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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

1084TH MEETING

17 MAY 2022

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/PS.1084 (2022)

PRESS STATEMENT



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The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) dedicated its 1084th meeting, held on 17 May 2022, to the commemoration of the International Day of Living Together in Peace.

Council took note of the opening remarks by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of May 2022, H.E. Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono, and the statement by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), delivered on his behalf by Dr. Alhadji Sarjoh Bah, Director of the Conflict Management Directorate. Council also took note of the statements made by the representatives of AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), as well as by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and AMANI Africa.

Council recalled Resolution A/RES/72/130 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 8 December 2017, proclaiming 16 May as the “International Day of Living Together in Peace”.

Council further recalled the 1999 UNESCO Declaration and Action Plan on the Culture of Peaceful Co-existence (A/53/243B) and the AU’s 2010 “Make Peace Happen” campaign of its Charter for Cultural Renaissance.

Council also recalled its previous decisions on living together in peace, in particular Press Statement [PSC/PR/BR.(CMXCV)] adopted at its 995th meeting on 13 May 2021.

Council also underlined the principles of the AU, as stipulated in Articles (3) and (4) of the AU Constitutive Act, namely good neighborliness, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, peaceful resolution of conflicts and peaceful coexistence, as well as promotion of the culture of living together in peace.

Council, once again, commended the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria for the efforts leading to the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 72/130 and further commended Member States and the international community for commemorating and promoting the International Day of Living Together in Peace.

Council recognized the efforts and considerable progress made by AU Member States and RECs/RMs in pursuing the agenda of peace and development and promoting the culture of living together in peace. Council further made particular mention of Angola, which hosted the Ministerial Meeting of the PSC on National Reconciliation, Restoration of Peace and Building of National Cohesion, as well as the Luanda Biennale on the Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in December 2019.

Council also noted and commended the Republic of Cameroon for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of its National Unity Day on 20 May 2020 as well as its national experience of living together.

Council noted and commended the decision of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the 9th Global Forum of the United Nations' Alliance of Civilizations in 2022, which contributed towards the promotion of the culture of living together in peace in Africa.

Council expressed concern over the continued prevalence of violent conflicts and threats to peace and security in Africa which impedes the sustainable socio-economic development of the Continent. In this regard, Council underscored the need for concerted efforts to address the underlying causes of conflict and violence on the Continent, as envisioned in Agenda 2063.

Council encouraged all Member States to implement the regional Continental and international instruments relating to the promotion of the culture of peace, including the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by 2030, which are aimed at achieving a conflict-free Africa and ridding the Continent of wars, violent conflicts and humanitarian disasters in order to attain peace and to create conducive conditions for development across the Continent.

Council underscored the critical role played by the RECs/RMs in conflict prevention, management and resolution and the attainment of the objectives of regional economic integration and development, as well as the promotion of the culture of peace.

Council encouraged Member States, political parties, civil society organizations, including community and faith leaders, to embrace and promote the culture of tolerance and appreciation of the value of unity in diversity.

Council encouraged AU Member States to redouble their efforts in promoting reconciliation and expressing solidarity, as well in enhancing policy measures at national level in order to discourage the manipulation of ethnic, religious, cultural and social identities to fuel tension, spread hate and incite communal violence in the pursuit of narrow political objectives.

Council underlined the importance of deepening and consolidating democracy, human rights, good governance and the rule of law in order for Member States to realize mutual respect for diversity.

Council further underscored the importance of promoting, protecting and respecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the individual as well as the principle of equality, non-racialism and non-discrimination based on religion, gender, language or any other status, which are fundamental for building a culture of tolerance and unity in diversity.

Council also underlined the role of mediation as an effective tool for conflict prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as for the facilitation of communication between and among conflicting parties in order to promote reconciliation, mutual understanding and confidence building. In this respect, Council highlighted the critical role of the Panel of the Wise, the elders as well as traditional and faith leaders in mediation and reconciliation.

Council affirmed its full support for multilateralism and improvements in global governance, including safeguarding international institutions from manipulations; and underlined the need to strengthen international cooperation and the importance of upholding multilateralism to ensure peaceful coexistence and the maintenance of global peace, stability and shared development and prosperity.

Council emphasized the critical role and contribution of women and youth to the culture of peace, as key drivers of the radical change of mindsets, institutions and cultures. In this regard, Council stressed the need for AU Member States to develop policies aimed at empowering women and youth, as well as ensuring their active participation in decision-making, peace processes and the promotion of the culture of peace.

Council stressed the need to fight against fake news, hate propaganda and other forms of misinformation aimed at distorting facts, manipulating people's perceptions of African realities and sowing seeds of division and violent conflicts in society.

Council requested the AU Commission, in coordination with the RECs/RMs, to develop a system of values for living together in peace, consistent with UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/130 and relevant AU instruments, principles and values.

Council encouraged all Member States which have not yet done so, to sign, ratify and domesticate all AU legal instruments that promote inclusivity and democratic governance. Council further expressed the need for the ratification and effective implementation of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment with a view to promoting interaction between peoples through mobility, cultural exchanges and productive collaboration in commerce and finance, among others.

Council invited AU Member States, RECs/RMs as well as civil society organizations to jointly organize an event in celebration of the International Day of Living Together in Peace towards the promotion of the culture of peace and tolerance, reconciliation and harmony, in line with UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/130.

Council agreed to remain actively seized of the matter.

2022-05-17

Press Statement of the 1084th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, Held on 17 May 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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