

MONTHLY DIGEST ON THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

AMANI AFRICA

Media and Research Services

August, 2025

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AUGUST
2025



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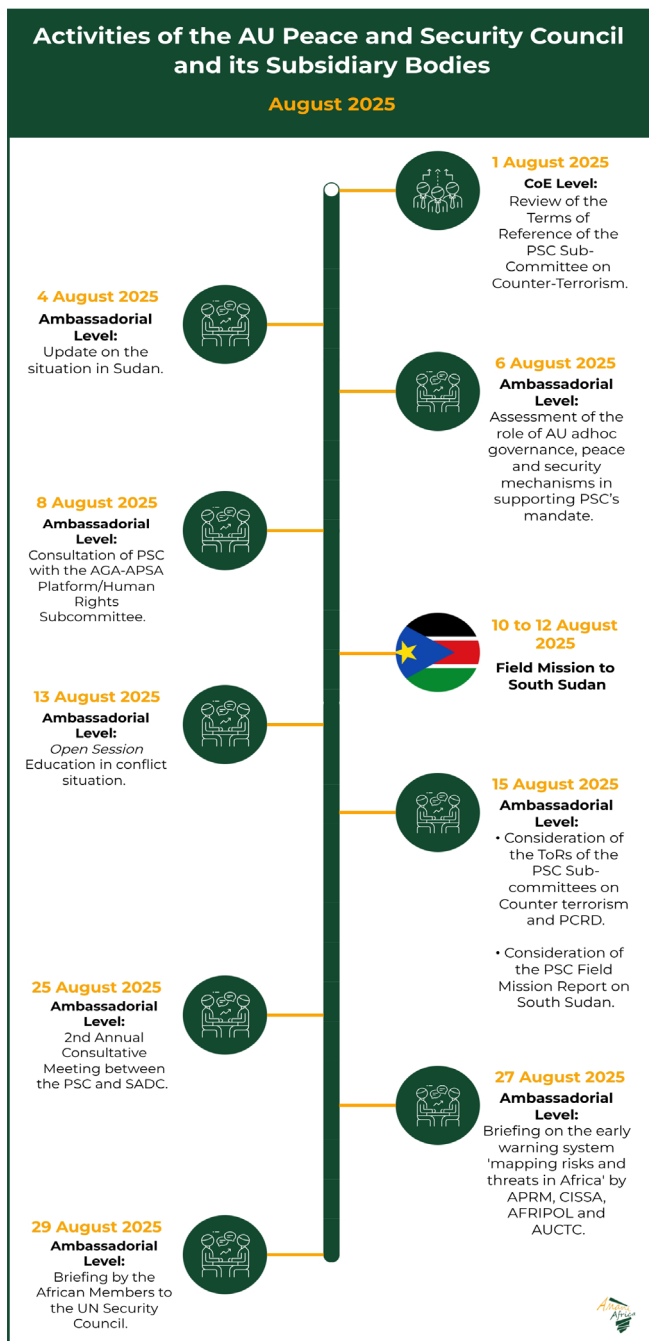
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THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

In August, under the chairship of Algeria, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) had a scheduled [programme of work](#) consisting of eight substantive sessions covering nine agenda items. After the revision of the programme, seven sessions were held, covering nine agenda items and a field mission to South Sudan. Out of the nine agenda items, two focused on country-specific situations, while the rest addressed thematic issues and the Council's meetings with other relevant bodies. All the sessions were held at the level of permanent representatives.



Over the course of the month, the PSC Provisional Programme of Work underwent only one revision. This revision resulted in the addition of the sessions, 'Consideration of the Terms of References (ToRs) of the PSC Sub-Committee on PCRD' and 'the Committee of Experts (CoE) Report on the Review of the AU Liaison Offices,' which were added to the sessions on 'Consideration of the ToRs of the PSC Subcommittee on Counter-terrorism' and 'Consideration of the PSC Field Mission Report on South Sudan.' The revision also saw the postponement of the Second Annual Consultative Meeting between the PSC and SADC, which was scheduled for 25 August.

Of the nine agenda items, eight had a communiqué as the outcome document. The outcome document of the session on 'Assessment of the role of AU ad hoc governance, peace and security mechanisms in supporting PSC's mandate' was a summary record. In addition to these outcome documents, the sessions on 'Consideration of the ToRs of the PSC Subcommittee on Counter-terrorism' and 'Consideration of the ToRs of the PSC Sub-Committee on PCRD' resulted in the adoption of the ToRs. On average, it took 10 days for the outcome documents to be released.

