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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1309TH MEETING

30 OCTOBER 2025
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/PS.1309 (2025)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) held its 1309th meeting (Open Session) on 30 October 2025, which was dedicated to the theme: “Women, Peace and Security in Africa: 25 Years of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325)”.

Council **acknowledged** the critical role of women in the AU peace and security agenda.

Council **recalled** the AU Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.868 (XXXVII)] adopted by the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on 17-18 February 2024, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, stressing the imperative for the protection of women, youth, and children and vulnerable groups in situations of conflict and crisis; and Aspiration 6 of AU Agenda 2063.

Council also **recalled** its previous pronouncements and decisions on Women, Peace and Security in Africa, particularly, Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1268 (2025)] adopted at its 1268th meeting, held on 21 March 2025.

Council **took note** of the Opening Statement by H.E. Ambassador Tebelelo Alfred Boang, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the African Union and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for October 2025; the Statement by H.E. Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on Women, Peace and Security; the statement by Justice (Rtd) Effie Owuor, Co-Chair FemWise Africa; and the statements by the Representatives of Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs); UN Women and EU.

Council **welcomed** the appointment of H.E. Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, as the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on Women, Peace and Security and assured her of the support of Council to her efforts.

Council **commended** the Republic of Namibia for the continued leadership and commitment to championing the Women, Peace and Security agenda globally and for hosting the Silver Anniversary of the UNSC Resolution 1325, and welcomed the Windhoek Plus 25 Declaration adopted by the commemorative event, which includes the commitment to advancing the role of women in peace and security efforts in the Continent.

Council **welcomed** the Annual Report on the implementation of the WPS Agenda since 2019, published by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, based on reports submitted by Member States that have adopted National Action Plans (NAPs), using the Continental Results Framework (CRF) for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the WPS Agenda.

Council **commended** the AU Commission for developing normative frameworks like the Maputo Protocol, AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (2017-2027), AU Policy on the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Peace Support Operations (PSOs), adoption of the AU Guidelines on gender-sensitive responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the adoption of the Kinshasa Declaration.

Council **requested** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to develop a mechanism for complementary civil society reporting under the Continental Results Framework (CRF) to enable grassroots women's organisations, and networks, in cooperation with Member States, to produce independent shadow reports that strengthen transparency and accountability.

Council **acknowledged** the significant progress achieved by FemWise-Africa in institutionalizing women's participation in AU preventive diplomacy and electoral missions, which is now a standard component of AU engagements, and **underscored** that women's inclusion brings empathy, moral authority, and sustainability to peace processes.

Council **commended** FemWise-Africa for its vital contribution to ensuring the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in peace processes across the continent, including through the deployment of women mediators and experts to AU-led peace efforts in Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Madagascar, Chad, and the Central African Republic.

Council **recognized** the continued efforts by the Network to strengthen national and regional chapters of women mediators, which expands the reach of the WPS agenda to grassroots and national levels, and in this connection, Council **emphasized** the importance of consolidating these gains by embedding women's mediation within the African Peace and Security Architecture, supported by predictable resources and sustained political commitment, to ensure women's leadership remains central to all peace efforts.

Council **reiterated** the encouragement for Member States to create conducive conditions for the meaningful participation of women in peace processes, including early warning, conflict prevention, mediation and dialogue; and to institutionalise gender-responsive budgeting and allocate dedicated national resources to implement National and Regional Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security.

Council **encouraged** all Member States to take action on promoting Positive Masculinity in Leadership and to End Violence against Women and Girls.

Council **underlined** the need for further strengthening the four main pillars of the WPS Agenda, namely participation, protection, prevention and, relief and recovery, particularly in conflict situations.

Council **emphasized** the need for enhanced capacity building support for Women Peace and Security Focal Points within Member States and Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) to facilitate effective coordination, monitoring, and reporting.

Council **underscored** the need for the institutionalization of youth representation within national peace councils, mediation platforms, and peacebuilding initiatives, with a view to further strengthening inter-generational engagement and leadership in the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Council **also underscored** the need for strengthening regional survivor-centred mechanisms to ensure justice, reparations, and psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based and conflict-related sexual violence.

Council **underlined** the need to establish a continental coordination platform within the Office of the Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security for Focal Points across the RECs/RMs, and AU Organs/ Institutions and agencies, with a view to harmonizing indicators, reporting templates, and implementation strategies; and

Council **requested** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to reinforce the institutional capacity of the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (OSE-WPS) through adequate and predictable financing, including from the AU regular budget.

Council **agreed** to remain actively seized of the matter.