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Insights on Peace & Security Council

**PSC Session on Africa's Security Priorities in
Agenda 2063**

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Tomorrow 16 August 2018, the PSC will have a session on 'Consideration of Africa's Security Priorities in line with Agenda 2063'. Those expected to brief the meeting include the Peace and Security Department (PSD), which among others issues will focus on Silencing the Guns. Briefings by Political Affairs, focusing on governance and ratification of AU norms, and Economic Affairs focusing on issues arising from conflicts over natural resources and illicit financial flows are also expected. The priorities, focus and progress of Agenda 2063, a fifty years comprehensive and strategic framework and vision for the socio-economic transformation of the continent will be presented by the Strategic Directorate of the AU.

The meeting is a follow up to the 24 April 2018 open session of the PSC held under the theme 'Africa's peace and security landscape by 2023 (end of the ten-year plan of Agenda 2063): A prospective analysis of peace and security challenges'. The session served as a midway evaluation the peace and security trends and prospect in Africa by 2023, the first ten-year plan of Agenda 2063.

Arguably the most important agenda of the African Union, Agenda 2063 which was adopted in May 2013 is guided by numerous past and present continental initiatives for peace and security, integration, and growth and sustainable development. It attempts to harmonize, standardize and accelerate the implementation of the various instruments and normative frameworks of the Organization for African Unity (OAU), and the AU. Among others, Agenda 2063 is informed by and grounded on the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty, the Solemn Declaration of the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA), the Minimum Integration

Programme, the Programme for Infrastructural Development in Africa (PIDA), the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and the New partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), a set of various complementing conflict prevention, resolution and management mechanisms, sat at the heart of the institutional transformation from the OAU to the AU. The architecture was a flagship project that defined the first decade and half of the AU, and it took much of the resources and political focus of the Union. Peace and security also take a centre stage in Agenda 2063. The agenda envisions a culture of peace and tolerance nurtured in Africa's children and youth through peace, human rights and civic education, and the realization of the principles of human security. Its ultimate goal is realizing the capacity of Africa to 'secure peace and protect its citizens and their interests'. The agenda puts emphasis on the implementation of the common defence, foreign and security policies of the continent as a way to realize a peaceful Africa. The Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020 is part of the domestication of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP) of Agenda 2063 which was started by the AU Commission in 2015. The 'Silencing the Guns/Ending wars in Africa by 2020' is an urgent and relevant section of Agenda 2063, and its immediate implementation and impact on socio-economic development is seen as a pre-requisite to build the confidence, ownership and the commitment of the African citizens to be drivers of Agenda 2063. Tomorrow's meeting will examine the implementation of the roadmap in the past five years (2013-2018).

The concept note for tomorrow's meeting list various developmental flagship projects of Agenda 2063. These include the Integrated High Speed Train Network, Annual African Forum, the Continental Free Trade Area, the African Passport and free

movement of people, African Outer Space Strategy the Single Air-Transport Network and Continental Financial Institutions. The document links the success of these projects on the holistic security of the continent. The PSC developed the African Union Master Roadmap (AUMR) detailing the threats facing the continent and its aspirations. The roadmap informs and shape the security priorities of Africa within the framework of AU Agenda 2063 and sheds light on the evolution of vulnerabilities of various countries and regions to conflicts and major insecurities. The document highlights on structural drivers of conflicts in Africa that will determine the security outlook of Africa in the next decades.

