

MONTHLY DIGEST ON THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

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MONTHLY DIGEST ON THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL – JUNE 2023

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

In the month of June, Zimbabwe chaired the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC). Out of the four sessions held during the month, two addressed thematic issues, while the other two were on country/region specific situations.

Two other sessions initially envisaged in the program of work for June on other thematic issues were subsequently postponed.¹ In addition to what was provisionally planned in the PSC's [Programme of Work](#), later in the month the PSC introduced a new item to the 1160th session for a briefing of the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, (PAPS), **Bankole Adeoye** on the outcomes of the Quadripartite Summit that took place on 27 June 2023 in Luanda, Angola.

All the sessions were conducted at the ambassadorial level, except one session that was held at the ministerial level.

The outcomes of all the sessions were adopted as a Communiqué. On average, it took 10 days for the publication of outcome documents.

Additionally, as part of a recent emerging trend, the PSC issued a [press release](#) condemning the attack by Al-Shabaab on the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) Forward Operating Base (FOB) operated by the Ugandan contingent, in Buulo Mareer, Lower Shabelle, in Somalia, on 26 May 2023.

¹ One of the sessions was planned for the review on the progress made towards Silencing the Guns (STGs) in Africa – M & E Mechanism of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to STGs in Africa by the Year 2030. But this session was cancelled as Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns was traveling to communicate the message of the Chairperson of the Commission to neighbours of Sudan. The other session that was intended for the briefing on the Continental Early Warning and Security Outlook was once again postponed.

PSC REFRAINS FROM DIRECTLY DISSUADING THE CAR FROM PURSUING CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PRESIDENTIAL TERM LIMIT

The first session of the month, PSC's 1157th meeting held on 13 June, was dedicated to the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR). The session received a briefing by Domitien Ndayizeye, former President of the Republic of Burundi and Chairperson of the Panel of the Wise (PoW), on the Panel's mission to the CAR.² The outcome of the session was adopted as a [Communiqué](#).

The Chairperson of the PoW Domitien Ndayizeye and its member, Babacar Kante undertook the preventive diplomacy mission to CAR on 5-11 March together with the Mission they undertook to Chad. The mission had the objective of, among others, engaging CAR stakeholders ahead of the local elections planned to take place on 16 July 2023. Security and humanitarian related developments in CAR were also canvassed in the Panel's engagements.

Being organised after the lapse of over three decades, the local elections aim to institute elected and democratic municipal administration as an essential component of expanding legitimate structures of local government. The PSC underscored the responsibilities of the government and all political and social stakeholders for ensuring that the local elections are held both as scheduled in 2023 and in a transparent, credible and fair manner. Despite the positive opportunity this offers, the plan for removing term limits in the proposed constitutional referendum endangers not only the peaceful organisation of the local elections but also the relative stability the country is building with support from the region and the UN. Following the announcement by the CAR

² Other participants that delivered statements during the meeting were: Sylvie Baipo Temon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Central Africans Abroad of the CAR; Gilberto Da Piedade Verissimo, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the AU and Head of the United Nations (UN) Office to the AU (UNOAU); and Birgitte Markussen, Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to the AU.

government of its plans to conduct a constitutional referendum, multiple stakeholders including the [UN](#) have expressed concern over the matter.

Given the background of the March 2022 Republican Dialogue in CAR, which was marked by the President's Party proposal to remove the presidential term limit from the constitution and the rejection of this proposal by opposition parties, it is feared that the extension of term limits will trigger political instability that will give ammunition for armed rebel groups operating in the country for further destabilizing the country. While the exact terms and specifics of the referendum remain widely unknown, it is already perceived as a way of securing a third term in office for the President at the upcoming presidential elections in July 2025.

The PSC on various occasions expressed concern about extension of term limits. One example of that is the Accra Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government of March 2022.

