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UNIÓN AFRICANA

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
1303RD MEETING**

**24 SEPTEMBER 2025
NEW YORK, AMERICA**

PSC/HoSG/CN.1303 (2025)

CONCEPT NOTE

RE-ENERGIZING CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION IN AFRICA

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The PSC has remained actively seized of all issues affecting peace, security and stability in the African Continent. Indeed, working collaboratively with all critical stakeholders within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) that includes Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), the United Nations, and other strategic partners, the PSC has registered several significant milestones.

2. It would be recalled that, during the commemoration of the 50th OAU/AU Anniversary, held on 25 May 2013, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted a Solemn Declaration [Assembly/AU/Decl.3(XXI)] in which, among others, the Heads of State and Government expressed their determination to achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa, to make peace a reality for all African people and to rid the continent of wars, civil conflicts, human rights violations, humanitarian disasters and violent conflicts, and to prevent genocide.

3. As part of the efforts to update the Solemn Declaration, in 2017, the Assembly of the Union adopted the AU Master Roadmap (AUMR) of Practical Steps to Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 (now extended to 2030). As the main pillar of the AU Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) has not relented in spearheading efforts aimed at silencing the guns in the Continent, working in close collaboration with the rest of the AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), the AU Commission, the United Nations, other African institutions/organisations, Think Tanks, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and partners.

4. Key frameworks have been adopted, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), the African Governance Architecture (AGA), the Revised AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy Framework, the African Facility to support Inclusive Political Transitions (AFSIT), Declaration on Unconstitutional Change of Government in Africa. Lessons learning and knowledge exchange platforms have also been established, including the African Governance Platform Inter-Regional Knowledge Exchange Platform (I-RECKE), the Abuja Forum, the Accra Forum, the Luanda Biennial, and the Tana Forum, with the hope that they will contribute towards the creation of conducive conditions for the realization of a conflict free Africa.

5. Despite the existence of normative frameworks/instruments, the various forums and, efforts being deployed by the PSC for effective conflict resolution remains elusive. As a matter of fact, some conflict situations have become resurgent, including terrorism, violent extremism and piracy, thus, defying AU peacemaking/ conflict resolution efforts.

6. Some of the challenges facing AU peace efforts, particularly, conflict resolution, include but are not limited to: Lack of shared values and normative instruments between the AU and some Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), unrealistic peace agreements that are often a result of deadline diplomacy ; lack of political will by the main protagonists to end the conflicts through a negotiated political settlement; lack of adequate, predictable, flexible and sustainable financial resources; the conflict complexities; competing peace initiatives; lack of strategic convergence, coherence, coordination and complementarity of efforts by critical stakeholders.

7. The current AU architecture to conflict prevention, management and resolution requires urgent new approach to address the current challenges in a more effective manner to preserve precious African lives and protect scarce resources that are critical for development programmes. In addition, there is a growing risk that national economies will continue to be shattered; humanitarian crises will worsen; poverty and underdevelopment will remain chronic. Agenda 2063 will also remain elusive.

8. It is in this context that, following consultations with the Republic of Angola, both as the Chairperson of the AU and also as the Chairperson of the PSC for September 2025, the PSC will convene a session, in New York, on the margins of the UN General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government devoted to the Theme: Re-energizing Conflict Resolution in Africa.

II. OBJECTIVES

9. The PSC session will provide an opportunity for the Head of States and Governments and high-level representatives reassess the AU conflict resolution efforts and to reflect on critical lessons and best practices for further enhancing the conflict resolution mandate of the PSC. More specifically, and among other critical issues, the session will deliberate on the following questions:

- a) How to ensure the efficiency and the legitimacy of African Solutions to African Problems?
- b) How to enhance effective and mutually reinforcing synergies entailed in the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and African Governance Architecture (AGA) to ensure that they more significantly contribute towards enhancing the effectiveness of the PSC to deliver on its mandate, as it relates to conflict resolution, particularly the relations between the PSC and the RECs/RMs/ the UNSC/ EUPSC and LASPSC?
- c) What role should the neighbouring countries of Member States that are trapped in a vicious cycle of violent conflict play?
- d) What should be done more to ensure full implementation of AU facilitated peace agreements and ensure successful completion of political transitions within the prescribed timeframe?
- e) How to ensure respect and compliance by Member States, with the decisions of the PSC and the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government?

III. PARTICIPATION

10. The Session will be held at the Heads of State and Government level. Participation will be limited to PSC Members, Chairperson of the AU Commission and UN Secretary General. It should be noted that Executive Secretaries and Secretary Generals of the RECs/RMs and President of Pan African parliament will attend as observers.

IV. FORMAT, VENUE, DATE, TIME AND WORKING LANGUAGES

11. The Session will be held physically/ in person, at the AU Permanent Observer Mission in New York, on 24 September 2025, starting at 11:00 a.m., New York Time. The session will be conducted

using simultaneous interpretation in the following AU working languages, namely: Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. The format of the meeting is 1+2.

V. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

12. The meeting will adopt a communique highlighting some innovative and actionable means and ways to effectively address challenges that have continuously impacted on the AU conflict resolution efforts on the Continent.