

**KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. SAMIA SULUHU  
HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF  
TANZANIA, DURING THE OCCASION OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
OF THE AFRICAN UNION, ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024, AT THE  
JULIUS NYERERE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
CENTRE (JNICC), DAR ES SALAAM**

*Your Excellency Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and  
Chair of the Revolutionary Council;*

*Excellencies Representatives of Heads of State and Government;*

*Your Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of the  
Federal Republic of Nigeria;*

*Your Excellency Domitien Ndayizeye, Former President of the  
Republic of Burundi;*

*Your Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Former President of the  
United Republic of Tanzania;*

*Your Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the  
African Union Commission;*

*Honourable January Yusuf Makamba (MP), Minister for Foreign  
Affairs and East African Cooperation;*

*Honourable Dr. Lawrence Tax (MP), Minister of Defence and  
National Service;*

*Honorable Ministers here present;*

*Your Excellencies Permanent Representatives of the Members of the Peace and Security Council;*

*Our host, Honourable Albert Chalamila, the Regional Commissioner of Dar es Salaam;*

*Your Excellency Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union;*

*Your Excellency Ambassador Said Djinnit, First Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union;*

*Invited Guests;*

*Ladies and Gentlemen;*

*Good morning!*

Friends, exactly twenty years ago, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union was established, with a mandate to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts and crises across our continent.

As such, in my capacity as the Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for the month of May 2024, I am honored to welcome you to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, for this High-Level Colloquium marking this 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I wish to commend all those who organized this event.

As you know, on 25<sup>th</sup> May every year, our continent also commemorates Africa Day. I therefore convey my best wishes to all of you on this Africa Day. As it was under Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, ensuring that Union realizes its objectives will continue to be a priority for Tanzania. Indeed, our historic successes in the liberation struggle should inspire us all in our ongoing pursuit of peace, development and prosperity for our people.

### **Excellencies,**

It is an honour and a privilege to have with us H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2004, President Obasanjo chaired the inaugural meeting of the AU PSC. Having observed the PSC in action for many years since then, we look forward to his reflections and his wisdom. Besides His Excellency Obasanjo we also have other former leaders whose addresses we will also receive as indicated in our programme of work for today.

We have with us His Excellency Domitien Ndayizeye, Former President of the Republic of Burundi who is also a member of AU's Panel of the Wise.

We have with us His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania who was a Minister of Foreign Affairs at the time when the PSC was

established and who as President chaired the PSC on a number of occasions.

We also have with us His Excellency Ambassador Said Djinnit, First Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union who was given the task to ensure that the PSC commences its work.

Let me also seize this opportunity to congratulate the 10 new members of the PSC who took up their seats in April 2024, and to assure them of our cooperation.

**Fellow Leaders and Distinguished Guests,**

It is worth noting that, in May 2014 when the Council marked its 10-year Anniversary, Tanzania was also monthly Chair of the PSC. However, the Commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held in June 2014 in Equatorial Guinea, and it was Chaired by H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda then-Chair of the PSC. Today, we are equally honored that, ten years later, not only does Tanzania serve as the Monthly Chair, but we also have the unique opportunity to host this 20<sup>th</sup> Commemoration.

**Excellencies,**

This commemoration is themed, **“20 Years of the AU PSC as a Standing Decision-Making Organ: The Next Two Decades of**

**the Peace and Security We Want in Africa.”** This theme compels us to reflect on our journey since the establishment of the PSC to-date, and to reflect on the road ahead. **Two decades on, since the PSC’s establishment, what lessons have we learned, and what strategies must we adopt to ensure a peaceful Africa for the next two decades?**

Since its inception, the PSC has been a cornerstone in promoting peace, security, and stability across our continent. On 26<sup>th</sup> December 2003, the Protocol establishing the PSC entered into force with 27 ratifications by AU Member States. By May 2004 when the PSC held its first session, 32 Member States had ratified it. Today, it is gratifying to note that 53 Member States have ratified the Protocol out of 55 AU Member States. This milestone shows that, Member States recognizes the important role that the PSC plays in promoting peace and security on our continent.

Twenty years ago, in establishing the PSC we placed in it our determination to have an effective operational structure to address conflicts and to enhance our capacity to bring about peace, security and stability across Africa. We did so because we recognized that conflict and violence pose the biggest threats to the development of our communities. Since its establishment the PSC has made notable achievements, from establishing mediation processes to guiding post-conflict reconstruction and development.

The PSC has also been instrumental in addressing conflict situations and tackling other security threats. From the Sahel to Somalia, the PSC has also led continental efforts to combat terrorism. In its work, the PSC has sought to uphold the respect for human rights, democracy and good governance. The PSC's focus has included women peace, and security and youth involvement, thus recognizing the vital role of women and young people in peacebuilding.