The PSC avoided to directly speak to the issue of extension of term limits in the operative part of the communiqué of the 1157th session. Instead, it restricted itself to the mere expression of concern over 'CAR stakeholders' disagreement on the organisation of the Constitutional Referendum'. However, in the preamble of the communiqué, the PSC deemed it necessary to include its rejection of 'any form of unconstitutional changes of government, **including manipulation of the constitution**, on the continent consistent with normative instruments of the AU, especially Article 4(p) of the AU Constitutive Act and Article 7 (g) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.' (Emphasis added)

Signifying that the controversy over the constitutional amendment requires active follow up by the AU, the PSC requested the AU Commission to engage Angolan President João Lourenço to use his good offices in his capacity as the AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation, to engage CAR stakeholders ahead of the Constitutional Referendum.

On the security dimension, the PSC was forthright in expressing 'grave concern about the deterioration of the security situation' particularly exacerbated by the crisis in Sudan including in terms of the proliferation of illicit circulation of weapons and the exploitation of

CAR's mineral resources. These issues largely relate to the activities of one of the fighting parties of Sudan, namely the Rapid Support Forces, which reportedly maintains a base in northern CAR on the border with Sudan. With respect to CAR's reconciliation processes and the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in CAR (PAPR), the PSC, emphasizing the role of PAPR-CAR as the viable and recognised framework for addressing the crisis in the country, welcomed the declaration of the leaders of several armed groups that signed the PAPR- CAR to disband their movements on 6 December 2022 and 28 April 2023 respectively, in line with the letter and spirit of Article 5 para (d) of the PAPR-CAR'. The PSC also encouraged 'the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission to redouble its efforts and hasten the implementation of the transitional justice process to deepen national reconciliation, ensure accountability and reparations for victims in an inclusive manner.'

Despite these gains, members of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) continue to undermine the full implementation of PAPR-CAR by intensifying armed rebellion and attacks against civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian actors. In light of this, the PSC warned such actors that it will take punitive measures 'including criminal prosecutions and targeted sanctions.' It is to be recalled that the PSC already made the same threats at its earlier meetings on CAR although it is yet to put any of these into action.

Relevant previous PSC decisions:

979th session [[PSC/PR/COMM.\(CMLXXIX\)](#)]: the PSC labelled the attacks by CPC as 'flagrant violations of human rights, war crimes and crimes against humanity' and warned that 'appropriate punitive measures, including criminal prosecution and targeted sanctions, would be applied to peace spoilers'.

1093rd session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1093 \(2022\)](#)]: the PSC took note of the attacks perpetrated by CPC against civilians and warned that 'the perpetrators will be brought to justice'.

Another important aspect of the situation in CAR which drew the PSC's attention is the worsening humanitarian crisis in the country. Of immediate pressing concern in this respect is the impact of the flow of people fleeing the fighting in Sudan.



Source: Africa News

Sudanese Refugees Seeking Asylum in CAR, June 2023

On the humanitarian situation in CAR itself, the PSC emphasised the importance of ensuring full implementation of the 2022 Yaoundé Declaration.

The Yaoundé Declaration is a pact between the governments of Cameroon, CAR, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo, Chad, Sudan and South Sudan to collectively respond to the displacement crisis in CAR through the adoption of a regional cooperative framework that can effectively deliver solutions to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in CAR, while also supporting the country's reconciliation processes in a manner that encourages meaningful involvement of forcibly displaced populations.

However, the status of implementation of this framework and its role in mitigating the plight of IDPs and refugees are as yet to be realized.

The issue of CAR's sanctions regime, specifically the arms embargo imposed by the UN Security Council since 2013, also featured at the session in review. The PSC reiterated its request for the UN Security Council to completely lift the arms embargo imposed against CAR. It is to be recalled that in the communiqué of its 1093rd session, the PSC, in apparent acknowledgement of gaps that should be addressed by the CAR, called on the authorities 'to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the benchmarks set out by the Sanctions Committee of the United Nations Security Council to facilitate the lifting of the embargo.' In the

current communiqué, the PSC merely emphasized 'the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of FACA', thus recognizing that CAR also needs to bear its part of the responsibility.

Relevant recent UN Security Council meeting:

UNSC Resolution 2648 (2022) [[S/RES/2648 \(2022\)](#)]: extended the arms embargo for one year period with a vote of 10 in favour and 5 abstentions by China, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya and Russia. As the expiry of the sanctions regime approaches, the Council is expected to convene in July 2023 to consider its extension. It remains to be seen whether the coming meeting will result in the adoption of a resolution similar to Resolution 2667 (2022) [[S/RES/2667\(2022\)](#)] on DRC which relaxed the sanctions regime by lifting the embargo against the government while maintaining applicability of measures incorporated in Resolution 1807 (2008) [[S/RES/1807\(2008\)](#)] – resolution adopting sanctions regime on DRC – to all non-governmental entities.

Taking account of the conclusion of service of Matias Bertino Matondo, former Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission (SRCC) for the CAR, the PSC at the 1157th meeting also requested the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite the appointment of a new SRCC for CAR, which remains vacant more than half a year signifying lack of attention, further weakening AU's already very weak engagement in the CAR. Further to that, the PSC also reiterated its call for the Commission to capacitate the AU Office in Bangui as to enable effective discharge of its functions. Aside from its ordinary responsibilities, the AU mission in CAR (MISAC) is now expected to carry out the mandates of the AU Observer Mission in CAR (MOUACA), in line with the 1116th PSC Communiqué which decided to end MOUACA's deployment.

PSC decision pending implementation

At its 1011th session which took place on 21 July 2021 [[PSC/PR/COMM.1011 \(2021\)](#)], the PSC requested the Chairperson of the AU Commission to '**undertake an assessment exercise on the illegal flow of arms in CAR**' and to submit to it a detailed report on the findings.

Key actionable decisions requiring follow-up:

At the 1157th session, the PSC:

- Urged the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) 'to urgently identify the long-term peacebuilding and development needs and priorities.'
- Called on AU Commission Chairperson to engage President João Lourenço's good offices, to enable his engagement with CAR stakeholders in his capacity as the AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation.
- Requested the AU Commission Chairperson to expedite the appointment of SRCC to CAR.

PSC DISCUSSED FOUR COMPLEX SITUATIONS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA UNDER ONE SESSION

On 15 June, during its 1158th session, the PSC received an updated briefing on the situation in the Horn of Africa with a [communiqué](#) adopted as its outcome document. Olusegun Obasanjo, AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa briefed members of the PSC. The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the United Nations (UN), and the European Union (EU) made statements during this meeting. From the four countries under consideration, it was only Ethiopia that took part in the meeting. Sudan's absence from this session is for the obvious reason of its suspension from all AU activities following the 25 October 2021 military coup, but it remains unclear why Somalia and South Sudan did not participate as concerned states pursuant to the PSC protocol. From Amani Africa's engagement with some of the PSC members, this session was initially envisaged to focus on the conflict in Sudan and its regional implication, particularly on the Horn of Africa region but subsequently extended to cover other situations.

In relation to the situation in **Northern Ethiopia**, the main outcome of the session is the PSC's endorsement of the extension of the deployment of Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mechanism (MVCM) in Tigray until 31 December 2023.

The MVCM was launched on 29 December 2022 for six months in line with Article 11 of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) of 2 November 2022, wherein the parties to the Agreement (the federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front) agreed to institute the Mechanism for the effective implementation of the Agreement. It is to be recalled that on 24 May 2023, the Joint Committee [Meeting](#) of the MVCM, after noting the need to accelerate the demobilization and reintegration of the Tigray armed combatants, recommended the extension of the mandate of the MVCM, which will expire at the end of the year, for an additional six months.

The other key highlight of the session is the PSC's expression of its 'deep concern' over the suspension of food aid by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on the 'allegations of diversions for commercial purposes.' The PSC further appealed to both the WFP and the USAID to reconsider their decision in light of the food crisis facing the country where more than 20 million of its people need urgent humanitarian food assistance.

