

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
1181ST MEETING

24 OCTOBER 2023
ADDIS-ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/SR.1181 (2023)

SUMMARY RECORD

ON THE DISCUSSION ON AFRICAN UNION SANCTIONS REGIME

SUMMARY RECORD

1. Under the chairship of H.E. Ambassador Daniel Owassa, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Congo to the AU, in his capacity as the PSC Chairperson for the month of October 2023, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) held its 1181st meeting on Tuesday, 24 October 2023, which was dedicated to a preliminary discussion on AU Sanctions Regime as a prelude to the upcoming 15th Annual Retreat of the PSC on the Review of its Working Methods, to be held in Tunisia from 25 to 27 November 2023 where the topic will be discussed more extensively.
2. The PSC took note of the opening remarks by the PSC Chairperson and the presentation by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security.
3. During the extensive discussion that ensued, the PSC:
 - a) Acknowledged that the AU has many good normative tools and frameworks against unconstitutional changes of Government; that there was no need for new normative tools and frameworks; and that only effective implementation remained a challenge. Among the existing tools and frameworks identified are: the 2000 Lomé Declaration; the 2000 AU Constitutive Act; the 2002 Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union; the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; the African Governance Architecture and the Declaration [Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.(XVI)] on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government, adopted by the 16th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in May 2022, as well as the 17 March 2022 Accra Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government. However, PSC Members stressed that if there are gaps in existing frameworks and tools, it was necessary to simply address those gaps, rather than continuing to develop new frameworks and tools;
 - b) Recalled the AU zero tolerance policy on unconstitutional changes of government in line with Article 4(p) of the AU Constitutive Act;
 - c) Underscored the need to make all existing frameworks more effective, as well as the importance of religious application of all AU Instruments on unconstitutional changes of government;
 - d) Stressed the need to expedite the full operationalization of the Sub-Committee on Sanctions and to draw inspiration and best practices from the UN Sanctions regimes;
 - e) Emphasized the need for the support of AU development partners in the implementation of AU sanctions in response to unconstitutional changes of government;
 - f) Urged all Member States to refrain from legitimizing perpetrators of unconstitutional changes of government;
 - g) Encouraged Member States to redouble their investments in infrastructures for peace, including building strong State/Government institutions that outlive individual leaders;
 - h) Underscored the need for further strengthening of early warning capacities at the local community, national, regional and continental levels;
 - i) Emphasized the critical importance of comprehensively addressing the structural root causes of unconstitutional changes of government and, in this respect, reiterated the request for the

AU Commission to undertake a comprehensive study on the root causes of unconstitutional changes of government;

- j) Stressed the need for the PSC to continue to discharge its mandate as religiously as stipulated in its Protocol, while taking into consideration the peculiarities of each case, adding that the PSC does not have to wait for the RECs/RMs before responding to crises on the Continent. However, the PSC will have to strike a balance based on the exigencies on the ground; as well as
- k) The need to explore various options of more effectively deterring unconstitutional changes of government;
- l) The need for enhanced coordination between the AU, Regional Economic Communities/ Regional Mechanisms, the UN and development partners;
- m) The need to call on all Members of the international community to refrain from providing sanctuary to perpetrators of unconstitutional changes of government;
- n) The need to review the effectiveness of all existing frameworks and to adapt them to the contemporary security environment, with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose;
- o) The need to address the problem of denialism which continues to undermine preventive diplomacy efforts;
- p) The need to encourage Member States to continue to deepen and consolidate democracy and constitutionalism;
- q) The need to have the necessary capacity to facilitate the implementation of PSC decisions relating to sanctions;
- r) The need for the AU to maintain its solidarity with the people of the Member States in political transitions;
- s) The need to prosecute perpetrators of unconstitutional changes so as to hold them accountable for their actions;
- t) Need for continued engagements with Member States suspended due to unconstitutional changes of Government;
- u) The need for enhanced engagements between the government and the military establishment, as well as to promote strong civil-military relations and professional armies that work under civilian oversight;
- v) Need for quiet diplomacy whenever there are clear undisputable early warning signs of looming crises in a Member State; and
- w) The need for strict application of the criteria for Membership in the PSC as stipulated in Article 5 of the PSC Protocol.

4. In his closing remarks, the PSC Chairperson requested the PSC Secretariat to take note of the key issues raised during this meeting for further discussions during the upcoming 15th Annual Retreat of the PSC on the Review of its Working Methods to be held in Tunisia, from 25 to 27 November 2023.

2023-10-24

Summary Record of the 1181st Meeting of the Peace and Security Council, Held on 24 October 2023, on the Discussion on African Union Sanctions Regime.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

<https://papsrepository.africa-union.org/handle/123456789/1974>

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