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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321

Email: situationroom@africanunion.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1295TH MEETING

8 AUGUST 2025
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/CN.1295 (2025)

CONCEPT NOTE

CONSULTATION WITH PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND
GOVERNANCE (HRDG) AND THE AGA/APSA PLATFORM

CONSULTATION WITH PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (HRDG) AND THE AGA/APSA PLATFORM

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Peace and Security Council (PSC), in its joint annual engagements¹ with the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance (HRDG) and the African Governance Architecture–African Peace and Security Architecture (AGA-APSA) Platform in past years, made notable strides in fostering synergies, coordination, and the advancement of human rights, democratic governance, peace, and security. These engagements aimed to translate Africa’s democratic governance agenda into tangible programmatic outcomes, with the aim of the three bodies working collaboratively.

2. The PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG is a 15-member body mandated to promote human and peoples’ rights, democratic principles and institutions, popular participation, and good governance. Since its establishment in 2019, with the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) as its Secretariat, the Sub-Committee has made considerable progress in engaging the PAPS Department, AU Organs, Institutions, and the RECs and RMs of the AGA-APSA Platform to advance its mandate.

3. The AGA-APSA Platform on the other hand serves as the concentric centre for coordination and synergy among the AUC-PAPS, AU Organs, and Institutions, Member States, CSOs and others that have mandates in democracy, governance, human rights, peace, and security. It has previously engaged with the PSC on strengthening coordination and alignment, championing the principle of **“delivering as one”** and **“one AU approach”** through the support and facilitation of the AGA-APSA Secretariat which is also the Secretariat of the PRC Sub Committee on HRDG.

4. The joint sessions among the PSC, the PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG, and the AGA-APSA Platform have paved the way for mutual understanding of mandates, enhanced institutional collaboration, and promoted the open flow of information.

5. In 2025, the engagement aims to transition from discussion-based interactions to joint programmatic interventions that will potentially:

- i. Address the root causes of conflict, and support early warning, conflict prevention, management, and post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD); and
- ii. Create synergies and foster complementary partnerships, leveraging the comparative advantages of the three bodies for impactful interventions that enhance Africa’s governance, peace, and security trajectory.

6. The PSC–APRM Joint Retreat held in April 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa, where participants highlighted the following key points:

- i. Governance deficits, such as weak institutions, lack of transparency and accountability, exclusionary systems, and human rights violations remain key drivers of conflict in Africa;
- ii. Sustainable development must be people-centered and grounded in human rights instruments, notably the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; and
- iii. An urgent AU response is needed to address growing geopolitical threats, including foreign private military companies and resource exploitation, through a unified crisis response mechanism and the reaffirmation of African sovereignty.

¹PSC Communique ref No: PSC/PR/COMM.1098 (2022) and PSC/PR/COMM.1167 (2023).

7. Therefore, under the leadership of the Chairperson of the PSC for August 2025 and the Acting Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG, the consultation is scheduled to be held virtually on 8 August 2025.

II. RATIONALE

8. The African Governance Architecture (AGA) was established following the decision of the AU Assembly at its 15th Ordinary Session (AU/Dec.304(XV)) held in July 2010. It was designed as a Platform for Dialogue among stakeholders promoting democratic governance in Africa and for translating the AU's normative frameworks into action. AGA's institutional mechanism—the African Governance Platform—comprises AU Organs, Institutions, and RECs with mandates in governance, democracy, and human rights.²

9. The Platform operates under adopted Rules of Procedure (RoP) and is coordinated by the AGA-APSA Secretariat. The RoP were adopted through Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XVI) during the 16th AU Assembly in January 2011.

10. The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) was established in 2002 under the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC. APSA provides the AU's structural framework for conflict prevention, management, resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction. Its institutional components include the PSC, PAPS Department, Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), African Standby Force (ASF), Panel of the Wise, and the Peace Fund.

11. The AU's institutional reforms emphasized stronger AGA-APSA synergies, recognizing the mutual dependence between governance and peace and security. Despite the convergence of their mandates, past coordination has been suboptimal.

12. To address this, the architectures must align their objectives, harmonize initiatives, and coordinate implementation to deliver collectively on HRDG, early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, and PCRD—contributing to the broader goals of Agenda 2063.

13. A **Joint AGA-APSA Roadmap** is currently under development to guide synergies, align objectives, resolve overlaps, and highlight areas of strength, while also identifying challenges and opportunities. It aims to institutionalize coordination as a shared deliverable, integrate and reinvigorate key stakeholders across both architectures, and reinforce synergy as a strategic priority for all actors—while respecting the individual mandates and deliverables of each entity.

14. The upcoming **joint engagement** is a key milestone in this process, offering a space for the three bodies to jointly identify actionable initiatives, bridge policy-practice gaps, provide strategic direction, leadership and lay the groundwork for future joint actions.

III. OBJECTIVE

15. The engagement seeks to institutionalize sustained interaction among the PSC, PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG, and AGA-APSA Platform to enhance the flow of information, experience sharing, and coordinated action, enabling AU Member States, Institutions, Organs, and RECs to work in unison towards democratic governance and sustainable peace.

² African Governance Platform Members are all AU Organs, Institutions and RECs are - AUPSC, AUC, ACHPR, AfCHPR, PAP, APRM, AUABC, ECOSOC, ACERWC, AUCIL, NEPAD - AUDA and all the 8 RECS.

16. Address the fact that governance challenges are among the main factors contributing to conflict in Africa and that the root causes of conflicts are often linked to poor governance characterized by weak institutions, lack of transparency, lack of accountability, discriminatory or exclusionary systems, and human rights violations, which have given rise to grievances that can escalate into violence.

IV. SPECIFIC GOALS

17. The meeting will further strengthen the promotion of AGA-APSA synergy and partnership in areas such as information sharing, improving efficiency, achieving a paradigm shift in governance, improving coordination, and promoting citizen participation.

18. The meeting will enhance the institutional engagements and promote regular information and experience sharing; identify joint initiatives that move beyond briefings, with clearly defined resource, objectives and impact; as well as to develop a people-centered governance approach that is rooted in the African shared values instruments.

V. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

19. The session is further expected to continue strengthening cooperation and collaboration between the PSC, PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG, and AGA-APSA and to generate concrete recommendations for joint initiatives involving the three actors in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa. This includes reaffirming political commitments, enhancing the implementation of continental and international frameworks, and joint calls for an urgent response from the AU to escalate geopolitical threats, including external interference and resource exploitation, through a unified crisis response process and the reaffirmation of the African sovereignty.

20. At the end of the session, the Council is expected to adopt a communique summarizing the key points and decisions agreed upon to address this critical issue.

VI. DATE, VENUE AND WORKING LANGUAGES

21. The open session will be held virtually, on Friday, 8 August 2025, starting at 10 a.m., Addis Ababa local time. It will be conducted in two of the AU official languages of the AU: English and French.

VII. FORMAT AND PARTICIPATION

22. The meeting will be chaired by H.E. Dr. Ambassador Mohamed KHALED, Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the African Union and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for August 2025. The PSC will receive presentations from H.E. Ambassador Willy Nyamitwe, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Burundi and the Ag. Chairperson of the PRC Sub Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance (HRDG); and from Hon. Wilson Almeida Adao, Chairperson of the AGA-APSA Platform and Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).

23. The meeting will be participated by the PSC Member States, Members of the PRC Sub Committee on HRDG and Members of the AGA-APSA Platform.