PSC AVOIDS REAFFIRMING THE POSITION FROM ITS 29 JULY STATEMENT THAT IT ONLY RECOGNISES THE TRANSITIONAL SOVEREIGN COUNCIL AND THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED UNDER IT

The PSC's 1293rd session, held on 4 August, was dedicated to the situation in Sudan.¹

¹ During the session, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the High Representative for Silencing the

This session came less than a week after the Council issued a [Press Statement](#) on 29 July condemning the 26 July 2025 announcement by the Sudan Founding Alliance (Tasis), led by the Rapid Support Force (RSF), of the establishment of a parallel government in Sudan. At this session, the PSC reiterated its strong condemnation and rejection of the so-called parallel government and urged all AU member states and the wider international community not to recognise it.



Figure 1: PSC's 1293rd session on Sudan, 4 August 2025 (Source: X [@AUC_PAPS](#))

One of the key features of the [communiqué](#) adopted at the session is the fact that it attempts to reflect the plurality of positions in the PSC with respect to support for SAF, which leads and controls the Transitional Sovereign Council. As a result, despite maintaining a more favourable attitude towards the SAF-appointed 'transitional government', the PSC did not uphold the problematic formulation of its 29 July press statement that stated that the PSC 'recognises only the Transitional Sovereign Council and the recently formed civilian transitional government.' Although this formulation was highlighted in the initial draft of the communiqué, it did not receive the full support of PSC membership to be reflected in the communiqué, which carries

Guns in Africa and Chair of the High-Level Panel on Sudan; Mohamed Belaiche, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for Sudan, as well as the representatives of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and World Food Programme delivered statements.

more weight than the press statement. In part, this was on account of the recognition on the part of some member states that the 'transitional government', single-handedly constituted by the Sovereign Council that is under the full control of the SAF, was not a product of any national dialogue and inclusive political process. In a clear manifestation of this, the PSC communiqué signaled the need for inclusivity when it appealed international support 'to the transitional government and the political forces in Sudan', to make the transitional process '**more inclusive** (emphasis added).' Additionally, there were also concerns that reaffirming the 29 July statement position could undercut the AU's role as an impartial peace broker.

The PSC also noted the 'progress' made in implementing the roadmap presented by the President of the Transitional Sovereignty Council on 8 February 2025, which called for the launch of a comprehensive and inclusive national dialogue involving all actors who renounce war and favour peaceful resolution. Beyond merely noting progress and in what seems to echo the position of those who see SAF favorably, the Council 'directed' the AU Commission to engage with the Sudanese authorities, undertake a PSC visit to Sudan at the earliest opportunity and identify the remaining steps required to complete the transitional process.

As highlighted in the [3 August 2025 edition of 'Insights on the PSC'](#), while PSC's position to uphold the territorial integrity of Sudan and the emergence of the Libya scenario in Sudan is supported by and adheres to relevant AU norms on state sovereignty and territorial integrity, it carries the risk of reviving the push for lifting Sudan's suspension from the AU. With the war showing no signs of ending and with neither a national constitution-making process nor general elections on the horizon, the

prerequisites for restoring constitutional order remain unmet. As such, there is a need for putting priority on ending the war with a focus on cessation of hostilities and protection of civilians and the launch of an inclusive political process for constituting an inclusive civilian transition anchored on the major political and social forces of Sudan without the constraint from the warring parties before consideration of the lifting of Sudan's suspension for the October 2021 military coup, for which both of the warring parties bear responsibility.

The other key aspect of the communiqué is its request for the Chairperson of the AU Commission to convene a meeting of all actors involved in the Sudan peace efforts, with the aim of consolidating the various peace frameworks into a single, AU- and IGAD-led process. However, it remains far from clear whether the AU has a new plan on how to accomplish such a feat. It further calls for reinvigorating the AU's central role in resolving the Sudan crisis. While this is noble, the AU can only earn and restore its central role if it reorganises its peace-making plan and institutes a credible process involving sustained engagement with all major actors and capable of mobilising broad-based support from Sudanese, regional and international actors.

Regarding external interference, while reaffirming its 'strong condemnation' of such involvement in the conflict in Sudan, the Council called the PSC Subcommittee on Sanctions, in collaboration with the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) and the AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), to identify those actors and recommend measures to be taken by the PSC. It will be recalled that the Subcommittee on Sanctions was first given this mandate during the PSC's 1218th session, held at summit level in June 2024. At that

session, the Subcommittee was requested to submit a report within three months—by September 2024. Yet, nearly a year past the deadline, no report has been submitted, and progress towards implementing this task remains unclear. Given the lack of a clear plan and the persistence of the conditions that impeded the implementation of this decision, PSC's request for action does not appear to be anything more than performative.