The concept note for the meeting puts corruption at the top of the list of the security threats facing the continent. The document notes that corruption diverts the resources away from legitimate institutions and projects, and undermine the capacity of governments to respond to and look after the basic needs of the citizens including the provision of security, health and economic infrastructure. On 12 April 2018, the PSC had a session on the nexus between corruption and conflict in Africa. The session was informed by of the January 2018 summit decision declaring 2018 as the African Anti- Corruption Year on the theme 'Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation.' The AU acknowledges corruption as one of the underlying factors for, and as driver of conflicts and as a factor that transforms or entrenches conflicts in Africa. The link between corruption and conflict is more salient in conflicts in resource rich countries. Corruption often leads to conflicts and becomes major factor in sustaining conflicts as conflict actors establish webs of corrupt relationship with business, neighboring countries and entities of old and emerging powers. Illicit financial flows which deprive the continent of its scarce capital and resources that could otherwise be used to create and expand economic opportunities will also be discussed by the session tomorrow. The illicit

financial flow is also linked with illicit flow arms that fuel and sustain conflicts in Africa. According to the concept note for the meeting, Africa lost close to USD\$278 billion to illicit financial flows just in 2017. Efforts and mechanisms to prevent and repatriate the looted and externalized funds back to Africa will be the focus of the discussion.

As outlined in the concept note for the session, other security priorities that will be discussed by the Council include the rise of cross boundary and new security threats including transnational organized crime and cyber threats, terrorism and violent extremism and the proliferation of non-state armed groups/negative forces. The past decade witnessed the spread of terrorism in both territorial coverage and intensity of violence. Revisiting APSA and the organs and normative framework of the AU to respond to new security challenges will guide the discussion here. The lack of institutional capacity, resources and expertise to prevent and respond to outbreaks of epidemics and pandemics such as Ebola is another threat included in the list of security priorities.

Structural challenges that cause poor governance and human rights abuses, and the relapse of the cycle of violent conflicts will also be deliberated on by the session. Persistence of border disputes that emanate from various factors including the presence of minerals, the rising demand for land and other natural resources due to population increase and climate change are also included in the security priorities. The threat by border disputes is further exacerbated by slow progress in delimitation and demarcation of boundaries. Climate change, drought, floods and receding water sources will continue to be sources of conflict in Africa. Though Africa is one of the least contributors to the global green gas emission, and has one of the lowest footprint for the global warming, it suffers heavily from the global change in climate. Climate change creates the conditions for violent conflict through a long chain of connected causal events. There are

strong links between the impacts of climate change and some of the most intractable conflicts on the continent. African economies and the livelihood of various communities on the continent are heavily reliant on natural resources. The meeting will examine the illegal exploitation of Africa's natural resources and environmental pressures affecting the foundation of local and regional livelihoods that are increasingly precipitating inter-communal violence.

Human trafficking and unregulated migration caused by poverty, limited economic opportunities and porous and poorly governed borders are the other security threats on the list. The concept note predict that Africa's population could reach between 1.5 to 2 billion in 12 years. The issue of rapid population growth coupled with lower rates of economic development is mentioned by the concept note as a structural challenge that will continue to test the stability and progress of the continent. The mismatch between the population growth and economic development, and failure of member states to provide basic services to their citizens is an issue of great concern that will dominate the session. Changing demographic dynamics involving mostly youthful, increasingly educated and politically conscious public coupled with the spread of information technology have led to expanding the gulf in the expectations of the public and the ability of governments to deliver in terms of political responsiveness, accountability and socio-economic inclusivity. The resulting political upheavals and conflicts taking the form of protests, riots, election induced violence and disputes over revision of presidential term limits are expected to be the most dominant conflict events.

The objective of the meeting is to build and raise awareness within the PSC and beyond on the intertwine between security and development, and to note the role of security as a pre-and co-requisite for the realization of continental economic transformation and political and economic

integration. The meeting is expected to highlight the threat posed by the list of challenges, and request for the strengthening of governance systems of member states, especially their management of natural resources, and building their capacity and commitment in fighting corruption and illicit financial flows.

As a preventive measure and response to the prioritized threats, the Council will discuss the progress and gaps of the recommendations of the AU Roadmap on silencing the guns by 2020. The session is also expected to highlight the importance of conflict prevention and the need for a strategy on the effective deployment of preventive instruments.

The expected outcome is a Communique.



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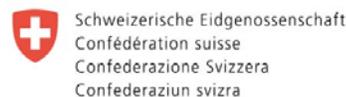
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