AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UMOJA WA AFRIKA

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@africanunion.org

MANUAL ON

MODALITIES FOR ENHANCING COORDINATION BETWEEN THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A3	African non-permanent members of the UNSC
AU	African Union
AIP	Annual Indicative Programme
AUPAPS	AU Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security
PSC	Peace and Security Council
CoE	Committee of Experts
HLS	High-Level Seminar
RECs/RMs	Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms
SCAD	Security Council Affairs Division
UN	United Nations
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOAU	United Nations Office to the African Union
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
VTC	Video Tele-Conference

I. STATUS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR

1. In 2015, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) decided to institutionalize and regularize, as an annual deliberative forum, the High-Level Seminar (HLS) on "Peace and Security in Africa: Assisting Incoming African Members of the United Nations Security Council in Preparing to Address Peace and Security Issues in the Continent". Since then, the High-Level Seminar has become one of the statutory activities enshrined in the Annual Indicative Program of Work of the PSC.

II. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

2. The aim of the HLS is to assist African non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), known as the A3, especially the newly elected ones, to enhance cooperation and coordination with the PSC, as well as to effectively articulate, promote and defend African common positions and interests in the decision-making process of the UNSC on peace and security issues relating to, and affecting, the African Continent, in accordance with AU legal instruments and relevant decisions of the AU Policy Organs . Most importantly, the HLS serves as the coordination platform to engage towards the realization of the relevant aspirations of AU Agenda 2063 in particular Aspirations 3, 4, and 7 relating to Peace, Security and Governance on the continent and ensuring that AU becomes a strong, united, resilient and influential player at the global level.

III. PARTICIPATION

3. In accordance with PSC Communiqué (PSC/PR/COMM.DCCXLVI), all PSC Members shall participate at the HLS. Participation is recommended to be at the level of Ministers (or designated representatives). As such, the delegations of each PSC and of A3 Member (current, outgoing and incoming) to the High-Level Seminar shall comprise of the Minister accompanied by the Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives to both, the AU in Addis Ababa and the UN in New York, plus one official each from their Capitals and PSC Committee of Experts. As necessary and resulting from due consultations within the PSC and A3, other African Union Member States and the RECs/RMs could be invited to participate as special guests depending on the relevance of the agenda issues.

4. The HLS shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the PSC for the month, at Ministerial level and shall include facilitators and moderators for different thematic sessions as guided by the Agenda/ Programme of Work.

5. Senior leadership officials of the AU Commission including the Chairperson, the United Nations shall also attend the HLS. Following consultations with the PSC Chairperson and the A3 Coordinator, Friends of the Seminar and Partners may also be invited to the Seminar.

IV. TIMING

6. The High-Level Seminar shall be convened following the election of the new A3 Members and as they take their seats in the UNSC, to ensure that they benefit from the institutional memory of the outgoing A3 Members. The dates for the HLS shall be agreed by the PSC Chairperson, A3 Coordinator and the Host Member State, in coordination with the AU Commission.

V. VENUE

7. The High-Level Seminal shall take place in Oran, Algeria, in line with Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 815(XXXV) adopted at 35th Ordinary Session of the Union in February 2022.

VI. AGENDA

8. The Agenda for HLS shall be proposed by the PSC Chairperson for the Month and agreed by the PSC and A3 Members. The Seminar shall always begin with a review of the status of implementation of the Conclusions of the preceding HLS.

VII. MODALITIES FOR ENHANCING COORDINATION BETWEEN THE A3 AND THE PSC

a. Participation in PSC Meetings and Information Sharing

9. The PSC shall invite, whenever necessary, the A3 representatives to its meetings on crisis and conflict situations, as well as pertinent thematic issues for consideration by the UNSC, with a view to providing a platform for the A3 representatives to fully engage on the position of the PSC on matters relating to peace and security in Africa that will be on the agenda of the UNSC, so as to advise their counterparts in New York ahead of UN Security Council meetings (Manual on the PSC Working Methods, para 110).

10. The Troika of the PSC (comprising the outgoing, current and incoming PSC Chairpersons) and the A3 shall convene a video teleconference (VTC)quarterly, and whenever necessary, to enhance information sharing and regular exchange of views.

11. The AU PAPS/PSC Secretariat working in close collaboration with the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations as the A3 Secretariat, shall contribute to the strengthening of conflict and crisis analysis capacity and information sharing between the PSC, A3 and RECs/RMs.

12. The PSC Secretariat, in coordination with the A3 Secretariat, shall establish an informal information sharing platform, of the Experts of the PSC and A3 for promoting regular and continuous interaction, mindful of sensitive information.

b. Synchronization of PSC and A3 Engagements

13. The monthly Provisional Program of Work of the PSC, guided by the PSC Annual Indicative Programme (AIP), shall be organized in a way that, as much as possible, ensures synchronization of PSC meetings with those of the UN Security Council on African issues, in order to ensure that the PSC provides timely guidance to the A3 ahead of UN Security Council meetings.

14. The A3 shall always brief the PSC on a quarterly basis and at any other time necessary, on African issues on the UNSC agenda, for sharing information and necessary guidance on African peace and security issues on the agenda of the UNSC. (Conclusions of the 1st High-Level Seminar)

VIII. ENHANCING COHESION OF THE A3

15. The outcomes of PSC meetings on issues that will be on the agenda of the UNSC shall be timeously transmitted to the A3.