Relevant previous PSC decisions:

1213th Session [[PSC/PR/BR.1213 \(2024\)](#)]:

PSC requested:

- The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to urgently investigate the human rights situation in El Fasher and other areas in Darfur and to report back to the Council, including recommendations to hold perpetrators accountable.
- The AU High-Level Panel to work with the newly appointed AU Special Envoy for the Prevention of Genocide, to develop proposals on how to address ongoing atrocities and to prevent further escalation in Darfur, as well as to develop a plan for the protection of civilians.

1218th Session [[PSC/HoSG/COMM.1218 \(2024\)](#)]:

The PSC:

- Mandated the AU and its relevant Organs, in collaboration with the High-Level Panel on Sudan and IGAD, to regularly monitor and report heinous crimes committed throughout Sudan, develop proposals on how to address them to prevent their further escalation, as well as develop a plan for the protection of civilians.
- Directed the Chairperson of the AU Commission to urgently set up a PSC Ad-hoc Presidential Committee led by Uganda's President Yoweri Kagu-

ta Museveni to facilitate face-to-face engagements between the leaders of the SAF and the RSF, at the shortest possible time.

- Directed the PSC Sub-Committee on Sanctions to liaise with the AU Commission and CISSA to identify all external actors supporting the warring factions militarily, financially and politically, as well as make proposals on how to contain each of them within a stipulated timeframe not exceeding three months from June 2024.
- Requested the AU Commission, in coordination with the ACHPR, to investigate and make recommendations to the PSC on practical measures to be undertaken for the protection of civilians.
- Proposed the convening of an extraordinary summit of the AU to consider the situation in Sudan.
- Requested the AU Commission, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Union, to consult on the date and venue of the aforementioned extraordinary summit.

1261st session [[PSC/HoSG/COMM.1261.1 \(2025\)](#)]:

- PSC requested the AU Commission, through the High-Level Panel on Sudan and in close coordination with the IGAD, as well as neighbouring countries, to continue engaging civilian actors towards an inclusive inter-Sudanese process.

Key Actionable Decisions Requiring Follow-up:

The PSC:

- Requested the AU Commission and the PRC Subcommittee on Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons to provide humanitarian assistance and a solidarity donation to assist the Sudanese people.

- Requested the AU Commission, through the High-Level Panel on Sudan and in close coordination with the IGAD, as well as neighbouring countries, to continue engaging civilian actors towards an inclusive inter-Sudanese dialogue process.
- Called on the PSC subcommittee on Sanctions, in collaboration with CISSA and AFRIPOL, to identify external actors involved in the conflict in Sudan and recommend measures to be taken by the PSC.
- Requested the Chairperson of the AU Commission to convene a meeting of all actors involved in the peace efforts in Sudan with a view to consolidating all these peace frameworks into a single process aimed at resolving the conflict in Sudan, led by the AU and IGAD.
- Directed the AU Commission to engage with the Sudanese authorities and to conduct, at the earliest possible time, a PSC visit to Sudan (Khartoum/Port Sudan) to follow up and establish the remaining steps that are needed for the completion of the transitional process.
- Requested the Chairperson of the AU Commission to accelerate the implementation of the PSC Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM. 1235 (2024)] of 9 October 2024, regarding the reopening of the AU Liaison Office to Sudan, in Port Sudan, with minimum staffing.

Recent Relevant Amani Africa Publications

- [Briefing on the situation in Sudan, Insights on the PSC](#), 3 August 2025.
- [Prioritising Protection of Civilians in Peace and Security Diplomacy in Sudan: Challenges and Options](#), *Special Research Report*, 18 November 2024.

PSC REQUESTS THE AU COMMISSION TO UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON AU AD-HOC GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY MECHANISMS TO INFORM FURTHER DELIBERATION BY THE PSC

PSC's 1294th session, held on 6 August, was convened to deliberate on the role of AU ad hoc governance, peace and security mechanisms in supporting its mandate. The session aimed to exchange views on the status of these mechanisms—often in the form of ad hoc committees or high-level panels—while reflecting on their effectiveness, identifying the factors influencing their success or failure and recommending ways to strengthen their role. The outcome of the meeting was captured in a summary record rather than a communiqué or press statement.



