

# Commemoration of Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation

Commemoration of Africa Day of Peace and ReconciliationDate | 30 January 2024

Tomorrow (31 January), the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) will convene its 1198<sup>th</sup> session where it will discuss the commemoration of the 'Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation' as its second agenda item for the session.

Following the first agenda item for the session on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), the PSC will proceed to address the second agenda item for the session on Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation. The session will take place virtually with an opening statement by the chairperson of the PSC for the month, Amma A. Twum-Amoah, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the AU. This will be followed by a statement by Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner of Political Affairs, Peace and Security. Mr Domingos Miguel Bembe, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola to the African Union may also provide a briefing on the Biennale of Luanda Pan-African Forum as the AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation. Other members that may participate in the session include the Chairperson of the AU Panel of the Wise and members of the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs).

31<sup>st</sup> January was designated as 'Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation' during the [16th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU](#) in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, where the Declaration on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCGs). It was marked for the first time on 31 January 2023. Before the establishment of 31 January as the Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation, the AU PSC has since

as early as 2013 convened a total of six sessions solely dedicated to the agenda of the national reconciliation processes. The [899th session](#) of the PSC convened under Angola's chairship called for an annual convening on experience sharing among member states that have undergone national reconciliation and set the basis for the inaugural session of the Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation. Among others, in some of the sessions the PSC's request for the establishment of a draft AU policy framework on justice and reconciliations. In 2019, the AU Assembly adopted the AU Transitional Justice Policy that outlined guidelines and benchmarks for the initiation and implementation of justice, accountability and reconciliation processes.

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It is against this backdrop that the AU PSC held its first inaugural meeting on Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation in 2023. Although the first PSC session on the Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation was successful in establishing a platform that allowed experience sharing among member states who have undergone reconciliations, it did not take account of PSC's previous engagements and the role that AU Transitional Justice Policy plays in that respect. The first inaugural session primarily focused on the experience-sharing component where member states such as Gambia, Rwanda, Burundi and South Africa provided their experience on the reconciliation process. The [outcome](#) also emphasize several issues in the light of reconciliation including the need to focus on the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) program for soldiers; the need for parties involved in any form of cessation of hostility agreement to be fully committed to the implementation of such agreements and lastly the need to

strengthen AU mechanisms including PCRD frameworks and continental early warning systems.

As the PSC convenes its second Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation, it is anticipated that the session will serve as a platform for receiving updates from Angola on its role of championing peace and reconciliation. In this respect, the PSC may hear about Angola's efforts in relation to the conflict in Eastern DRC including the implementation of the outcome of the inaugural Quadripartite Summit which most recently [convened at the level of Chiefs of Defence \(CDFs\)](#) to enhance coordination and identify the division of labor regarding implementation of the outcomes. It is also to be recalled that early in 2023 Angola also hosted a tripartite summit involving Chad and the Central African Republic. Although there aren't any tangible outcomes from the tripartite summit, it is indeed an indication of the political will of both member states to address cross-border security issues amicably and identify areas of cooperation and coordination. The session may also focus on countries that have begun the process of undergoing transitional justice and reconciliation during the past year. Countries such as South Sudan and Ethiopia may be mentioned as they have both received support from the AU TJP unit throughout 2023 in the implementation of their own transitional justice and reconciliation processes.

The expected outcome will be a communiqué. The communiqué may welcome the institutionalization of the annual Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation. It may also commend the efforts by the AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, for his efforts in the promotion of reconciliation and peace-building via the Biennale of Luanda Pan-African Forum. The PSC may also welcome member states that have undergone mediation, dialogue, and reconciliation processes. The PSC may urge countries undergoing the reconciliation process to ensure an inclusive process that takes into consideration vulnerable

groups, particularly women, youth and community leaders and leaders of religious groups. The PSC may also reiterate the need to complement the 'Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation' with a focus on the promotion of the implementation of the AU Transitional Justice Policy.