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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
1301ST MEETING**

**17 SEPTEMBER 2025
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/CN.1301 (2025)

CONCEPT NOTE

THE NEXUS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE, PEACE AND SECURITY

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Africa remains one of the regions most severely affected by climate change, with projections of declining agricultural productivity, biodiversity loss, economic setbacks, health risks, and widening inequalities expected to intensify in the coming decades. Climate change acts as a risk multiplier, aggravating existing vulnerabilities while generating new pressures that directly threaten peace and security. Scarcity of natural resources, livelihood erosion, forced displacement, and governance deficits are already fueling instability, with disproportionate impacts on women, youth, children, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), refugees, returnees, persons with disabilities, and host communities. Poorly designed mitigation and adaptation measures risk further entrenching inequality and triggering political and geopolitical tensions.

2. Building on its previous engagements on the subject matter, the AU Peace and Security Council will convene an open ambassadorial-level session on **“The Nexus between Climate Change, Peace, and Security in Africa”** on Wednesday, **17 September 2025**. The meeting will examine ways to mobilize sustainable financing for adaptation, loss and damage, and just transition initiatives, while strengthening African financing facilities and scaling up climate-security action. It will also provide updates on the finalisation of the Common African Position on Climate Change, Peace and Security

II. BACKGROUND

3. Africa contributes less than four percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet bears some of the heaviest climate burdens. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC’s) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) underscores that the continent has already experienced extensive climate-related losses and damages. These include reduced agricultural productivity, biodiversity loss, health risks, economic setbacks, and growing inequalities, all of which are projected to intensify significantly in the coming decades. Climate change also acts as a risk multiplier, compounding existing vulnerabilities and creating new ones, with conflict risks emerging from natural resource competition, livelihood erosion, displacement, and weak governance structures.

4. The African Union has steadily advanced its engagement on the climate–peace and security nexus. In May 2018, the Peace and Security Council (PSC), through its Press Statement (PSC/PR/BR.DCCLXXIV) requested the AU Commission to conduct a study on the link between climate change and conflicts in Africa, highlighting its security implications. This request was reiterated in the PSC Communiqué of its 1051st Meeting of 26 November 2021, which emphasized the need for an informed climate-security-development nexus. Building on these decisions, the AU Commission initiated a climate-related security risks assessment in consultation with Member States, laying the groundwork for a Common African Position (CAP) on Climate Change, Peace, and Security.

5. At its 35th Ordinary Session in February 2022, the AU Assembly adopted Decision 815, acknowledging the inextricable link between climate, peace, and security. The AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2032) further underlined climate change as a threat multiplier for conflict and human security, while climate was also identified as a cross-cutting issue in the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) 2016–2020 Roadmap. These developments culminated in the Africa Climate Security Risk Assessment (ACRA), which was received by the PSC at its 1184th session on 7 November 2023, providing essential preliminary data for shaping the CAP-CPS.

6. Momentum accelerated with a three-day consultation hosted by the AU Commission in Nairobi from 27–29 August 2024. This meeting brought together AU Member States, RECs/RMs,

climate commissions, civil society, academia, and experts. Nine key challenges were identified, ranging from governance fragility, resource conflicts, and the role of non-state actors, to displacement, mobility, maritime security, and the unintended effects of climate mitigation and adaptation measures. Eleven thematic priorities were also outlined, including conflict-sensitive adaptation, strengthening regional organizations, ensuring finance and just transitions, technology transfer, natural resource governance, and early warning systems.

7. Since then, the PSC has continued to push for a coherent continental response. At its 1240th meeting on 30 October 2024, the Council highlighted the need for enhanced cross-sectoral coordination, national ownership, and stronger collaboration with the UN and other partners, while maintaining African leadership in shaping responses. The Communiqué also identified priority areas such as food security, sustainable cross-border transhumance, and comprehensive approaches to climate impacts.

8. At COP29 in November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the AU Commission presented progress on the CAP-CPS, underscoring governance, inclusivity, resilience, and the necessity of closing Africa's adaptation financing gap. Emphasis was placed on enhancing early warning systems, leveraging local knowledge, mobilizing private sector support, and addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups through a just transition. Most recently, at its 1263rd meeting on 6 March 2025, the PSC explicitly called for the finalization of the CAP-CPS. Since then, the AU Commission has advanced the process through a broad, consultative approach in line with the directives of the PSC.

III. OBJECTIVES:

9. This PSC meeting aims at the following:

- a) Reaffirm the importance of addressing the climate–peace–security nexus as a recurring priority on the PSC agenda;
- b) Examine ways to mobilize sustainable financing for adaptation, loss and damage, and just transition initiatives, with a focus on strengthening African financing facilities;
- c) Encourage continuous engagement with AU Member States, RECs/RMs, centres of excellence, civil society, and international partners to scale up climate-security action; and
- d) Review progress and provide updates on the finalization of the Common African Position on Climate Change, Peace, and Security (CAP-CPS).

IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

10. At the end of the meeting, it is expected that the PSC will, among others, adopt a communiqué containing the following recommendations:

- a) Reaffirm Commitment – Restates the Council's sustained focus on the climate–peace–security nexus, recalling past communiqués (2018, 2021, 2024) that recognized climate change as a multiplier of risks to peace and security;
- b) Acknowledge the differentiated impacts of climate change on peace and security across the continent, and underscores that climate change is a risk multiplier that exacerbates

vulnerabilities, heightens insecurity, and undermines livelihoods, thereby threatening stability at national, regional, and continental levels;

- c) Take note with appreciation of the progress made, including the experts' drafting workshop on the Common African Position on Climate, Peace and Security (CAP-CPS), the outcomes of key policy milestones, including the Thirteenth Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-XIII) Conference, and the strong representation of CPS in the Second Africa Climate Summit;
- d) Welcomes progress towards the finalization of the Common African Position on Climate Change, Peace, and Security, encourage Member States' ownership, and reaffirms its value as a unifying framework to amplify Africa's voice in global processes;
- e) Request the AU Commission to continue with consultations with Member States, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), African Climate Commissions, the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), civil society organisations, African centres of excellence and the United Nations, with a view to finalize the CAP-CPS and submit to the PSC for consideration;
- f) Strengthens Financing Priorities – Underscores the urgency of mobilizing predictable and sustainable financing for adaptation, loss and damage, just transition, and the scaling up of Africa-led climate-security initiatives, in line with previous PSC calls. In this regard, call for accelerated mobilisation of resources to close Africa's adaptation finance gap, and expand innovative financing instruments that are conflict-sensitive and accessible to countries affected by insecurity, complex political transitions and displacement;
- g) Underscore the importance of strengthening institutional collaboration frameworks between AU Member States, RECs/RMs, African Climate Commissions, AU centres of excellence, civil society, the private sector, and international partners, to build coordinated responses to climate-related security risks;
- h) Encourage Continued Engagement – Reiterates the need for ongoing collaboration with Member States, RECs/RMs, civil society, and partners to deliver coordinated and inclusive responses;
- i) Call on the Member States to redouble their efforts in incorporating the WPS Agenda into national and local priorities, taking into account the specific situation and socio-cultural dynamics of each country; and
- j) Reaffirm the importance of projecting a unified African voice on climate, peace and security at COP30, UNGA 80, and the G20 Summit, as well as in other international forums.

V. DATE AND VENUE

11. The meeting will be held physically on Wednesday, 17 September 2025, starting at 10:00 a.m., Addis Ababa time, in the Plenary Hall of the Old AU Conference Centre. It will be conducted in both official languages of the AU: English and French.