Figure 2: PSC's 1294th session on ad hoc mechanisms, 6 August 2025 (Source: [X@AUC_PAPS](#))

It emerged that the PSC considered it more appropriate to pursue a substantive discussion on the subject following deliberations by the Committee of Experts, based on a background document/comprehensive study to be prepared by the AU Commission. This study is to be undertaken in line with the ongoing review of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), drawing lessons from past experiences to enhance the role of ad

hoc mechanisms in addressing governance, peace and security challenges. Accordingly, the PSC not only requested the Commission to undertake the study but also directed its Committee of Experts to deliberate on the matter, based on the background document prepared by the Commission and provide recommendations to the Council at the ambassadorial level.

Beyond these decisions, the PSC underscored that the effective operation of ad hoc mechanisms requires strong institutional support. This entails not only robust technical infrastructure but also well-established institutional frameworks to ensure the mandates of conflict prevention and resolution are effectively implemented. Equally, PSC members highlighted that governance, peace and security mechanisms need to be adequately supported technically and financially to achieve their intended objectives.

Recent Relevant Amani Africa Publications

- [Re-energising conflict prevention and resolution in Africa: a quest to salvage the APSA?](#), *Policy Brief*, 19 September 2025.
- [Assessment of the role of ad hoc governance, peace and security mechanisms in supporting the PSC's mandate](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 5 August 2025.

PSC CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF AU GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE AND SECURITY FRAMEWORKS

On 8 August, at its 1295th meeting, the PSC held a consultation with the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the Africa Peace and Security

Architecture (APSA) Platform, as well as the Human Rights, Democracy and Governance Sub-committee.²

The meeting concluded with a [communiqué](#) that emphasised the need to align and coordinate Africa's governance and peace architectures in order to advance human rights, democracy, conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery. It further called for stronger synergies and complementary partnerships that draw on the comparative strengths of the PSC, the PRC Sub-Committee and the AGA/APSA Platform, intending to deliver more coherent and impactful interventions in support of Agenda 2063. Unlike the consultations held in August 2023, which were largely confined to 'experience sharing' without concrete mechanisms for joint implementation, the 1295th meeting demonstrated a tangible commitment to institutional coordination. The communiqué underscored the importance of strengthening synergies between the AGA and APSA, particularly through aligning objectives, harmonising initiatives and recognising the crucial importance of developing a Joint Roadmap. The Joint Roadmap may have the potential to bridge institutional silos, reduce duplication and address stalled coordination efforts, as well as overlapping responsibilities and create a more coherent response framework. The request for AU organs to distinguish between human rights, humanitarian and political issues is also an important step toward clarifying mandates and avoiding duplication of effort. While this marks progress in recognising the long-standing fragmentation between

governance and security responses, which has often undermined the AU's ability to address complex, multidimensional crises, it is pertinent to ensure that it will not be susceptible to delays and weakened follow-through.

On the normative front, the Council reiterated the importance of ratifying, domesticating and implementing AU Shared Values Instruments, with particular emphasis on the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). It further requested the AU Commission, in collaboration with the AGA-APSA Platform, the HRDG Sub-Committee and the APRM, to develop a comprehensive matrix of AU legal frameworks, as part of the [ongoing](#) review process of the governance, peace and security frameworks. This initiative represents a potentially important step toward stocktaking and rationalising the continent's governance, human rights, peace and security instruments. By calling not only for a mapping exercise but also for an assessment of whether existing frameworks are *fit for purpose* in addressing Africa's complex governance and security challenges, **the PSC acknowledges both the proliferation of AU norms and the persistent gap between adoption and implementation.** Done effectively, the exercise could help identify gaps, streamline overlaps and ensure the continued relevance of AU instruments, which, however, is inadequate without AU actors pushing for and creating conditions for implementation.

However, its wide scope risks turning the process into a bureaucratic cataloguing effort rather than a transformative process. Moreover, the initiative could be undermined by resource limitations, weak political will and the absence of clear criteria for assessing effectiveness, factors that may leave the review process ambiguous and limit its practical impact.

² Presentations were delivered by Ambassador Willy Nyamitwe, Permanent Representative of Burundi to the AU and the Acting Chairperson of the PRC Sub Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance (HRDG); and by Hon. Wilson Almeida Adao, Chairperson of the AGA-APSA Platform and Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).

Another important element of the outcome document is the PSC's emphasis on resource mobilisation through the expedited operationalisation of the African Governance Facility (AGF), a mechanism established to strengthen the African Governance Architecture (AGA) by channelling resources toward the AU's efforts to advance democracy and good governance. However, this is not the first time the Council has made such a call. The repeated appeals, without clarity on the causes of delay or concrete strategies to address the underlying factors impeding progress including lack of clarity on the purpose of and value of the AGF given that the AGA platform institutions are allocated with their own respective budgets from the AU for advancing AGA objectives, are unlikely to lead to any progress.

