promotion of governance, peace and security in Africa, adopt the following Declaration:

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) and the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, which attach paramount importance to the necessity of peace, security and stability in Africa, as necessary pre-conditions for the acceleration of socio-economic development and integration of the Continent;

RECALLING the Statement of Commitment to Peace and Security in Africa, adopted in Addis Ababa by the Heads of State and Government of the Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, PSC/AHG/ST.(X), on 25 May 2004, during the launching of the PSC, reaffirming our commitment to realize the objectives enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the Union and the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, the noble goal of silencing the guns in Africa by 2030, and aspiration 4 of AU Agenda 2063;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the establishment of the PSC marked a historic commitment by Africa to bring to an end conflicts and promote peace, security and stability. Today, we celebrate the Twentieth Anniversary of the establishment of the PSC with the participation of PSC Member States, relevant AU Organs and entities, Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), as well as African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Think Tanks and Academic Institutions, Bilateral and Multilateral Partners;

STRESSING that this celebration provides an opportunity for the PSC to take stock of its achievements over the past two decades and the challenges that need to be urgently addressed, as well as its prospects in the next two decades to more effectively and efficiently discharge its mandate of promoting and maintaining governance, peace and security in Africa, in order to fulfil the noble goal of not bequeathing the burden of conflict to the next generation of Africans and undertake to end all wars in Africa;

MINDFUL of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, conferring on the United Nations Security Council the primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the provisions of the Charter on the role of regional arrangements in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the need to forge closer cooperation and partnership between the United Nations, other international organizations and the AU, in the promotion and maintenance of governance, peace and security in Africa;

GUIDED by the vision of our Union and **REAFFIRMING** our determination to create conducive conditions for “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena”;

COMMITTED to respecting the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act, Conventions and Protocols of the AU, namely respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of States;

TAKING NOTE of the keynote address by **H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the PSC for May 2024; statements delivered by Honourable Moulaye Mohamed Laghdaf, Minister Secretary General to the Presidency of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on behalf of **H.E. Mohamed Ould Ghazouani**, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Chairperson of the African Union; Honorable John Mulimba, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Uganda on behalf of **H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni**, President of the Republic of Uganda; and the strategic reflection statement by **H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat**, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission; **ALSO, TAKING NOTE** of the remarks by **H.E. January Makamba**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania;

ACKNOWLEDGING the significant milestones that the PSC has achieved since its operationalization in May 2004, in addressing peace and security challenges in the Continent, including the enhancement of engagements with all AU Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), other AU Organs, the Civil Society Organizations, and the International Entities such as the United Nations Security Council and the European Union Political and Security Committee, and the League of Arab States, in order to find durable solutions to the peace and security challenges in Africa; and the signing and ratification of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council by fifty-three (53) AU Member States;

We,

1. **APPLAUD** all Member States for their continued support to the PSC and **ENCOURAGE** them to continue facilitating the work of the PSC in line with Article 7 (2) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;
2. **COMMEND** the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) for their continued collaboration with the PSC, and **UNDERTAKE** to fully actualize the letter and spirit of Article 16 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding, and the 2021 Revised Protocol on Relations Between the AU and the RECs;
3. **UNDERTAKE** to further enhance collaboration with all other AU Organs and entities whose respective mandates relate to the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Continent, as well as the general well-being of the African people, including but not limited to the Pan African Parliament, the African Peer Review Mechanism; the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights, the African Court of Human and People’s Rights, the Panel of the Wise, the New Economic Partnership for Africa’s Development/AU Development Agency;
4. **COMMEND** the United Nations and the AU Partners, in particular the European Union (EU) for the growing partnership with the AU in the area of peace and security within the spirit of enhancing the AU peace and security agenda and forging strategic partnerships for the Continent; also **COMMEND** the civil society organizations, African private sectors and the media for the support provided to the Council.

5. **UNDERScore THE NEED** for AU Member States to continue to further strengthen governance institutions, accelerate socio-economic development programmes, comprehensively address the structural root causes and drivers of conflicts, including governance deficits, and to redouble investments in infrastructures for peace, as well as respond more positively to the legitimate grievances of the population in promoting the nexus between peace, security, stability and development;

6. In the spirit of the ongoing AU institutional reform, **UNDERScore** the need to pursue common strategies to enhance the implementation of the PSC mandate for effective and efficient conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa;

7. **UNDERTAKE** to ensure the expeditious implementation of Declaration [Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl(XVI)] on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa, adopted by the 16th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government on 28 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea;

8. **UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMN** all manifestations of terrorism and violent extremism on the Continent and Reaffirm the importance of adopting comprehensive national, regional, and continental strategies to tackle the escalating menace of terrorism and its underlying causes, as well as all the factors that contribute to its expansion and dissemination; and in this context, **EMPHASIZE** the need for countries affected by terrorism to mainstream political solutions to their ongoing security and military measures;

