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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

1304TH MEETING (MINISTERIAL LEVEL)

30 SEPTEMBER 2025

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/MIN/COMM.1304 (2025)

COMMUNIQUE



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1304th meeting, held at the ministerial level, on 30 September 2025, on the situation in the Sahel region.

The Peace and Security Council

Recalling all relevant AU Assembly decisions, as well as previous pronouncements and decisions of Council on the Situation in the Sahel Region, in particular, Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1162 (2023)] adopted at its 1162nd meeting held on 20 July 2023;

Reaffirming the AU unwavering commitment to respect the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of the countries of the region, particularly those currently undergoing political transitions; and **expressing** the AU solidarity with, and the commitment to continue accompanying the people of the region in their fight against terrorism, violent extremism and other scourges, including the adverse effects of climate change, and also in their legitimate aspirations to restore durable peace, security, stability development and democratic governance, in their countries;

Reiterates the AU's Zero tolerance for any forms of unconstitutional changes of government; **underscores** the importance of promoting a culture of peace;

Take note of the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Tete Antonio, the Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola and Chairperson of the PSC for September 2025; the introductory statement by H.E. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the AU Commission; and the statements by H.E. Leonardo Santos Simao, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Head of the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), and by the representative of the European Union; and

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

1. **Expresses deep concern** over the deterioration of the security and humanitarian situations in the Sahel region, resulting from a combination of factors, including terrorism, unconstitutional changes of government and the attendant displacement of large numbers of the population, growing number of victims, particularly women and children, as well as the social and economic challenges that continue to undermine the peace, security, stability and development in the region;
2. **Notes deep concern** over the slow pace of political transition processes in the region and, in this context, **strongly urges** the transitional authorities of the three countries to expedite their political transitions in an inclusive manner that brings on board all key stakeholders, namely, political parties, women, youth, civil society organizations, community and religious leaders, as well as traditional leadership and the private sector, and also to create conducive conditions to facilitate their effective participation and also to promote genuine political dialogue as the only viable path towards building the required national consensus on sustainable solutions for the challenges facing their countries;
3. **Welcomes** the appointment of H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, as the AU Special Envoy for the Sahel and **commends** him for his efforts;
4. **Commends** the efforts of H.E. Joao Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, Chairperson of the AU and AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa for enhancing

engagements with the Sahel countries through H.E. Tete Antonio, Minister of External Relations and Chairperson of the Executive Council, as Special Envoy, to obtain concrete information on the situation in the Sahel region;

5. **Encourages** the transitional authorities in the concerned countries of the region to adopt comprehensive, multidimensional, “whole of government – whole of society” approaches that more effectively address the structural root causes and drivers, as well as factors that give rise to, and continue to sustain the spread of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in the region;

6. **Urges** the transitional authorities to place the supreme interests of their respective countries and their people above all else, and to ensure the strict implementation of their respective transitional roadmaps, within the agreed timelines, and to operationalize the joint transition monitoring committees in their respective countries;

7. **Calls** for enhanced collective security approaches, of the stakeholders in the region, including intelligence sharing and joint operations, strengthened border management, in order to more effectively combat terrorism in Sahel and West Africa, given the cross-border nature of the threat;

8. **Urges** the transitional authorities of the three countries, namely, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger to ensure effective presence of the State in their entire territories, particularly in areas liberated from the terrorist groups, among others, through the provision of basic public goods and services, as well as to respect fundamental rights and freedoms of their people, in accordance with the AU instruments, international law and their national legislation; in this regard, **requests** the AU commission to provide the necessary required support;

9. **Appeals** to the AU Member States in a position to do so and the international community and agencies, such as the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide support to scale up the mobilization of predictable adequate and sustainable financial and material resources to support peace initiatives in the region, including through the use of the AU Peace Fund to support peace dividends that include peace strengthening and quick impact projects by ensuring the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of the Sahel region; and in this context, **reiterates the request** for the AU Commission, working in close collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to scale up resource mobilization efforts, including through the African Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT), in favour of the countries affected by the scourge of terrorism in the Sahel region;

10. **Requests** the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Centre to develop programmes tailored for supporting the countries of the Sahel region;

11. **Encourages** the AU Commission to Continue to promote its role as a robust regional actor, demonstrating that African solutions remain viable and effective in the Sahel, as anywhere else in the Continent and, in this regard, **welcomes** the efforts being deployed by the Chairperson of the Commission H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf as part of constructive engagement;

12. **Appeals** to the international community, humanitarian aid agencies, and to Member States in a position to do so in the spirit of pan-African solidarity, to support humanitarian efforts in favour of the countries of the Sahel region;
13. **Decides** to establish a Task Force to support the countries of the Sahel in fighting against terrorism and, in this regard, **directs** the Chairperson of the Commission to establish the Task Force for Sahel addressing security, socio-economic and humanitarian challenges in the region, including addressing terrorism and violent extremism;
14. **Stresses the importance** of intensification of diplomatic engagements with the countries of the Sahel undergoing political transitions and, in this regard, **calls** for a field visit by H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi and AU Special Envoy for the Sahel, with the support of the AU Commission, to the three countries of the Sahel, with a view to engage on political transition processes, provide the AU support in addressing the challenges, as well as to enhance direct dialogue with the transitional authorities;
15. **Welcomes** the proposal by the Republic of Angola to hold a Summit on the situation in the Sahel and its offer to host the said Summit in Luanda, Angola;
16. **Takes note** of the holding of the upcoming Aswan Forum on 19 and 20 October 2025, in Aswan, Egypt which will provide a platform for the exchange of views of various stakeholders, on peace and security issues in Africa, aiming at addressing root causes of instability; and
17. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.