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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1376TH MEETING

2 NOVEMBER 2026
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/RPT.1376 (2026)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC) ON POST CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2026

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC) ON POST CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This annual report covers the period January - December 2026 and highlights the key challenges and achievements by the AU Centre for PCRD in the implementation of its programs and operations on the continent, specifically those in conflict, post-conflict and political transition contexts. It is critical to mention that the Centre was officially operationalized in September 2023, with the onboarding of the first set of the staff.

2. The year under review was marked by exceptional financial constraints. The Centre operated in the absence of a dedicated program budget allocation, which considerably limited the scope and scale of its planned interventions. Notwithstanding these constraints, the Centre prioritized a limited number of high-valued activities, focused on resource mobilization, early peace dividends for affected communities, and the strategic repositioning of the Centre for the period 2026-2028.

II. RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A. Research Project titled; 'Inclusion to Impact': Meaningful Youth Participation in Decision-Making, Political Processes and the Implementation of Peace Agreements, January- July 2026

3. The research project titled; "*From Inclusion to Impact: Meaningful Youth Participation in Decision-Making, Political Processes and the Implementation of Peace Agreements*" conducted during January to July 2026, examines whether the growing inclusion of young people in political, governance and peacebuilding processes is translating into real influence, decision-making power and measurable impact.

4. The study covers four countries from four African regions: Central African Republic, South Sudan, The Gambia, and Madagascar. This multi-regional approach provides comparative insights into common and context-specific challenges affecting meaningful youth participation across different African settings. The research is directly connected to Pillar 7 – Youth Inclusion of the Revised African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy.

5. The findings demonstrate that young people are increasingly present in consultations, youth platforms, political processes and peacebuilding initiatives. However, presence does not necessarily translate into power or impact.

6. The principal barriers identified include limited recognition of youth initiatives (92.6%), generational hierarchies (84.6%), political instrumentalization (77.9%), lack of resources (72%), lack of access to real decision-making (71%), weak accountability mechanisms (68.1%), restrictive legal frameworks (63.3%), and insecurity and repression (61.1%). The findings reveal a power-to-impact gap as follows:

a) Presence without authority;

b) Voice without influence;

c) Representation without decision-making rights/powers;

d) Innovative Ideas without resources; and

e) Recommendations without systematic follow-up.

7. Respondents consequently call for participation that goes "beyond consultations," "real decision-making power," and representation in which young people are "not just observers but implementers as well.

B. Needs Assessment Missions on the Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIPS), May-June 2026

8. From May to July 2026, the Centre undertook Quick Impact Project (QIP) needs-assessment missions to four (4) Member States, conducted in close consultation with national authorities, local communities and partners present on the ground. The missions assessed health infrastructure, educational facilities, humanitarian needs, among others, with a view to identifying visible, community-centered interventions capable of delivering early peace dividends, reinforcing public confidence in the peace process, as well as to strengthen community resilience, social cohesion and peacebuilding.

MEMBER STATES	PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS IDENTIFIED
Central African Republic (CAR)	Rehabilitation, extension and equipping of a Medical Facility in Bangui, with the Ngaragba Centre retained as the priority area for intervention.
Mozambique	Provision of humanitarian relief/aid to the Ngalane – Metuge area in Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique.
The Gambia	Supply of a Medical X-RAY Machine, with minor renovation of the X-RAY Room, refurbishing/painting and fencing of the Gambia's TRAUMA Centre was identified as the priority area for support.
South Sudan	Capacity Building of relevant Stakeholders jointly with the supply of Laptops for capacity sustenance.

C. Business and Private Sector Dialogue with relevant Stakeholders on PCRD and Peacebuilding, June 2026

9. In pursuit of predictable and diversified financing for post-conflict reconstruction, the AU Centre for PCRD convened a Business and Private Sector Dialogue in Cairo, Egypt in June 2026 bringing together African and Egyptian business entities, financial institutions and private sector associations. The Dialogue sensitized participants on the revised PCRD Policy and on investment opportunities in countries in transition, and explored modalities for private sector participation in recovery, infrastructure and livelihood programs.

10. The engagement was constructive and well received and laid the foundation for structured partnerships in support of the Centre's resource mobilization efforts, including with Afreximbank and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA).

D. Validation of the AU-PCRD Strategic Framework (2026–2028), September 2026

11. On 16 and 17 September 2026, the Centre convened a Validation Workshop for the AU PCRD Strategic Framework for the period 2026–2028, in Cairo, Egypt. Participants were drawn from African Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, AU organs, the Cairo

International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, Financial Institutions and Development Partners.

12. The Workshop validated seven (7) thematic areas aligned with the nine (9) pillars of the revised AU PCRD Policy as well as the AU Agenda 2063 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. It also endorsed the M&E Framework (Results-Based) and a realistic budget of USD 3 million over the three years. It further recommended for the inclusion of Member States and other relevant Actors in the Centre's Advisory Board, so as to reinforce National Ownership of planned Initiatives and Interventions.