Key actionable decisions requiring follow-up:

- PSC requested the AU Commission to undertake a need assessment for the extension of the deployment of the MVCM considering the timelines and funding requirements.

On **Somalia**, the PSC welcomed the progress made by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in implementing the Somali Transition Plan, including improved relations with the Federal Member States (FMS) and the consultations with clan leaders on the electoral reforms. This is in the context of the landmark deal reached between the FGS and the FMS on 28 May to end the indirect voting and introduce one-person-one vote elections from 2024. The PSC also took note of the progress in the implementation of the drawdown of 2000 ATMIS troops, which was concluded by the revised timeline of 30 June after the handover of seven Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) to Somali Security Forces. 3000 more ATMIS troops are expected to be withdrawn at the end of phase two (30 September

2023) pending a technical assessment of the security situation in Somalia. In this connection, it is worth highlighting that the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2687 (2023) on 27 June, authorizing the deployment of up to 17,626 uniformed personnel to ATMIS until 30 September 2023, and 14,626 personnel from 1 October to 31 December 2023 while expressing readiness to review the figures based on an update from the AU and the FGS on their preparations for Phase 2 drawdown, due on 15 September.



Source: ATMIS

9 July 2023, an official FOBs handover in Mogadishu.

Furthermore, the PSC once again appealed to the international community to reconsider the decision on arms embargo against Somalia, which the UN Security Council renewed the sanctions regime in November 2022 for additional one year with 11 in favor and four abstentions (China, Gabon, Ghana, Russia).

On **South Sudan**, PSC strongly encouraged the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) to expedite the implementation of all outstanding transitional tasks, including:

- the graduation and deployment of Necessary Unified Forces;
- completion of the permanent constitution

making process;

- enactment of the National Electoral Commission Act; and
- reconstitution of the National Electoral Commission and Political Parties Council.

South Sudan is expected to conclude its transition period by February 2025, with the presidential election scheduled for December 2024. This is in accordance with the August 2022 Roadmap on the outstanding provisions of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), which extended the original timeline of the transition period from February 2023 by an additional 24 months. During its 1141st session, held in February of this year, the PSC made its position clear that there will be no further extension of the Transition. The establishment of the Joint Task Force (JTF) for the implementation of Constitution-Making and Electoral Processes and the convening of its inaugural meeting in early June are welcome developments that would pave the way for the organization of the elections.



President Salva Kiir recently told the Supporters of his ruling Sudan People’s Liberation Movement Party ‘I welcome the endorsement to run for presidency in 2024’. He also expressed his party’s commitment ‘to implement the chapters in the revitalized peace agreement as stated and the election will take place in 2024’.

Source: Reuters

However, there are concerns whether the country will be able to comply with the election deadline given some of the outstanding issues such as the lack of a reconstituted electoral body and political parties council.



Nicholas Haysom, head of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), during a meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission on 6 July stated his shared views with many actors that 'South Sudan today is not yet ready at this point to roll out free, fair and credible elections'.

