

AFRICAN UNION

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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1220TH MEETING

5 JULY 2024
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/CN.1220 (2024)

CONCEPT NOTE

PSC@20 BRAINSTORMING: SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The September 2021 UN Secretary-General's report 'Our Common Agenda' called for a Summit of the Future to be held in September 2024. This "once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges" is an effort by the UN to address current and future challenges and help restore trust in multilateralism, as set out in the UN 75 Declaration.
2. On 8 September 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/76/307, which recognized that global challenges are interconnected and can only be addressed through stronger international cooperation and reinvigorated multilateralism with the United Nations at the centre of our efforts, in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The General Assembly further decided that the Summit of the Future has an important role to play in reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations, reinvigorating multilateralism, boosting implementation of existing commitments, agreeing on concrete solutions to challenges and restoring trust among Member States. Therefore, it decided that the theme of the Summit shall be "Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow"
3. The Summit of the Future is expected to produce the Pact for the Future, to be adopted by consensus, which focuses on five areas set out in chapters:
 - a) Sustainable Development and Financing for Development
 - b) International Peace and Security
 - c) Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation
 - d) Youth and Future Generations
 - e) Transforming Global Governance
4. The Summit of the Future is co-facilitated by Germany and Namibia, who presented the zero draft of the Pact to Member States on 29 January 2024. Prior to the presentation of the zero draft, informal consultations took place during November and December 2023, resulting in more than 80 inputs from delegations and 472 contributions from Major Groups and other Stakeholders, civil society organisations, representatives from academia and the private sector.
5. On 20 July 2023, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres presented to the Member States his Policy Brief on "A New Agenda for Peace" (NA4P), which outlines his vision for multilateral efforts for peace and security for a world in transition, and an extensive and ambitious set of recommendations that recognize the inter-linked nature of many of the challenges the world faces today. It is framed around the core principles of trust, solidarity, and universality that are the foundations of the UN Charter and a stable world.
6. While the consultation process for the Pact for the Future was quite extensive, African States, as a region, were underrepresented and many lack engagement in the process. Capacity issues of some African Missions may be a factor, while an additional hurdle to engagement is that the zero draft has only been circulated in English, preventing some Francophone and other non-native English-speaking delegations from fully participating. It is important that the African Member States are able to develop individual positions and promote relevant common AU positions on the matters to be negotiated during the Summit of the Future.

II. UPDATES ON PROGRESS

7. After the zero draft was presented and before the first reading, delegations were able to provide further written input. Numerous negotiations are currently ongoing in preparation for the **Summit of the Future**, scheduled for 22-23 September 2024, and the accompanying **Action Days**, scheduled for 20-21 September 2024.

8. Numerous stakeholder engagements have taken place, which can provide insight into how to develop common positions amongst African States and provide a basis for exploring AU positions. A UN Civil Society Conference was hosted in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 11 May 2024. For awareness-raising purposes and to encourage participation, UN outreach was done at the regional and country levels, including Regional Forums between February and April 2024. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) hosted the African Regional Forum in Addis Ababa.

9. Alongside the Pact for the Future zero draft, a Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations have been developed. The **Global Digital Compact** is co-facilitated by Sweden and Zambia with informal consultations taking place between February and May 2024. The first reading occurred on 5 April 2024, the second reading on 2 May 2024 and a third reading on 16 May 2024.

10. The Netherlands and Fiji originally co-facilitated the **Declaration on Future Generations**, with Jamaica succeeding Fiji as co-facilitator and the informal consultations took place in January 2024 and virtual consultations with stakeholders on 15-16 January 2024. Written inputs were provided by 26 February 2024 enabling a zero draft on the Declaration to be circulated in March. To date there have been four readings. The first reading on 8 April 2024, the second reading on 14 May 2024, third reading on 10 June 2024 and the fourth reading recently on 26 June 2024.

III. AU POSITIONS AND POLICIES TO SUPPORT AFRICAN MEMBER STATES ENGAGEMENT DURING AND PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

11. The African Union has a number of policies and common positions that can be adapted to assist in drafting a common position for the Pact for the Future and provide guidance to Member States in developing their individual positions. It is important for the AU to highlight these to the Member States to enable the region to negotiate as a collective bloc for the benefit of Africa's development.

12. Chapter 1 – Sustainable Development and Financing for Development

a) Agenda 2063

13. Chapter 2 – International Peace and Security

a) AU understanding on Resolution 2719

b) Common African Position on Small Arms and Light Weapons

14. Chapter 3 – Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation

15. Chapter 4 – Youth and Future Generations

16. Chapter 5 – Transforming Global Governance

a) Common African Position on the Proposed Reform of the United Nations (Ezulwini Consensus).

17. The AU believes that a reformed multilateral system should be guided by a number of principles. The first is representation. It means getting a seat at the decision-making table. Second, Equity, fairness, and justice; third, Equality of the dignity of all nations and peoples, Transparency and the Reaffirmation of commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and international law. In this regard, in amplifying Africa's peace and security priorities, the AU Member States need to advocate for the reform of the UN Security Council; New Peace Operation Doctrine; A reaffirmation of the primacy of politics – the AU continues to stress there is not a single conflict that is resolved militarily but rather through dialogue. Equally important is the inclusion of women and youth; The Reform of the Global Financial Architecture (GFA); Just Climate Change Agenda; An inclusive Global Digital Architecture; Effective Representation of Africa in the G20; and effective and meaningful women and youth representation.

18. Africa's peace, security, and governance situation requires a robust and significant contribution to the Pact for the Future. More awareness needs to be provided to Africa, considering it represents more than 1.4 billion people worldwide, the second continent with the largest population after Asia, the majority of whom are youth. In this regard, the PSC, in marking its 20th Anniversary (2004-2024), is convening this open session to mobilize and solidify Africa's contribution to the Pact for the Future.

IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

19. This PSC open session is expected to raise awareness of the preparations for the Summit of the Future and mobilize the Member State's contribution to the draft Pact of the Future in addressing Africa's priorities and common positions to be included in the Summit of the Future on peace and security and global governance; AU Member States to actively engage in the Summit of the Future and promote common positions to increase the voice of Africa as a region; renew multilateral system support to the realization of the AU's Agenda 2063 aspirations and silencing the guns flagship project. Furthermore, the meeting will provide guidance on approaches Africa should adopt to reflect its interests and voice in the Pact for the Future.

V. FORMAT, DATE AND VENUE

20. The session will be held virtually using the Zoom platform, on Friday, 5 July 2024, from 10:00 a.m., Addis Ababa local time. It will be conducted in the following AU working languages, namely: English and French.

African Union Commission (AUC)

PAPS Digital Repository

<https://papsrepository.africa-union.org/>

PSC Outcomes

Press Statements

2024-07-05

Press Statement of the 1220th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council held on 5 July 2024 on PSC@20 Brainstorming on the Summit of the Future.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

<https://papsrepository.africa-union.org/handle/123456789/2135>

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