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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1088TH MEETING

7 JUNE 2022
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1088 (2022)

COMMUNIQUÉ



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1088th Meeting (Open Session), held on 7 June 2022 on the theme: “Prevention of the Ideology of Hate, Genocide and Hate Crimes in Africa”:

The Peace and Security Council,

Noting the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Abdi Mahmoud, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the AU as the Acting Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for the month of June 2022; the statement by the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye; **also noting** the presentations by Mr. Paul Ruksha, Director General in Charge of Communications and Partnerships in the Government of the Republic of Rwanda; the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Prevention of Genocide, H.E. Madame Alice Wairimu Nderitu; the representative of the European Union Delegation to the AU, as well as statements by Member States and Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs);

Recalling its previous decisions on the prevention of the ideology of hate, genocide and hate crimes in Africa, particularly, Communiqué [[PSC/ PR/COMM.\(CMLXXXIX\)](#)] adopted at its 989th meeting (open session), held on 12 April 2022; and also Communiqué [[PSC/PR/COMM.\(DCLXXVIII\)](#)] adopted at its 678th meeting held on 11 April 2017, in which Council decided to convene, annually in April, a PSC Open Session on the prevention of the ideology of hate, genocide and hate crimes in Africa; as well as all its decisions on ‘Living Together in Peace’, particularly Communiqué [[PSC/PR/COMM.1084 \(2022\)](#)] adopted at its 1084th meeting (open session) held on 17 May 2022;

Also recalling Article 4(h), (j) and (o) of the [AU Constitutive Act](#) and Aspirations 4 and 5 of Agenda 2063 and **reaffirming** the respect for, and sanctity of human life as enshrined in the AU Constitutive Act, the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948;

Further recalling the AU’s Twenty-Eighth Commemoration of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda (*Kwibuka28*) held on 7 April 2022, under the theme “Remember- Unite-Renew”, which paid tribute to the victims and survivors of hate, hate crimes and genocide;

Cognizant of the fact that Africa is a diverse Continent rich in cultural identity and value systems with a complex context of historical, social, economic and political interactions, which requires concerted efforts to promote mutual trust, tolerance and respect, in order to inculcate a culture of peacefully living together as neighbors anchored on values enshrined in *Ubuntu*;

Expressing solidarity with all victims of the ideologies of hate, hate crimes and genocide in the Continent; and

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

1. ***Pays tribute*** to all victims of genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, the ideologies of hate, and hate crimes;
2. ***Congratulates*** all Member States that have already acceded to all regional, Continental and international legal instruments, especially the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948, and ***encourages*** all those which have not yet done so, to also do the same without further delays;
3. ***Commends*** the UN and all international partners and organizations, including the International Police (INTERPOL), for their efforts and cooperation with Member States in combating the scourges of ideology of hate, hate crimes and genocide in general and in tracking fugitives of these heinous crimes;
4. ***Notes with deep concern and strongly condemns*** the persistent trend and perpetration of the ideologies of hate, of hate speech, identity-based conflicts, including religious, inter-ethnic and inter-tribal violence, xenophobia, racism, which collectively constitute drivers of the ideology of hate, hate crimes and genocide;
5. ***Also strongly condemns*** genocide denialism, justification, and in particular, the trivialization of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda, as it threatens perpetuation and its continuation and its manifestations through hate speech and hate crimes, and in this regard ***requests*** Member States to condemn any form of denialism of the Genocide including not allowing deniers any space and or platform for denial activities in their territories; ***further underscores the urgent need for the AU Commission*** to development a shared definition of what constitutes 'hate speech' and 'hate crimes', in order to enable Member States to enact necessary legislation to combat the scourge;
6. ***Emphasizes the importance*** of fighting impunity, among others, by bringing to justice all perpetrators of ideologies of hate, hate crimes and genocide, with a view to deterring potential perpetration of similar crimes;
7. ***Welcomes*** efforts by those Member States that are investigating and prosecuting individuals involved in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and ***calls upon*** other Member States especially those who have received indictments and international arrest warrants and have not yet done so, to investigate, arrest, prosecute or extradite the genocide fugitives currently residing in their territories;
8. ***Reiterates the importance*** of awareness raising campaigns through various media, informal and formal education, and in this regard ***encourages*** Member States to include in their education curricula, peace, leadership, reconciliation, tolerance of diversity, togetherness, justice and democratic values; as well as to formulate inclusive policies which reflect the diversity of the population in their countries;
9. ***Further reiterates*** the importance of expeditiously implementing the decision of the AU Assembly, particularly, the construction of the AU Human Rights Memorial dedicated to

victims of human rights violations in Africa, such as the genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda, apartheid rule in South Africa, the Red Terror in Ethiopia, colonialism and the Slave Trade; and **encourages** Member States to renew their commitments toward the realization of the objectives of the project, with a view to promoting awareness and preventing the recurrence of similar crimes;

10. **Underscores the need** to effectively regulate and closely monitor the misuse and abuse of the conventional and non-conventional media to, and in this respect, **stresses the need** for Member States to adopt necessary policies to effectively monitor the media and to promote professionalism, ethical and factual reporting, as well as to effectively prevent the exploitation and abuse of the media for propagating extremist messages that incite hate crimes and genocide;

11. **Encourages Member States**, in close collaboration with the RECs/RMs, to redouble efforts on prevention strategies that holistically address root causes and drivers of violent conflicts; and in this regard, **underlines** the critical role of women and youth, as well as civil society organizations, community, traditional and religious leaders in preventing and combating the scourge of ideology of hate, hate crimes and genocide at the community levels;

12. **Underlines the need** for enhanced cooperation amongst the Member States, RECs/RMs and the international community in information sharing, and in preventing and combating the ideology of hate, hate crimes and genocide and, in this context, **emphasizes the importance** of extradition agreements between and among Member States;

13. **Underscores the importance** of establishing an African Centre for the Study of Genocide, as well as enhancing the institutional capacities of national, regional and Continental early warning systems and mechanisms to ensure that they also include, in their scope, the scourge of ideology of hate, hate crimes and genocide;

14. **Request** the Panel of the Wise to undertake a review of the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the OAU International Panel of Eminent Personalities on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide and the Surrounding Events;

15. **Commends** the Kingdom of Morocco for the initiative to sponsor a Draft UN Resolution on designating 18 June as the International Day for Countering Hate Speech to be observed annually;

16. **Stresses the need** to consider the Rabat Action Plan as the basis for establishing an Annual African Forum, in coordination with the Political Affairs Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission, on the prevention of ideology of hate, hate crimes and genocide, which will be an annual forum that will bring together all concerned actors within the framework of PSC meetings to address the scourge as well as the African instrument of reference in the fight against the ideology of hate;

17. **Reminds** the Chairperson of the AU Commission, pursuant to Communique [[PSC/PR/COMM.\(CMLXXXIX\)](#)], of its 989th meeting held on 12 April 2021, to expedite the appointment of an AU Special Envoy on the Prevention of Hate Crimes and the Crime of

Genocide, to drive all the pertinent agendas indicated above and identify risk indicators of the ideology of hate, genocide, and hate crimes, and ensure timely interventions on the Continent; and

18. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

African Union Commission (AUC)

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PSC Outcomes

Communiqués

2022-06-07

Communiqué of the 1088th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council, Held on 7 June 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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