9. **URGE** Member States and RECs to commit to resolving conflicts in accordance with the provisions of the Constitutive Act of the AU and the PSC Protocol, to call on them to redouble joint efforts to combat terrorism, armed groups, illicit cross-border trafficking in drugs, effectively prevent and curb the flow of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons and the illegal exploitation of natural resources in order to promote the silencing the guns initiative as envisaged in Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 of the Africa we want;

10. **UNDERTAKE** to redouble efforts to defeat insecurity in Africa and, in this regard, **AGREE** to build strong and professional armies equipped with the correct ideology of non-sectarianism, Pan-Africanism, and nationalism in order to defeat terrorism;

11. **EXPRESS** deep concern over the alarming resurgence of military coup d'état, which undermines democracy, peace, security and stability on the Continent, and **REITERATE** its zero tolerance on unconstitutional changes of government in line with AU Constitutive Act and **COMMIT** to implement all AU normative frameworks on illegal takeover of government in the continent;

12. **AGREE** to redouble efforts to address the governance deficits and promote democracy and good governance and uphold constitutionalism and fully respect all AU shared values, as defined in the AU Constitutive Act and other AU relevant instruments;

13. **UNDERTAKE** to further enhance the Council's conflict prevention mandate, including by responding swiftly to early warning signs of looming conflicts and crises and by making full use of all available preventive diplomacy tools, including the Panel of the Wise, FEMWISE, PANWISE, and YouthWISE; and **UNDERScore** the need for the Commission to elaborate a clear and objective criterion on a trigger mechanism so as facilitate the role of the PSC in assessing the need for early action, and such an approach should be consistently applied in all circumstances;

14. **APPEAL** to all Member States to address the issue of denialism whenever early warning signs are provided to prevent full-blown conflicts; **CALL FOR** stronger and more sustained support to countries emerging from conflict with regard to reconciliation and post-conflict stabilization, reconstruction and development to prevent relapses into conflict, including the full operationalization of the Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Centre;
15. **UNDERScore THE NEED** to expedite the process to fully operationalize the AU Peace Fund and explore complementary sources of funding for peace and security matters, including special levies and engagement with the private sector and continental financial institutions; and **UNDERScore THE NEED** to implement all PSC decisions and **CALL** for greater political commitment and resources in support of the PSC and the pillars of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA) to ensure effective implementation of the Architectures and decisions on governance, peace and security in the Continent;
16. **STRESS THE NEED** to ensure more meaningful and effective participation of women and youth in determining 'the Africa we Want' in the next two decades while **WE EMPHASIZE** the protection of children in conflict situations and other settings, as well as protection of their rights and well-being;
17. **REITERATE** the imperative for peaceful resolution of conflicts to minimize its effects on civilians, in particular women and children; **EXPRESS CONCERN** over the increase in conflicts and tensions on the continent and its tragic consequences on millions of civilians, destruction of economic fabrics and infrastructure, as well as its humanitarian consequences and **APPEAL** to all Member States and the international community to continue to support Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), refugees and returnees, as well as countries hosting refugees;
18. **UNDERLINE** the need for the promotion of effective synergies between health security and peace security initiatives, including through collaboration between national health authorities, security forces, humanitarian agencies, regional and international organizations;
19. **EXPRESS DEEP CONCERN** over the increasing global cyber threats and attacks, which constitute a serious threat to national, regional and international peace and security and, in this respect, **ENCOURAGE** Member States to develop robust regulatory frameworks that facilitate the ethical use of ICTs, including the establishment of credible data governance infrastructure and to work together with the private sector, with a view to further strengthen the national cyber security capacities;
20. **COMMIT** to provide resources to enhance the capacity of the Department of Political Affairs Peace and Security and the PSC Secretariat in order to effectively support the work of the Council in discharging its mandate;
21. **FURTHER COMMIT** to continue promoting peace, security, and stability to achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa, implementing aspiration 4 of AU Agenda 2063, which is the prerequisite for sustainable development;
22. **APPRECIATE** the contributions of the former Presidents H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa region; H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania; H.E. Domitien Ndayizeye, former President of the Republic of Burundi and Member of the AU Panel of the Wise, as well as H.E. Ambassador Said Djinnit, the first AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, to the efforts towards prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and crises on the Continent; and

23. **EXPRESS DEEP APPRECIATION** to H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for the month of May 2024, for chairing the 20th Anniversary High-Level Colloquium of the PSC, and **COMMEND** the Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting the 20th Anniversary of the PSC.

*Adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
Dar Es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, on 25 May 2024*

African Union Commission (AUC)

PAPS Digital Repository

<https://papsrepository.africa-union.org/>

Peace and Security Council

General Collection

2024-05-25

Dar es Salaam Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of The African Union Peace and Security Council Held on 25 May 2024 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

<https://papsrepository.africa-union.org/handle/123456789/2101>

Downloaded from PAPS Digital Repository, Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS)