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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1240TH MEETING

30 OCTOBER 2024
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1240 (2024)

COMMUNIQUÉ



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1240th meeting held on 30 October 2024 on Consultations on the Common African Position vis-à-vis Climate Change, Peace and Security.

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling all its previous decisions and pronouncements on the nexus between climate change, peace and Security, including Communiqués [PSC/PR/COMM.1184 (2024)] adopted at its 1184th meeting held on 7 November 2023; [PSC/PR/COMM.1079 (2022)] adopted at its 1079th meeting held on 21 April 2022; and Communiqué [PSC/MIN/COMM.1114 (2022)] adopted at its 1114th meeting, held at ministerial level, on 18 October 2022; as well as the Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1051 (2021)] adopted at its 1051st meeting held on 26 November 2021, and Press Statement [PSC/PR/BR.DCCLXXIV] adopted at its 774th meeting held on 21 May 2018 on “the link between climate change and conflicts in Africa and addressing the security implications”;

Acknowledging the nexus between climate change, peace and security;

Taking note of the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Gad, the Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of October 2024 and the Introductory statement by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, as well as by H.E. Ambassador Ahmed Nihad Abdel Latif, the Director of the Cairo Centre for Conflict Prevention and Peacekeeping Training in Africa (CCCPA); and the statement by the representative of the United Nations Office to the African Union; and

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council,

1. **Reiterates deep concern** over the effects of climate change in Africa, in particular, those related to peace and security; **stresses the need** for developing and strengthening climate-security capacities and institutions by facilitating the exchange of experience, training and capacity building at the regional, national and local level, in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change in Africa **while reiterating** Africa strong support to the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities;
2. **Commends** the AU Commission for hosting the three-day consultation on the Development of the Common African Position on Climate Change, Peace and Security from 27 to 29 August 2024, in Nairobi, Kenya and **welcomes** the outcomes of the consultations, as one of the platforms contributing in developing the Common African Position, which must be data driven and informed by contributions of Member States and African institutions;
3. **Emphasizes** the need to ensure African ownership, leadership, and agency in the elaboration of the CAP, acknowledging that climate-related peace and security risks need to be nationally determined and owned as well as context specific, **while underling the critical importance** of enhanced cooperation and collaboration in advancing the Climate, peace and security Nexus between and among the AU institutions, RECs/REMs, Training Centres of Excellence, TCEs, NeTT4Peace and Member States, as well as ensuring participation of the African Group of Negotiators and Climate national focal points to UNFCCC in further discussions/negotiations to contribute in the formulation of the Common African Position;
4. **Underscores** the need for advancing nationally and locally owned operationalization of the nexus, which is uniquely positioned to overcome the challenges posed by siloed approaches, and

promote integrated approaches to effectively address the root causes of conflict while strengthening national and local ownership of solutions, and supporting the participation of women, youth and local communities;

5. **Reiterates** the important role of the AU Commission, and other AU entities, including the newly established African Center of Excellence for Resilience and Adaptation in collaboration with AU Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA/NEPAD) in continuously providing capacity building support to Member States and the RECs/RMs, in order for them to build the required resilience and to more effectively respond holistically and comprehensively to climate related security threats, and strengthening their environmental policies and urban planning;

6. **Emphasizes** the need to ensure broad inclusivity by involving the most marginalized in decision-making process from policies to projects through programs to empower and enable effective participation and developing leadership skills; especially mainstreaming women, children, youth, people living with disabilities, the elderly, internally displaced persons and refugees and other minority groups in climate change and peace issues;

7. **Also emphasize the importance** of investing in risk prevention and resilience building, including better and easier access to finance, investments in absorption capacities and the rapid operationalization of the loss and damage fund; and underscores the need for mobilization of funding to significantly increase climate financing under Africa's special needs and circumstances, particularly for climate change adaptation and community resilience building, while recognizing the principle of historical responsibility of developed countries to provide the adequate finance, technology transfer and capacity building programmes to developing countries, and in this regard notes the African position that the polluter pays for their responsibility;

8. **Underlines** the continuous engagements with the private sector and civil society in developing the Common African Position, as well as the important contribution of the research and technology innovation communities;

9. **Stresses the importance** of ensuring Africa's access to Climate finance, through concessional instruments, including grants, guarantees, and non-debt instruments, and the need for early warning mechanisms to honor international funding commitments to support African countries mitigation and adaptation efforts, as key tools for peacebuilding and social cohesion;

10. **Once again, encourages** Member States to ensure sufficient investment in the just transition, green transition, renewables, research, technological innovation, and development in resilient and sustainable climate-sensitive agriculture, enabling equal opportunities for growth and development, as well as developing local value chains for green technologies to better position Africa in the global transition both, in terms of innovation and value chains;

11. **Underscores the need** for ensuring national ownership and enhanced collaboration between Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, the AU and the UN in the processes leading towards the development of the Common African Position, as well as exploring potential collaboration with new international partners on best practices while maintaining the African ownership of the process;

12. **While noting** the fruitful outcomes of the 27th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27), the last to be held on African soil, and **looks forward** to the outcomes of the upcoming 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29) in Baku, Azerbaijan and the round table discussion to be co-hosted by the AU Commission and the CCCPA;

13. **Emphasizes** the critical need for strengthened cross-sectoral coordination across the actors working on this the nexus, most particularly climate, peacebuilding, development, and humanitarian actors; as well as the need for utilizing the Common African Position (CAP) as an informed framework for ensuring effective collaboration between the AU, regional stakeholders, national governments, and international partners;
14. **Also emphasizes the need** to ensure that climate change responses are conflict-sensitive and security sensitive and that they mainstream peacebuilding efforts; as well as the need for holistic approaches that address the interlinkages between climate change and human mobility in conflict-affected settings, with a view to informing the design and implementation of policies and interventions that tackle climate-induced displacements in Africa;
15. **Underlines the importance** of prioritizing the impact of climate change on water and food security in Africa, while tackling the climate, peace and security nexus, given their critical importance for the African Continent;
16. **Emphasizes the need** for the Common African position to consider the view of sustainable cross-border transhumance, taking into account the requirements of biodiversity conservation, the fight against the adverse effects of climate change as well as those of peace and security;
17. **Calls** for more holistic responses to the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise and desertification, under relevant international frameworks, and the critical importance of cross-border cooperation and coordination, enhancing data collection, sharing and analysis; and
18. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

2024-10-30

Communiqué of the 1240th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council held on 30 October 2024 on Consultations on the Common African Position vis-à-vis Climate Change, Peace and Security.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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