Furthermore, the communiqué expands its scope to include pressing geopolitical risks such as the proliferation of mercenaries, external interference and illegal resource exploitation and calls for a unified crisis response mechanism. This connects governance weaknesses to broader peace and security threats. Yet, the absence of concrete proposals on how the AU will enforce such a mechanism or secure compliance by Member States, again, highlights the gap between aspiration and the reality on the ground.

The communiqué's emphasis on inclusivity and a people-centred approach to governance reflects a deliberate attempt to address the legitimacy gap inherent in traditional top-down frameworks by actively involving diverse societal actors such as women, youth, civil society, media and academia. This resonates with the continent's broader aspirations for more participatory governance structures.

Simultaneously, the communiqué's connection to continental dialogue platforms like the High-Level Dialogue on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights and the upcoming Aswan Forum signals an outward-looking strategy to situate AU's peace and security and governance work within a larger ecosystem of policy analysis and debate reflective of the voices of wider society on peace, security and development concerns. While this is commendable, there is a need to ensure that the outputs of the wider ecosystem feed into AU decision-making, which is critical to make such engagements to be more than symbolic and become strategically impactful.

Relevant previous PSC decisions:

1095th Session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1095 \(2022\)](#)]:
The PSC:

- Requested the Member States to expedite the universal signature and implementation of the ACDEG and fully support national institutions charged with the mandate of promoting democracy, human rights and good governance; as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Decided to institutionalise and regularise the Joint Engagement as an annual event to be held during the month of August.

1098th Session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1098 \(2022\)](#)]:
PSC decided to institutionalise and regularise the holding of the Joint Engagement between the PSC and AGA Platform as an annual event.

1267th session [[PSC/HoSG/COMM.1267 \(2023\)](#)]:
PSC requested:

- The AU Commission to expedite the operationalization of the African Governance Facility, in order to facilitate effective resource mobilization to support the initiatives of

the African Governance Platform and Member States towards the promotion of good governance and strengthening of democracy on the Continent; and in the same context, also requests the AU Commission to further strengthen the PRC Sub Committee on HRDG and the AGP, as well as the institutional capacity of the AGA-APSA Secretariat to more effectively discharge their respective mandates.

- The AU Commission, the African Governance Platform and the AGA-APSA Secretariat to organize a joint consultative meeting to identify joint initiatives beyond the experience sharing sessions, paying particular attention to the following areas;
 - I. Joint PSC, the PRC Sub Committee and the AGP promotional visits on AU shared values instruments;
 - II. More active role in preventive diplomacy and mediation efforts;
 - III. PSC involvement in the planning and delivery of the AGA Flagship Initiatives; and
 - IV. Establishment of follow-up mechanisms of the decisions of the joint session between PSC and AGP.

Key Actionable Decisions Requiring Follow-up:

The PSC requested:

- AU Member States to provide political support on the implementation of the Africa Governance Report of the AGA-APSA Platform produced by APRM.
- The AU Commission to expedite the operationalisation of the African Governance Facility, in order to

facilitate effective resource mobilisation to support the initiatives of the African Governance Platform and Member States towards the promotion of good governance and strengthening of democracy on the Continent.

- The AU Commission, in coordination with AGA-APSA platform, Sub Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance (HRDG) and APRM, to develop a comprehensive matrix that lists all AU legal frameworks on governance, human rights, peace and security and assess whether the frameworks are fit for purpose in addressing the continent's complex governance and security challenges as part of the review process of the Governance, peace and security frameworks in line with Assembly decision Assembly/AU/Dec.920 (XXXVIII), adopted during the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held from 15 to 16 February and further, develop an Action Plan on the activities to be undertaken on this matter starting from 2025.

Recent Relevant Amani Africa Publications

- [Consultation of PSC with the AGA-APSA Platform/Human Rights Subcommittee, Insights on the PSC](#), 7 August 2025.
- [Engagement between the PSC and the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance, Insights on the PSC](#), 11 August 2023.

PSC SESSION ON EDUCATION CALLS FOR A POLICY ON THE PROTECTION AND PROVISION OF EDUCATION SERVICES DURING CONFLICTS

On 13 August 2025, the PSC convened its 1296th open session to deliberate on *Education in Conflict Situations*.³



Figure 3: PSC's 1296th Session on 'Education in Conflict Situations,' 13 August 2025. (Source X @AUC_PAPS)

The [communiqué](#), adopted as an outcome document, situates present commitments within a broader policy continuum, recalling the AU Theme for 2024, '*Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century*', as well as earlier AU Assembly and Executive Council decisions. It further draws connections to continental and global frameworks, including the '*Decade of Accelerated Action for Education Transformation and Skills Development (2025–2034)*,' the '*Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 25–34)*' and the

³ Presentations were made by Ambassador Amma Twum-Amoah, Acting Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation; Ambassador Rebecca Amuge Otengo, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the AU and Co-Chair of the African Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflict. Honourable Wilson Almeida Adao, Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) also made presentations.