Source: UN/Gregorio Cunha

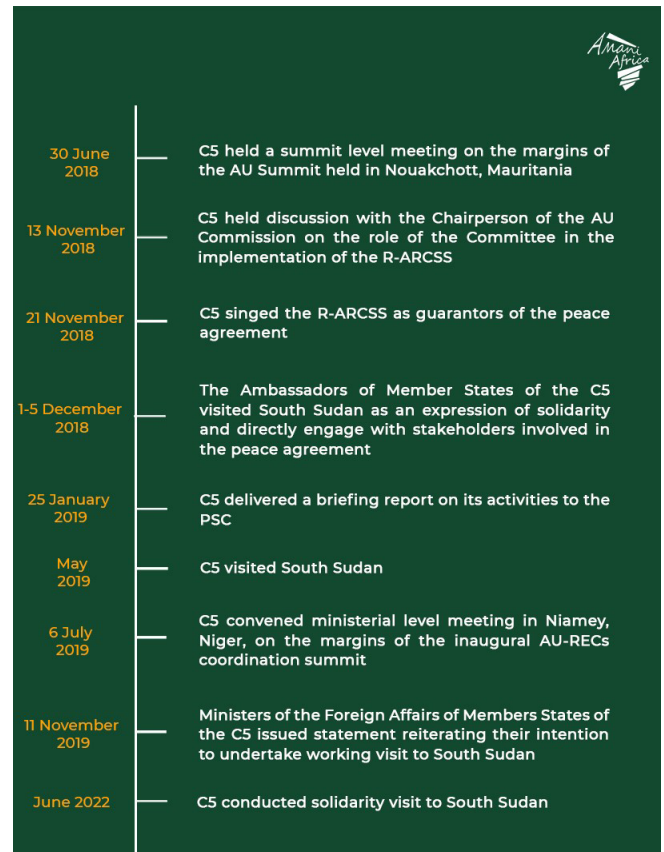
The other key highlight of the session is that the PSC encouraged the AU High-Level Ad Hoc Committee of five countries from the five regions of the AU (C5) on South Sudan to 'remain actively engaged in South Sudan.'

Relevant previous PSC decisions

- PSC's 1060th session [[PSC/PR/COMM.2/1060 \(2022\)](#)], held on 25 January 2022, emphasized the need to reactivate the C5 engagement on South Sudan peace process.
- PSC's 1123rd session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1123 \(2022\)](#)], held on 30 November 2022, called on the C5 to fulfil the pledge to undertake a solidarity visit to South Sudan in support of the peace process. It also requested the AU Panel of the Wise to undertake a similar visit to South Sudan and brief the PSC on the findings of its visits.
- PSC's 1141st session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1141 \(2023\)](#)], held 28 February 2023, urged C5 to enhance their support of the peace process in South Sudan.

The C5 was established following the PSC's decision, at its 474th session held in December 2014, for the establishment of an AU High-Level Ad-hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government with the aim to strengthen Africa's support to IGAD and assist the South Sudanese parties to achieve durable peace. Subsequently, the AU Commission designated Algeria, Chad, Nigeria, Rwanda, and South Africa, the latter being the chair of the Committee. The PSC's

484th session, which was convened at a summit level in January 2015, welcomed the constitution of the C5. The C5 was officially launched in June 2015 during the AU Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Since then, despite some activities, the C5 has been largely passive and its engagement in the South Sudan peace process remains 'episodic'.



Timeline of C5 activities , Amani Africa compilation

As it did in the case of Somalia, the PSC also appealed to the international community for the reconsideration of the decision on arms embargo against South Sudan, which the UN Security Council renewed the sanctions regime in May of this year for additional one year with 10 votes in favor and 5 abstentions (China, Gabon, Ghana, Mozambique, and Russia).

On **Sudan**, in addition to its previous demands for unconditional and immediate cessation of hostilities, the PSC in this session added additional measure by calling for 'the demilitarization of Khartoum and the establishment of humanitarian corridors.' The PSC also welcomed and endorsed the outcome of IGAD Summit held on 12 June in Djibouti, which among others, adopted a separate Roadmap for the Resolution of the Conflict in Sudan.

Action points [adopted](#) at the 14th Ordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of States and Government:

- Include Ethiopia as the fourth member of the IGAD High-Level Delegation for the Peace Process in Sudan and for William Ruto, President of Kenya, to chair the Quartet Countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan, and for the Quartet to work in close coordination with the AU Commission.
- Within ten (10) days, the Quartet to arrange face-to-face meeting between the leadership of the two warring parties, Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Gen. Muhammad Hamdan Dagalo of the Rapid Support Force (RSF).
- Within two (2) weeks, to secure a commitment from the leadership of SAF and RSF to establish a humanitarian corridor.
- Within three (3) weeks, initiate an inclusive political process towards a political settlement of the conflict in Sudan.

