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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
1359<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

7 AUGUST 2026  
ADDIS-ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1359 (2026)

COMMUNIQUE



## **COMMUNIQUE**

**Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 1359<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 7 August 2026, on Update on the Situation in the Sahel Region.**

### **The Peace and Security Council,**

**Recalling** Communiqué [PSC/MIN/COMM.1304 (2025)] adopted at its 1304<sup>th</sup> meeting held at Ministerial level on 30 September 2025; Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1212 (2024)] adopted at its 1212<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 20 May 2024; and Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1180.1 (2023)] and [PSC/PR/COMM.1180.2 (2023)] adopted at its 1180<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23 October 2023;

**Also recalling** the provisions of all relevant AU normative instruments, including the AU Constitutive Act; the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union; the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; and the Declaration on the Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government, adopted by the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Lomé, Togo, July 2000 (the Lomé Declaration); as well as Declaration [Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.(XVI)] on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government adopted by the 16<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held from 27 to 28 May 2022, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea; the Johannesburg Declaration on Silencing the Guns adopted by the 14<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly, held in Johannesburg on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2030;

**Reaffirming** the AU solidarity with the people and governments of the countries of the Sahel region in their relentless quest for durable peace, security and stability in their countries; **and also reaffirming** the unwavering commitment of the AU to respect the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the countries of the region;

**Taking note** of the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mohamed Khaled, Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the AU and PSC Chairperson for August 2026; and the Introductory Statement by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, of the AU Commission; as well as the briefing by H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara, the High Representative/ Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Mali and Sahel and Head of AU Mission in Sahel (MISAHÉL); by H.E. Dr. Leonardo Santos Simao, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for West Africa and Head of the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWAS); and by Mr. George Fominyen, the Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), AU Global Office; and;

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

#### **A. On the overall situation**

1. **Expresses deep concern over** the state of insecurity prevailing in the Sahel Region as a whole, which is compounded by the growing threat of terrorism and violent extremism, climate change and transnational organized crime, including drug and human trafficking;
2. **Expresses deep concern** over the deteriorating humanitarian situation across the Sahel region which particularly affect vulnerable populations, namely children, elderly and people with disabilities, as well as women and young people.

3. **Takes note** of the continued efforts being deployed by the countries of the Sahel in addressing the complex political, security, socio-economic and humanitarian challenges confronting the region and **encourages** sustained efforts to strengthen national institutions, restore state authority, improve public service delivery and promote inclusive, transparent, accountable and democratic governance;
4. **Commends** the continued efforts by the Sahel countries to further strengthen regional collective security, including through enhanced intelligence and information sharing, coordinated border management and joint operation in combating terrorism, violent extremism and transnational organized crime;
5. **Welcomes** the sustained efforts being deployed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) promoting constructive engagement with Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger in their political process;
6. **Reiterates** that military responses alone cannot sustainably address the challenges confronting Sahel and **underscores** the importance of comprehensive strategies that integrate security interventions with good governance, reconciliation, institution-building, socio-economic development, humanitarian action and climate resilience;

#### **B. On African Union undertaken actions**

7. **Reaffirms** the AU commitment to maintaining constructive engagement with the Governments of the Sahel region countries, particularly those undergoing political transition, in accordance with the principles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and other relevant AU normative frameworks, with a view to supporting lasting peace, security, stability and sustainable development;
8. **Commends** the AU for the continued support towards the countries of the Sahel region, particularly those undergoing political transition, including through availing an amount of USD 2 million in 2025 from the AU Peace Fund and through the African Facility for Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT) and for the commitment to also mobilize support for 2026 for all countries in political transition;
9. **Commends** the continued and sustained engagement of the AU to supporting efforts aimed at comprehensively addressing the challenges facing the Sahel region including through MISAHEL; as well as the recent visit by the Chairperson of the Commission to the region and **encourages** him to continue such constructive engagements efforts with the rest of the countries of the region, particularly those undergoing political transition;

#### **C. On actions to be taken**

10. **Encourages** the transition authorities in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger to continue implementing nationally owned and led political, legal and institutional reforms, promote inclusive political dialogue, strengthen democratic institutions and create conditions conducive to the peaceful restoration of constitutional governance, taking into account the prevailing security environment;
11. **Also encourages** the Government of Chad to continue consolidating constitutional governance, strengthen democratic institutions, promote national cohesion and pursue reforms aimed at enhancing peace, security and socio-economic development;
12. **Underscores the importance** of pursuing collective security approaches in addressing the multidimensional threats facing the Sahel region and, in this respect, **encourages** mutual trust and

confidence building measures among the countries of the region and between the countries and the relevant regional mechanisms in the Sahel Region;