'*Safe Schools Declaration*,' while also aligning with the '*African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*.' Through this framing, Council reinforced the need for systematically addressing how education and peace and security are connected within the AU's peace and security agenda, thereby highlighting in concrete terms the peace, security and development nexus.

Of note was the emphasis on gender sensitivity. Council acknowledged that women and girls bear disproportionate impacts of conflict through 'forced early marriage, gender-based violence' and exclusion from schooling. The focus on 'inclusive education,' particularly for women and girls, is reflective of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and is illustrative of how to integrate WPS in various thematic agenda items of the PSC. As highlighted in the [Insights on the PSC](#) issued for the session, school closures remove vital protection and establish a 'causal link' between attacks on education and the emergence of 'harmful coping mechanisms,' notably child marriage. Nevertheless, the communiqué gives limited attention to structural barriers beyond violence, such as cultural expectations and economic hardship, which continue to impede girls' access to schooling.

Council further underscored how conflict denies children the right to schooling while fueling cycles of violence through child recruitment, 'child labour,' and 'radicalisation.' It thus called for embedding 'conflict resolution, civic engagement, reconciliation and inclusive pedagogy' into national curricula, alongside expanding 'psychosocial support' and leveraging 'digital platforms.' The communiqué also urged the establishment of 'temporary learning centers' in conflict zones and the mobilisation of innovative financing through the AU Peace Fund. It further called for increased national budget allocations,

emergency financing pools and sustained investment in ‘technical support,’ ‘teacher training,’ and ‘community-based initiatives,’ including within refugee and internally displaced person (IDP) camps.

PSC also called upon Member States to criminalise ‘the use of education infrastructures, including schools for military purposes during armed conflict’ and to ‘ratify and transpose into their domestic law’ relevant instruments, while reaffirming the AU’s commitment to accountability under the international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights law (IHRL).

Yet, the communiqué reveals weaknesses that limit its long-term effectiveness. It focused largely on symptoms of disruption, such as school attacks and child recruitment, while giving insufficient attention to structural drivers such as poverty, weak governance and ethnic tensions. Implementation pathways also lacked clarity. The call to ‘mobilise resources’ through the African Humanitarian Agency omitted concrete targets, timelines and allocation strategies, while directives to elaborate a policy on education in conflict omitted scope, responsibilities and deadlines. **Financing challenges remain acute, with appeals for increased national allocations and donor alignment proving aspirational in conflict-affected contexts where fiscal space is already overstretched.** Furthermore, while normative commitments such as criminalising military use of schools are important, their enforceability is uncertain in the absence of systematic monitoring and clear accountability mechanisms, whether through the African Court, regional sanctions or international justice.

Finally, **the emphasis on digital learning platforms, while conceptually innovative, suffers from practical limitations and sounds oblivious to the importance**

of in-person classroom teaching for socialisation and the personal development of children. In many conflict-affected regions, electricity, internet access and infrastructure are unreliable, while deliberate internet shutdowns and scarcity of devices compound the challenge. Without concrete provisions to address these deficits, digital learning risks remaining symbolic rather than actionable. Moreover, much of the usual PSC’s phrasing, such as ‘urges,’ ‘encourages,’ and ‘requests,’ lacks binding force, giving Member States wide discretion to disregard commitments. With the AU Commission’s authority to monitor policies and frameworks still limited, the session ultimately revealed a familiar tension between aspiration and implementation. Unless these structural and practical gaps are addressed, the communiqué’s commitments, however ambitious, risk falling short of delivering durable change for children caught in conflict.

It is to be recalled that this is not the first session of the PSC on education in conflict situations. The inaugural session of the PSC on education was held in August 2024.

Relevant previous PSC decisions:

1229th Session: [[PSC/PR/COMM.1229 \(2024\)](#)]:

- Need for improving data collection and evidence-based policymaking to effectively address the unique challenges facing education in conflict situations.
- Need for establishing a quality control mechanism to monitor and evaluate inclusive education initiatives to ensure effectiveness and accountability.
- Need to mainstream inclusive education as an integral component of post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD) in countries emerging from conflict situations, consistent with the provisions of the Revised AU PCRD Policy Framework.
- AU Commission Chairperson to ap-

point a Special Envoy on Children in Situations of Conflict pursuant to Decision [Assembly/AU/ Dec.718 (XXXII)] adopted by the 32nd Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held from 10 to 11 February 2019.