In line with this decision, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the IGAD Quartet met virtually on 19 June to discuss the modalities, timelines, and approaches towards the implementation of IGAD Roadmap. The Committee of Ministers of the Quartet [agreed](#) on ten points, including to:

- Prioritize the realization of face-to-face meetings between the leaders of the two warring parties as a means of unlocking key issues, notably the cessation of hostilities and delivery of humanitarian aid.
- Launch an all-inclusive political process to be hosted by Kenya in mid-July or the first week of August 2023.
- Appoint an IGAD Special Envoy for Sudan.

On 10 July, the first meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the IGAD Quartet was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. While the representative of RSF was in attendance of

the meeting, the delegation of SAF skipped the meeting (SAF has rejected Kenya's chairship of the Quartet claiming proximity to the RSF). A major outcome of this meeting was its resolution to request the East Africa Standby Force (EASF) summit to convene with the aim to consider the possible deployment of the EASF for the protection of civilians and guarantee humanitarian access.

One of the key deliverables of the IGAD process, namely the convening of the face-to-face meeting of the leaders of the two warring parties and securing commitment for establishment of humanitarian corridor remains unmet. Meanwhile, the AU has continued its efforts to resolve the Sudan crisis employing various of its tools. For instance, on June 15, the Core Group of the Expanded Mechanism on Sudan (which was previously discussed in our [monthly digest](#) on the PSC) held its second meeting at the AU Headquarter. The group discussed the implementation of the AU Roadmap for the Resolution of the Sudan Conflict, as well as strategies for achieving a fully inclusive political process and national dialogue. However, despite these efforts, there are currently no indications that the conflict will be resolved anytime soon. On the other hand, the Chairperson of the AU Commission dispatched Mohamed Ibn Chambas, AU High Representative on Silencing the Guns since January 2023, for a regional tour to find durable solution to the Sudan crisis, though Chambas was able to undertake a visit to Chad only on 14 June. It is not also clear whether the visit covered all the neighbors and produced any tangible result.



Source: @AUC_PAPS

The AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns, Mohamed Ibn Chambas's visit to Chad

PSC decisions pending implementation

- PSC, at its 1149th session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1149 \(2023\)](#)], decided to undertake a field visit to Sudan, but the visit could not happen yet due to the security condition of the country.

ZIMBABWE CONVENED ITS SIGNATURE EVENT ON COMMON AFRICAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY POLICY AND THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE ASF AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

PSC's 1159th session, which was held at Ministerial level on 22 June, was dedicated for a briefing on the status of implementation of the Common African Defence and Security Policy (CADSP) and other relevant defence and security instruments on the continent, with specific focus on update particularly from RECs/RMs on the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF). PAPS Commissioner, Bankole Adeoye, briefed PSC members. The other briefers include the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), IGAD, and the Southern Africa Development (SADC), though four other RECs/RMs were also envisaged in the list of speakers circulated ahead of the session.

The [communique](#) adopted at the session underlined that the CADSP forms the 'bedrock of Africa's collective defence and security'. Further highlighting the interlinked nature of the defence and security of one Member State with the other, the communiqué stressed the need for Member States to strengthen the development and use of collective security approaches in dealing with common defence and security threats. It also emphasized the need to reinvigorate and operationalize all pillars of the common peace and security architecture, which include the ASF.

With respect to the ASF, the PSC welcomed the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the AU Commission and the RECs/RMs, which was adopted by the 15th Specialized Technical Committee of Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) that took place on 12 May 2023 in Addis

Ababa, Ethiopia. The adoption of the MoU is indeed an important step in clarifying the respective roles and responsibilities of AU and the RECs/RMs in the planning, deployment, employment, and post-employment of the ASF, but it remains to be seen how far this would practically contribute to the full operationalization of the ASF, particularly considering the political nature of the full operationalization of the ASF.

