

## Concept Note

### **Dialogue on The New Agenda for Peace: Reimagining the UN-AU Partnership in Peace and Security**

#### **Background**

The United Nations (UN) Charter foresaw the importance of close cooperation with regional institutions and arrangements, as reflected in Chapter VIII of the Charter which provides the legal framework for cooperation between the UN and regional organization. This was visionary, especially taking into consideration the dynamics of conflict and threats currently facing the African continent and where the African Union and its sub-regions often have to be the first responders. Since the establishment of the African Union (AU) in 2002, the legislative bodies and senior leadership of both the United Nations and the African Union have agreed that African peace and security challenges are too complex for any single organization to adequately address it on their own. To that end, the UN-AU inter-organizational partnership has grown in scope with a growing recognition of the respective comparative advantages that each organization bring to prevent, respond, manage, and resolve conflicts on the continent. The UN-AU inter-organizational partnership culminated into the signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, on 19 April 2017.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres's 'New Agenda for Peace' (NAP) underscores the need to strengthen the relationship between the UN and regional organizations, recognizing that regional organizations, like the AU, are the critical building blocks of multilateral cooperation and central to conflict prevention, management, and resolution. Secretary-General Guterres highlighted the significance of peace support operations as a key area of cooperation between the UN and AU and emphasized the need for reliable, predictable, and sustainable funding for such operations. Recognizing this, the question remains as to how the partnership can be leveraged to ensure effective coordination, burden sharing, and complementarity between the UN and AU, particularly in light of the growing expectations placed on both organizations?

It is thus imperative to engage in critical dialogue on how to enhance cooperation between the AU and the UN consistent with the SG's New Agenda for Peace and the UN Charter, recognizing the role of regional organizations and the UN contributing to peace and

security in Africa. Such a critical dialogue must also encompass the practical steps needed to translate the SG's recommendations outlined in the New Agenda for Peace into institutional and operational actions that deepen the relationship between the UN and AU. For the AU and UN, the institutional partnership presents the opportunity to foster a more inclusive global order, however, for it to be successful it is imperative to clearly address longstanding policy issues, such as modalities for the financing of AU-PSOs, and delineate operational and technical areas of collaboration in pursuit of common agendas, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063.

### **Aim and objectives**

Amani Africa jointly with the UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU) will be convening a dialogue reflect on the UN-AU partnership in light of the New Agenda for Peace and to reflect on other issues of relevance to UN-AU partnership in a changing global order. The objectives are to:

- Share experiences and take stock of the UN-AU partnership in Peace and security;
- Discuss the New Agenda for Peace and its implications for the UN-AU partnership;
- Provide policy insight and identify possible approaches to strengthening the UN-AU partnership in alignment with the envisaged expectations to be placed on the two organizations.

### **Logistics**

The dialogue will be held in a hybrid format on zoom and at Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Addis Ababa, starting from 2 PM EAT on 12 December 2023.

### **Agenda**

02:00 – 02:15: Arrival and Registration

*Moderator:* Nicholas Shalita, Chief of Political Affairs, UNOAU

02:15 – 02:20: Welcoming and Introductory Remarks by Tsion Hagos, Senior Researcher, Amani Africa

02:20 – 02:30: *Reflections* by Mr Gerald Mitchell, Deputy Head of Office and Director of Political Affairs, UNOAU

- 02:30 – 02:40: ***Reflections*** by Ambassador Frederic Gateretse-Ngoga, AU Focal Point for International Partnerships
- 02:40 – 02:50: ***Reflections*** by Dr Solomon Dersso, Founding Director, Amani Africa
- 02:50 – 03:45: ***Discussion***
- 03:45 – 04:00: ***Closing Remarks***