Key Actionable Decisions Requiring Follow-up:

The PSC:

- Requested the AU Commission to develop a policy on the protection and provision of education services during conflicts on the Continent.
- Requested the AU Commission to issue periodic Scorecards on the Elimination of Harmful Practices, tracking trends in child marriage and other violations in conflict-affected areas to enable data-driven interventions.
- Requested the AU Commission to develop a comprehensive and dynamic matrix listing all AU legal frameworks, strategies and initiatives aimed at promoting inclusive education for all, particularly ensuring continuity of education in times of conflict in Africa and to develop an action plan on activities to be undertaken in this area from 2025 onwards.
- Requested the AU Commission to facilitate technical support and capacity-building for concerned Member States in implementing the Safe Schools Declaration, the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
- Directed the AU Commission to mobilise resources for its mechanisms, including the African Humanitarian Agency, Continental Civil Capacity Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response, the African Risk

Capacity and AU Liaison Offices in conflict zones to support education delivery.

- Directed the AU Commission to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Communiqué [[PSC/PR/COMM.1229 \(2024\)](#)].

Recent Relevant Amani Africa publications

- [Rehabilitation and reintegration of children formerly associated with armed conflicts – Amani Africa](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 21 July 2025.
- [Inclusive Education in Conflict Situations](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 20 August 2024.

AU COMMISSION, AUCTC, AFRIPOL, CISSA AND APRM, TASKED TO ESTABLISH AND INSTITUTIONALISE A DYNAMIC AND CONTINUOUSLY UPDATED RISK MAPPING TOOL BY DECEMBER 2025

On 27 August, the PSC held its 1298th session for a briefing on the early warning systems, ‘mapping risks and threats in Africa,’⁴ by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Committee of Intelligence and Security Services in Africa (CISSA), African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) and African Union Counter Terrorism Centre (AUCTC).

⁴ Speakers included Marie-Antoinette Rose QUATRE, CEO, APRM; Lallali Idris Lakhdar, Acting Director, AUCTC; Maxwell Yaw Kumah, Principal Researcher and Analyst of the CISSA; Representatives of the African Regional Standby Forces of the Commission of Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); Northern Africa Regional Capability (NARC); and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

From the [Concept Note](#), the meeting aimed to provide an updated continental security outlook through evidence-based analysis of prevailing and emerging threats, organised both geographically and thematically to guide the PSC's deliberations and preventive interventions. It further sought to assess gaps in the early warning-to-action continuum by examining institutional, political and coordination challenges that hinder timely and effective responses to early warning signals. In this regard, participants discussed the development of an African map of threats to peace and security, categorised by severity and highlighting AU mechanisms already in place to address them, the challenges encountered and recommendations for more effective action. The meeting also examined the impact of governance deficits on the continent's security challenges and deliberated on the respective roles of the AU Commission, APRM, RECs/RMs with peace and security components, Member States and specialised institutions such as AUCTC, AFRIPOL and CISSA in strengthening early warning, analysis and response.

Building on its previous session, [1247th](#) meeting held on 27 November 2024, in which it encouraged 'Member States to continue to strengthen national early warning capacities, as well as defence and security policies,' Council, in the [communiqué](#) of this 1298th session, recognized the existing gap between early warning-early action, which undermines conflict prevention efforts by delaying responses. In this respect, it stressed the imperative to bridge the early warning-early action gap critical for the PSC, AU institutions and Member States. The meeting highlighted the importance of strengthening the AU's risk capacity through the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) by integrating advanced data-gathering, analytical tools and collaborative frameworks to enhance early

warning analysis, real-time monitoring and crisis foresight, ensuring that CEWS analysis directly informs the PSC's agenda-setting and deliberations.



Figure 4: PSC's 1298th Meeting, 'Briefing on the Early Warning Systems in Africa,' 27 August 2025.
(Source X [@AUC_PAPS](#))

The need for continued technical cooperation on urgent counter-terrorism matters with countries under AU suspension due to unconstitutional changes of government (UCGs) was encouraged, strictly to mitigate shared security threats and facilitate a return to constitutional order in line with AU norms. The development of a Continental Security Outlook was stressed as a strategic planning tool to guide the PSC's calendar, preventive diplomacy and mediation initiatives, with a call for its institutionalisation as a biannual or annual report produced collaboratively by relevant AU structures. Additionally, the integration of the AU Counter-Terrorism Committee's (AUCTC) Terrorism Monitoring and Analysis System (TMAS) into the CEWS dashboard was underscored to enable country-specific PSC sessions to benefit from interactive, layered threats and risks cartographic briefings. The importance of Member States considering and acting on the APRM's governance recommendations was emphasised, with a request for the APRM to support the PSC's foundational governance pillars by conducting a technical mapping of existing peace agreements, using AU governance benchmarks to identify convergences, divergences and unimplemented decisions and developing an action-oriented roadmap

for PSC consideration.