E. Launch of the 3rd edition of the AU Journal on PCRD, November 2026

13. The AU Commission, through the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), continued preparations for the third volume of the AU Journal on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, under the theme "Maritime Security and Peacebuilding in Africa". Building on the first two volumes, the Journal provides a platform for African scholars, practitioners and policymakers, including young researchers, to contribute evidence and policy proposals to the implementation of the revised AU PCRD Policy.

14. Editorial work focused on selecting and reviewing contributions examining how maritime security, the governance of marine resources and economic opportunities affect conflict prevention, recovery and sustainable peace. More than 40 articles were submitted, of which at least seven were undergoing editing for publication. The process connects academic research with African policy priorities and operational experience.

15. The launch is planned for 5 November 2026 in Addis Ababa, as part of the AU PCRD Month. It is intended to facilitate discussion among Member States, authors, researchers and partners on responses to maritime challenges and opportunities for strengthening the peace, security and development nexus. Dissemination of the volume will support wider use of the Journal as a continental resource for peacebuilding knowledge.

F. Launch of the Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Guideline for affected persons in Pre-Conflict, Conflict & Post-Conflict Settings on 09 - 10 December 2026 in Cape Town, South Africa;

16. The launch of the Guideline on Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for affected persons in pre-conflict, conflict and post conflict contexts was successfully held in October 2026, which marked the beginning of the dissemination and implementation of this same on the continent.

17. This event brought in AU MS representatives from the priority countries, experts in this area and other relevant entities such as ACDC, IOM, Safe the Children, War Child, among others. The guideline will serve as a tool for the provision of mental health support to persons affected by the cycles of conflict in an identified context/region.

G. AU PCRD Month and the Twentieth Anniversary of the PCRD Policy, November 2026

18. The AU PCRD Month is scheduled for 1-30 November 2026, under the theme "Twenty Years of Building and Sustaining Peace: From Policy to Action". Marking the twentieth anniversary of the Policy adopted in Banjul in 2006, it extends the previous five editions of the AU PCRD Awareness Week into a month-long commemoration, pursuant to Peace and Security Council Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.1312 (2025) of 17 November 2025.

19. Preparations are being coordinated by PAPS in collaboration with the AU Centre for PCRD, Members of the AU Working Group on PCRD and partners. The programme aims to take stock of progress since 2006, mobilize support for the revised Policy and translate reflection into priorities for nationally owned prevention, recovery and sustainable peacebuilding. The proposed programme includes the following activities:

a) **Commemoration and political engagement.** The proposed opening activities include statements by the AU Champion on PCRD and the AUC Chairperson, a PAPS commemorative video, the annual PSC open session on PCRD, and a wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial Wall of the Julius Nyerere PAPS Building, Addis Ababa, to honour Africans who lost their lives in conflicts;

b) **Forum on twenty years of AU PCRD.** The meeting on 3–4 November at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa will examine the nine pillars of the revised Policy through discussions on governance, security and justice; inclusive recovery and sustainable development; and the PCRD architecture, coordination and financing;

c) **Knowledge and public outreach.** The launch of the third AU Journal on PCRD on 5 November will be complemented by a commemorative photo gallery, "20 Faces of Building and Sustaining Peace", documentary and media engagement, digital outreach and a proposed "Walk for Building and Sustaining Peace". These activities will present African peacebuilding experiences, with particular attention to local communities, women, children and youth;

d) **Thematic policy dialogues.** The programme envisages a roundtable on education and peacebuilding on 14 November, alongside proposed roundtables on mental health and psychosocial support, and operationalizing conflict prevention under the revised AU PCRD framework. A conference marking the fortieth anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development is also proposed on the 4th and 5th of November 2026;

e) **Women, youth and peacebuilder recognition.** A policy dialogue on African women and strategic minerals is proposed for 25 November, alongside engagement on youth leadership in PCRD. Three proposed AU Peacebuilder of the Year 2026 awards will recognize a female peacebuilder, a male peacebuilder and a young peacebuilder, with a certificate and medal for each recipient**;**

f) **Cairo and country-level engagement.** Activities envisaged with the AU Centre for PCRD include the launch of its 2026–2028 Strategic Framework, engagement with African Embassies in Cairo; and

g) A ministerial roundtable on twenty years of AU PCRD is also proposed at the margins of the Aswan Forum.

20. Country-level Quick Impact Projects will translate the commemoration into tangible support for communities, responding to local priorities and delivering early peace dividends. Scheduled for implementation this year in The Gambia, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Mozambique, with support from the AU Peace Fund and Japan, these projects aim to advance community recovery, strengthen resilience and social cohesion, and lay the foundations for sustainable peace. They will demonstrate how continental commitments to peacebuilding can deliver practical improvements in the lives of people affected by conflict.

III. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

21. The following are some of the challenges and opportunities that require urgent attention, namely:

a) The absence of a dedicated program budget, prevented the implementation of identified priority initiatives/interventions in relevant affected contexts/regions;

b) Insecurity in certain Member States, which prevented access to priority locations, notably in Somalia;

c) Limited resource capacity relative to the scope of the Centre's continental mandate;

d) The need to intensify efforts to provide the Centre with an office as well as the relevant credentials (IDs, Duty-Free Privileges, Tax Clearance, etc.) will enhance its visibility in the Host Country as well as ensure its efficient and effective readiness to accommodate more staff on the ground as currently the Centre is still housed by the AU Permanent Delegation to League of Arab States; and,

e) There is urgent need to equip the Centre with necessary resources and tools to ensure a healthy working environment such as basic needs e.g., Office Vehicles, Office Furniture, and IT equipment which are currently non- existent, despite the fact that the office has now been running for over a period of three (3) years.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS:

22. The Council may wish to consider the following recommendations:

a) **Welcome** the Annual report of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on Post-Conflict Reconstruction Development and the commemoration of the 6th edition of the AU PCRD Month, marking the first transition from the PCRD Week to the PCRD Month, and constituting a platform that has become central to consolidating peace and preventing relapse across the continent;

b) **Welcome** the launch of the first PCRD Awareness Month marking the sixth consecutive year of commemorating PCRD, as a continental platform for advocacy, knowledge sharing, partnership building and resource mobilization;

c) **Commend** the AU Commission for the preparations undertaken, and **encourage** Member States, RECs/RMs, AU Liaison Offices, civil society and the private sector to organize national, regional and continental activities during the Month, so as to broaden public understanding of PCRD and to build a culture of peacebuilding across Africa;

d) **Commend** H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for his leadership as AU Champion for PCRD, **express appreciation** to the Government of Egypt for hosting the AU Centre for PCRD in Cairo, and **request** the Centre to continue to deploy technical support, needs assessments and quick-impact projects to Member States in transition, working closely with national authorities, the RECs/RMs and the relevant AU Liaison Offices;

e) **Reaffirm** its commitment to the full implementation of the revised AU PCRD Policy, including its emphasis on national ownership, local participation, inclusivity, accountability and the interdependence between peace, security, governance and development, and **emphasize**

that PCRD must be tackled as a long-term, multidimensional and nationally-led process that begins early, is adequately resourced and is sustained until peace dividends are reachable by communities;

f) **Express concern** over the persistent fragility of several post-conflict settings, at the gap between recovery needs and the resources committed, and at the risk of relapse into violence where reconstruction is delayed or poorly coordinated, and **call on** Member States and partners to ensure that PCRD support is provided early, predictably and in a manner that responds to the priorities identified by the countries concerned;

g) **Stress** the need to revitalize the African Solidarity Initiative as a mechanism for African self-reliance in PCRD, and **encourage** Member States to make voluntary financial and in-kind contributions, including expertise, training and technical cooperation, as an expression of continental solidarity;

h) **Directs** the AU Commission to further engage African financial institutions, as well as the African private sector, the diaspora and international partners, with a view to developing post-conflict recovery instruments, risk-sharing facilities and predictable multi-year financing;

i) **Welcome** the positive engagements and efforts of the AU Centre for PCRD in supporting institutional recovery, community resilience and peacebuilding at the country level, including through Quick Impact Projects in Central African Republic, South Sudan, Mozambique and The Gambia;

j) **Encourage** Member States to make full use of the Centre's expertise and support; **requests** its Sub-Committee on PCRD to strengthen coordination and information-sharing with the Centre; and **further decide** to systematically consider requesting technical support from the Centre when addressing situations in Member States in transition as appropriate and in line with relevant AU decisions;

k) **Stress** the urgent need to equip the Centre with necessary resources and tools to ensure smooth and effective implementation of its mandate; and **request** the AU Commission to budget for it in the coming financial year;

l) **Call for** the meaningful participation of women and youth and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in countries in transition in the planning, implementation and monitoring of PCRD programmes, supported by dedicated resources, and **encourage** Member States to integrate PCRD and peace education into national curricula, in line with the Council's decision at its 1312th meeting;

m) **Commend** the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security for its sustained efforts in publishing the AU Journal on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), as a platform for advancing African-led knowledge production, policy dialogue and the exchange of experiences on peacebuilding; and congratulates the members of the Advisory and Editorial Boards as well as the authors of the articles for their valuable contributions to the quality, relevance and continuity of the Journal;

n) **Urge** Member States emerging from conflicts to domesticate the revised PCRD Policy by integrating PCRD priorities into national development plans, and **encourage** the RECs/RMs to align their regional frameworks with the revised PCRD Policy taking into account the specificities and priorities of each region;

o) **Underline** the importance of sustained engagement with the AU Working Group on PCRD to strengthen coordination and support the effective implementation of PCRD and peacebuilding initiatives across the continent; and **call** for the convening of an annual retreat of the Working Group to enhance collaboration and identify concrete priorities for joint action;

p) **Request** the AU Commission, through the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), to prepare a comprehensive report marking the twentieth anniversary of the AU PCRD Framework, assessing progress achieved, challenges encountered and lessons learned in its implementation since its adoption in 2006, including the status of implementation of relevant AU decisions, and identifying strategic priorities and recommendations to strengthen PCRD efforts over the next decade; and

q) **Decide** to remain actively seized of the matter.