PSC decisions pending implementation:

- PSC's 1012th session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1012\(2021\)](#)] envisioned naval capacity for the ASF for promoting maritime security and safety in Africa while 1128th session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1128 \(2022\)](#)] encouraged the AU Commission to conduct the First Regional Maritime Command Post Exercise to increase preparedness and synergy of the Navies of countries in the Gulf of Guinea within the ASF framework.
- PSC's 960th session [[PSC/PR/COMM.\(CMLX\)](#)], held on 28 October 2020 agreed to establish a Counter-Terrorism Unit within the ASF.

The issue of the need for a strategic review of the ASF is another key element emphasized in this session. It is to be recalled that one of the lessons identified during the Inaugural Lessons Learned Forum on AU Peace Support Operations (PSOs), held in November 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria was the need for the 'reconceptualization and alignment of the ASF with the current PSO practice and realities' with the aim to 'enhance its framework, utility and effectiveness'. In this regard, the 15th Ordinary Session of the STCDSS made a specific request for the Commission to conduct the strategic review with the participation of AU Member States, RECs/RMs and report to its 16th meeting for consideration.

In light of the challenges faced by the AU and RECs/RMs to harmonize decision-making on the deployment of the ASF, the PSC, in this session, reiterated the importance of enhanced collaboration and coordination between the Planning Elements (PLANELMs) of the RECs/RMs and the Continental PLANEL. As highlighted in our ['insights on the PSC'](#), more often than not, RECs/RMs are deploying regional forces outside of the ASF framework. Even when the deployments are claimed to be made within the ASF framework as in the case of SADC deployment in

Mozambique (SAMIM), there is little or no engagement with the AU on the planning, decision-making, and deployment of the regional forces and their reference to the PSC largely remains post-facto.

Key actionable decisions requiring follow-up:

In this session, the PSC requested:

- Member States to assist in the mobilization of the required financial resources to the implementation of the Decision of the 36th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly on the structure of and funding for the CLB, which approved structures for the CLB with an estimated cost of USD\$ 4,717,606.45 for 2024.
- The Commission to expedite the assessment exercise of pledged strategic lift aircraft as part of efforts to enhance strategic lift capability and the finalization of the MoUs for the utilization of these assets.
- The Commission to expedite the implementation of decisions of the 15th meeting of the ST-CDSS, particularly the strategic review of the ASF.
- The Chairperson of the Commission to regularly brief the PSC on the status of the implementation of the CADSP and other relevant AU instruments on defence and security in the Continent.

THE PSC DECIDED TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE ANNUAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH THE PAP

As one of its agenda items tabled for the 1160th Session, the PSC held its annual consultative meeting with the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) on 30 June. The outcome of the session was adopted as a [communiqué](#).

During the meeting, the President of the PAP, **Fortune Charumbira** delivered a presentation.

The primary objective of the meeting was to enhance the cooperation and collaboration between the PSC and the PAP in promoting peace, security, and stability in Africa. The discussions of the session were made as part of the broader AU initiative of 'Silencing the Guns

in Africa'.

The PSC emphasized the need for both organs to explore more practical mechanisms to achieve the objective of close working relationship with the PAP in the promotion of peace and security in Africa.

Relevant AU Executive Council Decisions:

- 41st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council [EX.CL/Dec.1174\(XLI\)](#): Encourages Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union relating to the Pan-African Parliament of 2014.
- 31st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: [EX.CL/Dec.979\(XXXI\)](#): Calls upon the Pan-African Parliament in close collaboration with the Commission to identify and address the challenges delaying the ratification of the PAP Protocol by all Member States within the framework of the existing follow-up mechanisms;



The Session of the PSC on the consultative meeting between the PSC and PAP

In contrast to the previous consultative sessions held by the PSC with the PAP, the recent session has resulted in the adoption of a communiqué instead of a press statement. During the previous two sessions, the PSC did not make any formal commitment, aside from stating the need for a close working relationship between the Council and the PAP and agreed to work with the PAP on the modalities for strengthening relations between the two Organs. On the contrary, during this session the PSC have decided to institutionalize and regularize the annual consultative meeting.