13. **Encourages** continued dialogue and cooperation between the AU, ECOWAS, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), as well as the UN, in order to ensure coordination and complementarity of efforts, strategic coherence, common messaging and to be more impactful in promoting regional peace, security and stability in the Sahel;

14. **Urges** all parties to the conflict situations in the Sahel region to unconditionally facilitate safe, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access in accordance with international humanitarian law and applicable international legal obligations;

15. **Reiterates** the obligation of all parties to fully respect international humanitarian law, international human rights law and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and **encourages** the countries of the region to further strengthen accountability mechanisms, civilian protection measures and respect for international humanitarian law, as well as international human rights law, in undertaking counter-terrorism operations;

16. **Encourages** the countries of the Sahel region, with the support of the AU and international partners, to redouble efforts to address the scourge of youth unemployment, promote peace education, climate resilient and smart agriculture, infrastructure development, local governance, mindful of the fact that sustainable socio-economic development remains indispensable to addressing the structural root causes of instability and factors that drive and sustain, radicalization, terrorism, extremism and violent conflicts in the Sahel region;

17. **Further encourages** the countries of the Sahel region to adopt comprehensive and integrated as well as inclusive “whole of government-whole of society” approaches that mainstream effective participation of all critical stakeholders, including women and youth, traditional leaders and leaders of various religious groups in order to more effectively address the multidimensional and interconnected challenges facing their region;

18. **Calls upon** the Commission to rationalize the coordination architecture engaged in the Sahel and in this regard, Requests the AU Commission to establish a joint reporting arrangement with UNOWAS to ensure coherence between the ongoing strategic review and the council’s own decisions on the Sahel;

19. **Encourages** scaling up resource mobilization efforts to ensure predictable, adequate and sustainable support to the countries of the Sahel region and in this respect, **calls upon** Member States, humanitarian agencies, international financial institutions and development partners to strengthen support for internally displaced persons, refugees, host communities and populations affected by conflict, food insecurity and climate-related shocks;

20. **Requests** the AU Commission to expedite the implementation of all decisions relating to the Sahel, including the decision relating to the establishment of an AU Task Force for the Sahel; and to convene annual Technical and Ministerial Consultations between the AU, relevant RECs/RMs, Member States of the Nouakchott Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation and the Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan Region, as well as with Member States of the Djibouti Process on Regional Security in the Eastern and Horn of Africa regions, with a view to further strengthening strategic coordination, intelligence fusion and information sharing, early warning, border security cooperation and coordinated responses to terrorism and transnational organized crime;

21. ***Directs*** the AU Commission, through the African Union Centre for Counter Terrorism (AUCTC), to further strengthen technical support to Member States in the areas of counter-terrorism, strategic intelligence analysis, border security, prevention and countering of violent extremism, combating terrorist financing and capacity-building for national security institutions; ***as well as*** to further strengthen collaboration between the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), regional early warning mechanisms and national early warning structures in order to enhance conflict prevention, anticipatory action and timely decision-making;
22. ***Requests*** the Chairperson of the Commission to avail MISAHEL with all required resources to enable it to more effectively discharge its mandate;
23. ***Instructs*** the PSC Committee of Experts to review, as soon as possible, the Report of the Independent High-Level Panel on Governance, Security and Development in the Sahel, jointly commissioned by the AU Commission, UN, ECOWAS and G5 Sahel, in 2022 and delivered in 2024, and to report to Council on priority recommendations;
24. ***Requests*** the AU Commission to continue monitoring developments in the Sahel and to submit regular reports to the Peace and Security Council on the implementation of the present Communiqué and on evolving political, security, humanitarian and socio-economic developments in the region;
25. ***Urges*** the AU Commission, through the Department HHS, to conduct, by December 2026, an urgent humanitarian mission to the Sahel countries, in coordination with AUDA-NEPAD - in its capacity as the continent's development agency - and the WFP with the objectives to provide humanitarian assistance to local people and to observe firsthand the humanitarian situation; and
26. ***Decides*** to remain actively seized of the matter.