



AMANI- FES High Level Dialogue

Shifts in Global Dynamics and their Impact on the AU-UN Partnership: The Case of AUSSOM

04 September 2025| 03.00 p.m.- 06.00 p.m.| Haile Grand Hotel

Concept Note

i. Background and Rationale

The Global landscape for peace operations is undergoing significant shift in an era of rising global challenges marked by intensifying geopolitical polarization and a rapid reconfiguration of the world order. Growing geopolitical divisions have significantly hindered consensus on when and how UN peace operations should be deployed or how their operations are undertaken following deployment. Simultaneously, missions are confronting a far more complex conflict landscape, characterized by protracted and fragmented wars, the proliferation of non-state armed groups with ambiguous political goals, the weaponization of emerging technologies, and transnational threats that defy traditional peacekeeping models.

Further compounding the situation is the cuts to by some of the largest funding contributors of funding to UN and foreign assistance and aid budgets. These drastic cuts in contributions from major donors, including the United States has resulted in a significant funding crisis in UN peacekeeping.

Under the Pact for the Future, UN member states mandated review of UN peacekeeping. Additionally, in response to the funding cuts, the UN, as it turns 80 this year, has launched the UN80 initiative, which aims at streamlining operations and adapting to the changing financial landscape. It is expected that the restructuring will affect the UN Programs and missions, requiring them to do less with less, though how this will unfold is not yet clear to all stakeholders. This could also lead the UN also faces a potential illiquidity crisis stemming from delayed or missed contributions, which could significantly constrain mission spending and, in turn, undermine the effectiveness of the AU-UN Partnership., which will ultimately have an impact on the AU-UN Partnership, not least of all UN support for the AU Stabilization Support Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM).

The adoption of [Resolution 2719](#) by the UNSC in December 2023 was a groundbreaking step in AU-UN partnership that intended to provide more predictable and sustainable financing to AU-led peace operations. However, the failure to implement the 2719 framework to AUSSOM and the political divisions it induced have raised uncertainties about the AU-UN Partnership model provided by the Resolution.

ii. The Case of AUSSOM: UNSCR 2719 Framework and Associated Funding Challenges

The authorization of AUSSOM's deployment through [Resolution 2767](#) had indicated the possibility of applying 2719 to fund the mission from July 2025. However, despite strong push from the AU and broad support from many Council members—including the "A3 plus" group (Algeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Guyana), EU countries, China, Russia, and Pakistan for applying the UNSCR 2719 framework to AUSSOM, the United States has voiced consistent opposition. In a recent bill introduced to prohibit American contributions to AUSSOM under the 2719 framework, US senators argued that Somalia is not an appropriate setting for such funding and advocated for alternative financing mechanisms. As a result, on 12 May 2025, the UN Security Council failed to authorise AUSSOM's funding under Resolution 2719, including the hybrid format proposed based on Resolution 2767.

Without Resolution 2719 as a funding pathway, the AU, T/PCCs, Somalia, and the wider international community are vested with the responsibility to work on alternative financial mechanisms to address the acute financial crisis facing AUSSOM. The European Union (EU), which has been the single largest direct contributor to AU missions in Somalia contributing nearly 2.7 billion Euros since 2007, would like to see others step in as geopolitical priorities shift. Though this does not mean that some contributions may still be forthcoming, they are unlikely to bridge the funding gap. As the pledges from China, Japan, and South Korea amount to no more than \$5.6 million and the planned pledging conference in Doha, Qatar, earlier this year did not take place, the question arises as to who is going to step in. Expressing deep concern over the financial crisis of a mission critical for security and stability in Somalia, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1287th meeting held, at Ministerial level, on 3 July 2025 has decided to increase the ceiling level of the Crisis Reserve Facility (CRF) from 10 to 20 million USD for 2025 in support of AUSSOM deployment which cannot resolve the issues of financing beyond giving somewhat temporary relief to address some of the financial gaps. Furthermore, the AUPSC has directed the AU Commission to engage the UN, EU, UK, Somalia and other bilateral partners to organize a resource mobilization conference for AUSSOM. However, with shifting geopolitical priorities and stalled pledging efforts (e.g., in Doha), alternative funding remains elusive

iii. Broader Strategic Context

These challenges are unfolding alongside major UN policy processes, including the review of the future of all forms of UN peace operations, mandated in the Pact for the Future, and the 2025 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review. This evolving policy environment makes the effective implementation of resolutions like 2719 all the more critical to sustaining credible



and collaborative peace operations. As the failure to implement Resolution 2719 for AUSSOM threatens not only AUSSOM's success but also undermines collective efforts to enhance joint AU-UN strategic planning and burden-sharing.

With this background Amani Africa, FES AU Office and FES PSCC will hold a high-level dialogue under the theme "Shifts in Global Dynamics and their Impact on AU-UN Partnership" scheduled for 4 September 2024.

iv. Objectives of the High-Level Dialogue

This high-level dialogue, co-convened by Amani Africa and FES aims to:

- Examine the implications of the resistance on the implementation of Resolution 2719, particularly its impact on AUSSOM and broader AU-led peace support operations. Explore political and funding alternatives for AUSSOM.
- Reflect on the broader impact of shifting donor dynamics and geopolitical realignments on AU-UN partnerships.
- Identify forward-looking policy recommendations for strengthening the AU-UN partnership.

Amongst others the session will look into the below set of questions

- What are the political and operational implications of the U.S. opposition to Resolution 2719 for AU-UN partnerships?
- How can the AU and its partners bridge the financing gap facing AUSSOM?
- What alternative models (e.g., trust funds, assessed contributions, hybrid mechanisms) are feasible in the current context?
- How do current UN peacekeeping reforms and reviews reshape the AU's role in international peace and security?
- What lessons can be drawn from the AUSSOM experience for future AU-UN collaborative frameworks?

V. Format and Participants

Relevant stakeholders and policymakers from the AU (AU Commission, AU member states) and Regional Economic Communities and Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) as well as international organizations, the diplomatic community, think tanks, academic institutions and civil society organizations will take part in this dialogue. The working language of the discussion will be in English with simultaneous interpretation to French.