On the other hand, although the PSC's communiqué requested the PAP to engage regularly with the Council on matters relating to the promotion of peace, security, and stability, the PSC did not specify the modalities of engagement or how to develop these modalities. As such, the implementation of the decisions on the plan for close working relationship requires that the modalities for such coordination are specifically spelt out and agreed to. These may include the conduct of joint field missions and the reporting to the PSC by PAP on its filed missions on country situations or thematic issues on the agenda of the PSC.

Key actionable decisions requiring follow-up:

In an effort to institutionalize the working relationship between the PSC and PAP, in this session the PSC:

- Reiterated the need for the AU Commission to continue to work closely with the Parliament towards the implementation of the provisions of Article 18 of the PSC Protocol;
- Requested the Pan-African Parliament to regularly engage with the PSC on its activities relating to the promotion of peace, security, stability, democracy and good governance on the Continent;
- Decided to institutionalize and regularize the annual consultative meeting, between the PSC and PAP, on peace and security in Africa to be hosted alternatively in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa and, in this respect; and
- Decided that the next annual consultative meeting will be held in June 2024, in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

AUC BRIEFING ON THE QUADRIPARTITE SUMMIT OF FOUR (4) RECS ON EASTERN DRC

The other agenda, that was not initially envisaged in the program of work, added to the 1160th session was a briefing on the Quadripartite summit that took place on 27 June in Luanda, Angola. The Summit's objective

was to discuss on the coordination and harmonization of peace initiatives in the Eastern DRC. The members of the Quadripartite RECs/RMs briefed the Summit on their efforts in peace and stability in Eastern DRC.

The coordination summit, the first of its kind, was convened following the decision of the 8 May 2023 decision of the Extraordinary Organ Troika of SADC, plus Force Intervention Brigade Troop Contributing Countries requesting the AU Commission to convene a summit of SADC, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), ECCAS and East Africa Community (EAC) for the coordination and harmonization of initiative their initiatives with respect to the crisis in eastern DRC.

The summit concluded with the adoption of 'Joint Framework on Coordination and Harmonization of Peace Initiatives in Eastern DRC' by the four RECs under the auspices of the AU. The summit also endorsed the establishment of a 'Multilevel Coordination Working Group' composed of chairpersons of the four RECs as well as the AU, DRC and Rwanda. Crucially, the Summit also tasked the AU Commission 'to convene a meeting of the Chiefs of Defense Forces of the members of the Quadripartite to coordinate existing and planned deployments in Eastern DRC, in agreement with the Government of the DRC.'

OTHER PSC ACTIVITIES DURING THE MONTH

In June, the PSC Military Staff Committee (MSC) engaged in various activities. Initially, the PSC Committee of Experts (CoE) had also scheduled activities to review the outcomes of the CoE Retreat, which took place from 22 to 26 May. However, the meeting of the CoE meeting was postponed.

The MSC undertook a field mission to Somalia from 9 to 11 June in order to obtain first-hand information regarding the military and security situation in Somalia. The main objective of the field mission was to provide concrete information to the PSC's decision that will be made within the context of the drawdown of the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).

The MSC, led by the Special representative of the Chair Person of the AU Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, held

consultations with ATMIS and were informed about the difficulties faced in the drawdown process. The MSC delegation interacted with representatives from the Federal Government of Somalia, including the Minister of Defense. The delegation also conducted a meeting with the UN delegation, led by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Somalia and Head of UN Mission in Somalia was also present during the meeting.

Following the field mission, the MSC considered the report of the Technical Field Mission of the MSC to Somalia on 19 June.



MEDIA AND RESEARCH SERVICES

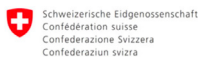
ABOUT AMANI AFRICA

Amani Africa is an independent African based policy research; training and consulting think tank with a specialization and primary focus on African multilateral policy processes, particularly those relating to the African Union.

We support the pan-African dream of peaceful, prosperous and integrated Africa through research, training, strategic communications, technical advisory services, and convening and facilitation.

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