16. There shall also be the enhancement of cooperation and coordination among the A3. The A3 shall advance AU's common positions and interests in the agenda of the UN Security Council in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.644(XXIX) adopted by the AU Assembly at its 29th Ordinary Session of July 2017.

17. The A3 shall always speak with one African voice and champion African positions in the decision- making process of the UN Security Council, guided by Common African Positions, as reflected in the AU Assembly and PSC decisions, or common position/consensus papers, when available (Assembly/AU/Dec. 815).

IX. BOLSTERING A3'S INFLUENCE AND IMPACT IN THE UNSC

18. In order to promote the influence of the A3 in the UNSC, the A3 Members are encouraged to hold regular consultations with the other members of the UNSC in the framework of the non-permanent members of the UNSC (E10 platform). Such consultations shall be supported by the AU PSC and the Commission (AUPAPS) by providing the necessary information.

19. The A3 shall consult with relevant stakeholders, including the Non-Aligned Movement and all strategic partners of the AU, on peace and security issues of interest to Africa. To this end, the A3 shall mobilize more political support in championing the African positions and interests on peace and security issues on the agenda of the UNSC.

X. LEADERSHIP ROLE OF THE PSC

a. Provision of Timeous Guidance to A3 Ahead of Consideration of African Issues

20. The PSC shall always provide strategic guidance to the A3, ahead of consideration by the UNSC of sanctions and other forms of punitive measures against an AU Member State.

21. In order to facilitate timely sharing of information to A3 Members, the PSC Secretariat shall communicate the decision of the PSC, on country situations or thematic issues that are on the agenda of the UNSC for discussion, and to the A3 Secretariat highlighting key issues and strategic actions, as decided by the AU Assembly or the PSC.

c. Reporting on the A3 Activities and Inclusion in Relevant PSC Report on the State of Peace and Security in Africa

22. The 'Report of the PSC on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa' which is submitted annually to the AU Assembly, shall include a section on A3 activities. To facilitate this, the A3 Secretariat shall submit an A3 annual report to the PSC Secretariat by the end of October of each year.

23. The A3 coordinators shall also regularly brief and provide quarterly reports to the PSC on the activities of the A3 in the UNSC. In addition to facilitating the process of reporting, these regular briefings and quarterly reports are essential to ensure the accountability of the A3 to the AU in discharging their responsibilities in the UNSC.

XI. ENGAGEMENTS BETWEEEN THE A3 AND THE AFRICAN GROUP AND THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

a. Engaging the Wider UN System

24. To improve its working relationships with the UN System, particularly the departments and offices covering African files and issues, the A3 shall conduct regular engagements with these UN departments and offices.

b. Engagements with the African Group

25. The A3, supported by its Secretariat, shall provide monthly briefings, or when needed, to the Africa Group in New York. Equally, the PSC and its Secretariat within the AU Commission PAPS Department shall facilitate engagements, through the AU Permanent Observer Missions, with the Africa Group in New York on AU/UN-related issues of common interest relating to peace, security and governance.

XII. CAPACITY BUILDING

a. A3 Training

26. In line with Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.598(XXVI)] adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in January 2016, capacity building, to familiarize with the AU and UN systems, shall be provided to members of the A3, after each A3 election. Such training shall be facilitated through collaboration among the PSC Secretariat, the A3 Secretariat, UNITAR and UNOAU.

27. Back-to-back to the Annual High-Level Seminar, the AU Commission shall also provide training to incoming A3 Members on technical aspects including lobbying draft resolutions, financial aspects of peace support missions and others.

b. PSC Committee of Experts and Political Coordinators of the A3

28. Members of PSC CoE and A3 Political Coordinators shall receive regular training to further enhance capacities to enable coordination of their activities and collaboration among themselves, particularly during preparations for the annual joint consultative meetings between the PSC and UNSC.

29. The AU Commission shall also organize an induction of the A3 Experts in New York at technical level, after the election of new A3 and before they take their seats within the UNSC.

XIII. STRENGTHENING SUPPORT MECHANISMS

30. The AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN in New York shall serve as the Secretariat of the A3. Within this framework, deployment of additional staff and provision of additional financial and material resources for the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN in New York is envisaged to strengthen the capacity of the A3, as well as coordination with the PSC.

31. In line with the decisions, the PSC shall also ensure monthly consultations between the PSC Troika and A3, as well as appoint a focal point from PSC Member States, to be in charge of PSC-A3 coordination point and to follow up on issues of UNSC-PSC dialogue and coordination.

XIV. FOLLOW UP ON THE PSC AND UNSC ANNUAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

32. Whenever an A3 member is presiding over the UNSC, it shall include agenda items focusing on implementation of the outcomes of annual joint consultative meetings between the PSC and the UNSC and promote African peace initiatives and processes.

33. There shall also be continuous communication between the AUPSC and the UNSC at the level of Permanent Representatives and Experts in between the annual joint-consultative meetings, towards ensuring follow-up on the implementation of outcomes and decisions of the joint consultative meetings.

XV. CONCLUSION

34. The modalities for enhancing coordination between the AU-PSC and UNSC A3 is in furtherance of Article 17 of the Protocol establishing the PSC and provides the institutional framework for the effective promotion of Africa's peace and security agenda at the global platform offered by the UNSC and the UN System in its entirety. This modalities document shall guide the coordination and coherence required for impact and effectiveness of the partnership between the PSC and A3 on peace, security and governance on the African continent.