At the national level, the PSC has engaged with countries facing peace and security challenges, undertaking field missions across Africa. These missions have enabled the Council to better understand issues, hear the local perspectives of those involved and affected by crises, and to demonstrate solidarity with all the people affected by conflicts.

Regionally, the PSC continues to collaborate with Regional Economic Communities and Mechanisms to enhance coordination in peace and security efforts, and in fostering the exchange of knowledge.

The PSC also has institutional engagements with the UN Security Council and the European Union Political and Security Committee, thus amplifying Africa's voice globally. The efforts of the African Members of the UN Security Council (A3) also need to be commended, in particular on their efforts in championing

the African Union common positions on peace and security matters in the UN Security Council. Only last year, we saw the UN Security Council heed Africa's long-time call for UN-funding for AU peace support operations, a key measure to ensure sustainable and predictable financing for African Union-led operations.

I commend all the Members of the PSC and the Commission, including the Chairperson, the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, the PSC Secretariat and all the partners that have contributed to the work of the PSC since its establishment.

### **Excellencies,**

In spite of these achievements, challenges persist. We are witnessing conflicts, transnational crime and a lack of effective preventive action. Overall, *we still have not completely silenced the guns in Africa.*

Another notable challenge is the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government and protracted restoration of civilian-led constitutional order. The recurrence of such challenges raises critical questions: Why do these setbacks persist? are we consistently applying our norms as they relate to these matters? I will leave that to this august gathering to address.

## **Fellow Africans,**

Notwithstanding this, those who were in charge then, the likes of President Obasanjo, will agree with me, that, the nature of conflicts and the nature of threats faced by the continent have also evolved. Additionally, there have been matters that have been recurring on the Council's table that have thus far evaded effective resolution. In my view, this deviates from the spirit shared during the establishment of this Council.

This is why today's discussion is so crucial and your contributions are key, both to get the **lessons that we have learned and planning the way forward**. There are many lessons and I believe these will be taken up by the leaders and experts here. On my part, I wish to touch on a few, **enhancing our preventive capacities, utilizing the instruments at our disposal and enhancing relations with key stakeholders**.

As pertains to **preventive diplomacy and resolving conflicts**, the key lessons are that, early action is less costly, and additionally that prevention is an ongoing effort. As such, of necessity we need to strengthen early warning systems and conflict prevention mechanisms. We also need to prioritize inclusive mediation, dialogue, and reconciliation processes. The Council would be well-served by enhancing its focus on country-based situations with a view to follow up on implementation of its decisions and intervening to support where necessary.



With **regards to its instruments**, we have frameworks in place that are at present not fully utilized. As such, I am convinced that robust implementation of these instruments including the AU Master Roadmap on Silencing the Guns in Africa is key in guiding our efforts to promote peace and security. We must also fully operationalize and utilize the African Standby Force and the AU Peace Fund to enhance our capacity to undertake our security initiatives.

**In terms of engagement with stakeholders**, we acknowledge that, involvement of women and youth in peace processes and regional mechanisms closer to those conflict situations is key. Going forward, the Council should seek to empower women and youth as agents of positive change. We should invest more in strengthening regional integration and collaboration. We also need to invest more in capacity-building initiatives and fostering grassroots resilience, as some of the roots of these crises.

Globally, we also need to enhance partnerships with regional and international stakeholders, such as the United Nations, African Development Bank, civil society organizations, and other development partners, to mobilize resources and expertise for effective peace and security interventions.

Lastly, I wish to make a call concerning two major peace and security threats on the continent. Foremost, terrorism and violent extremism which presently concerns all AU regions. The Extra-Ordinary Summit held in May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, provided guidance to the Continent on concrete steps to combat this menace. It is our responsibility to ensure that the Malabo Declaration is fully implemented. It is important to reflect to how can we comprehensively address terrorism on the continent including through enhancing regional and international partnerships, intelligence sharing, and coordinated actions.

The second threat is the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government. What is lacking that allows this setback? As Member States, we must act on the decisions adopted by the PSC and ensure affected countries swiftly return to constitutional order, while also addressing the root causes of such changes, including governance deficits and political instability.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before I conclude, let me assure you of Tanzania's commitment to the promotion of peace and security in Africa and to socio-economic well-being of our people. To borrow the words of the late Nelson Mandela, "peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish." Without a doubt, our collective action is crucial to confronting the challenges faced,

ensuring a more secure Africa and fostering socio-economic development.

With that said, now, I have the honour to declare that this **High-Level 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Colloquium of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union** officially open.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**

**African Union Commission (AUC)**

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# 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

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