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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1334TH MEETING

9 MARCH 2026
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1334 (2026)

COMMUNIQUE



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1334th meeting on “Women, Peace and Security in Africa: Women’s Leadership in Addressing Emerging Threats to Peace and Security: Artificial Intelligence and Technology-Facilitated Violence”, held on Monday, 09 March 2026 :

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.868 (XXXVII)] adopted by the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held from 17 to 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, namely, “An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children”;

Also recalling the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Girls; the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and all subsequent Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security;

Further recalling its previous pronouncements and decisions on Women, Peace and Security in Africa, particularly, Communiqué [PSC/PR/PS.1309 (2025)] adopted at its 1309th meeting, held on 30 October 2025;

Reaffirming the AU commitment to promote full and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding, governance, and decision-making processes and in this regard, **recognizing** the critical role of the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (OSE-WPS) in advancing the WPS Agenda;

Taking note of the Opening Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Mahlaba Almon Mamba, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Eswatini to the AU and PSC Chairperson for March 2026; the Introductory Statement by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; as well as the Statement by H.E. Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, AU Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security; the Statement by H.E. Justice Effie Ewuor, Co-Chair FemWise-Africa, and **also taking note** of the statements by the representatives of AU Member States, as well as by Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs); and

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

1. **Congratulates** all African women on the occasion of the commemoration of the International Women’s Day, 8 March 2026, and **commends** them for their sustainable efforts in the promotion of governance, peace and security in Africa and appreciates their vital role in shaping the continent’s future;
2. **Recognizes** in particular the commendable efforts of the current female African Heads of State, namely, H.E. Samia Hassan Suluhu, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwa, President of the Republic of Namibia, in promoting peace, stability and socio-economic development in their respective countries and in Africa as a whole;

3. **Acknowledges** that while offering opportunities for innovation, socio-economic development, inclusion of women, emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence and digital platforms also present new risks such as technology-facilitated gender-based violence, online harassment, misinformation, and disinformation, which undermines women's effective leadership, credibility, reputation, participation, safety, and authority;
4. **Notes with deep concern** that emerging technological risks intersect with persistent gender inequalities, the digital divide and limited access to digital tools, thus creating challenges for inclusive governance, sustainable peace, and development in Africa;
5. **Calls upon** Member States and the international community and members of the private sector to work towards an Artificial Intelligence that bridges the social, digital and economic divides. Underscores the need to increase the availability, affordability and access to ICT infrastructure, products and services and investment in ICT training and skills development especially towards women-led technological solutions for early warning, conflict prevention and peacebuilding;
6. **Expresses deep concern** over the ongoing violent conflicts in the Continent which are disproportionately affecting women and girls; **further notes with serious concern** the rise of technology-facilitated violence, misinformation, and disinformation which are constraining women's participation in governance, peace and decision-making processes, which are also limiting women's effective and meaningful contribution in shaping policies on peace, security, and development in the Continent and in this context, **strongly condemns** all forms of violence and attacks against women and girls, including sexual violence through misuse and abuse of digital platforms;
7. **Underscores the importance** of addressing digital threats in a coordinated, gender-responsive, and preventive manner to safeguard women leaders, strengthening protection mechanisms, and promoting inclusive participation in public and digital spaces;
8. **Encourages** all Member States, particularly those that have not yet done so, to sign, ratify and domesticate without delay, all AU and international instruments on women and girls including the AU Convention on Violence against Women and Girls and ensure the protection of women in all spheres from their childhood;
9. **Calls upon** Member States and AU institutions to operationalize gender-responsive policies, legal frameworks, and institutional measures to prevent technology-facilitated violence against women, promote safe digital environments, and advance ethical deployment of Artificial Intelligence and digital technologies;
10. **Encourages** all Member States to create conducive conditions for more meaningful and effective engagement of women in digital governance, AI policy, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and decision making, ensuring equitable access to digital tools and platforms;
11. **Stresses the need** to develop initiatives to protect women leaders, mediators, peacebuilders/peacekeepers and communities in general, from online harassment, misinformation, disinformation, and AI-related threats; in this regard, **urges** the Commission to develop a system, as part of the AU Continental Early Warning System, for tracking and reporting on risks and threats to Women Peace and Security associated with the adoption and use of AI in Africa by both state and non-state actors, to enable early action by the Council;
12. **Urges** multi-stakeholder engagement, including governments, civil society, regional and international partners, to develop integrated strategies that address emerging digital threats while strengthening women's leadership and protection;

13. **Underscores the importance** of strengthening digital literacy, awareness of online rights, and technology resilience for women in public life, civil society, and governance institutions;
14. **Urges** Member States to integrate digital threats, including AI-driven disinformation, deep fakes, and online gender-based violence, into National Action Plans on Women Peace and Security, and to align these frameworks with continental instruments and emerging technology governance initiatives;
15. **Calls** for redoubling resource mobilization efforts to ensure predictable, adequate and sustainable financial and technical resources, including leveraging instruments such as the AU Peace Fund, to support gender-responsive initiatives addressing emerging technological threats;
16. **Commends** the AU Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security for the efforts being deployed in advancing the AU women, peace and security agenda and **requests** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to further enhance the institutional capacity of the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security through adequate and predictable financing;
17. **Requests** the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, in collaboration with relevant AU departments and Member States, to support the operationalization of strategies, programmes, and initiatives that strengthen women’s leadership, protection, and preventive mechanisms in digital and governance spaces;
18. **Also commends efforts** being deployed by the FEMWISE in promoting peace in the Continent;
19. **Appreciates** the contributions of civil society, women’s networks, and development partners in advancing gender-responsive peacebuilding, digital inclusion, and protection measures, **and calls** for the strengthening of partnerships to ensure more impactful interventions;
20. **Reiterates the critical importance** of the AU Digital Transformation Strategy 2020–2030, the AU Data Policy Framework, and the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection in guiding safe, equitable and participatory digital governance across the Continent; in this regard, **requests** the AU Commission, in particular the AI Advisory Group on Governance, Peace and Security, to ensure the inclusion issues relating to women in the development of the Common African Position on AI Governance, Peace and Security;
21. **Calls for** the implementation of the Conclusions of the Inaugural Ministerial High-Level Seminar on Women, Peace and Security in Africa held in Swakopmund, Namibia on 23 March 2024 and **requests** the AU Commission to organize the second edition of the High-Level Seminar “known as the Swakopmund Process” in the course of this year; and
22. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.