Finally, the adoption of the non-binding 'Algerian Guiding Principles' on preventing, detecting and disrupting the use of new and emerging financial technologies for terrorist purposes, as adopted by the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee in January 2025, was welcomed, with encouragement for Member States to adhere to these principles.

Relevant previous PSC decision:

1247th Session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1247 \(2024\)](#)]:

The PSC:

- Requested the AUCTC, CISSA, AFRIPOL, other specialised AU agencies and Member States to work together towards the establishment of a joint Cybersecurity Task Force focusing on preventing the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and emerging technologies by terrorist groups for radicalisation, recruitment, training and funding.

Key Actionable Decisions Requiring Follow-up:

The PSC:

- Stressed the need to establish a CEWS–AUCTC Joint Analytical Cell (JAC) to fuse political-governance analysis with operational intelligence, which would include:
 - I. Quarterly Continental Security Outlooks with geo-visu-als;
 - II. Convergence Alerts when multi-risk thresholds are crossed; and
 - III. Concise Crisis Decision Notes formatted for PSC ac-tion.
- Tasked the AU Commission to work closely with the RECs/RMs and the APRM in developing a clear protocol on Integrated Pre-ventive Diplomacy and Action ad-

ressing the subsidiarity principle paradox, which will clarify the roles and sequencing of action, fulfill-ing the spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Area of Peace and Security between the AU, the RECs/RMs.

- Requested the AU Commission to coordinate the operationalisa-tion within existing resources and structures of a Continental Illic-it-Finance Task Force in partner-ship with all relevant regional in-stitutions and mechanisms to:
 - I. map hawala/mobile-money nodes exploited by terrorist extremist groups and net-works;
 - II. set crypto-VASP compli-ance baselines;
 - III. run joint financial-intelli-gence operations on ex-tractives smuggling; and
 - IV. launch a rapid cross-border alert protocol for suspicious transfers tied to conver-gence zones.
- Reiterated its request for the AUC, APRM and the RECs/RMs to final-ize a comprehensive coordination mechanism on Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience As-sessment (CSVRA) and Country Structural Mitigation strategies (CSVMS) and submit to the PSC by December 2025.
- Assigned the AU Commission, to-gether with AUCTC, AFRIPOL, CIS-SA and APRM, to establish and in-stitutionalize, by December 2025, a dynamic and continuously up-dated risk mapping tool to allow the PSC to strengthen its ability to engage in early warning for early action, by providing a consolidated picture of threats, vulnerabilities and potential triggers, including

colour-coded risk levels linked to a pre-authorized menu of diplomatic, security and stabilization tools; an annual review of acted/missed alerts with lessons-learned.

Recent Relevant Amani Africa Publications

- [Briefing on the early warning system and its role in mapping risks and threats across Africa](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 26 August 2025.
- [Organised Transnational Crime, Peace and Security in the Sahel Region](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 13 May 2025.
- [Briefing on Continental Early Warning and Security Outlook](#), *Insights of the PSC*, 26 November 2024.
- [Towards a New Agenda for Peace and Security in Africa: New Security Threats and the Future of the Peace and Security Council](#), *Special Research Report*, 25 September 2024.

PSC MAKES A3+ CONSULTATIONS A STATUTORY ANNUAL EVENT

The last meeting of the month was a briefing by the African Members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Plus (A3+) to the PSC, held on 29 August, as the Council's 1299th meeting. Since the inception of the Oran Process, the A3+ and the PSC have prioritised regular coordination through quarterly briefings to ensure consistent engagement on African issues at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This commitment was reaffirmed during the 11th Oran Process in 2024, in which, in its [Conclusions](#), it underscored the importance of these briefings to keep the PSC well-informed. Further solidifying this approach, the PSC's 1289th meeting held in July 2025 adopted the [Manual on Modalities for Enhancing Coordination between PSC](#)

and A3+, which mandates the A3 to provide quarterly updates, as well as additional briefings when necessary, on African peace and security matters discussed at the UNSC.

From the outcome document, a [communiqué](#), the PSC underscored the importance of further strengthening the link between the A3+ and the PSC. This includes providing clear guidance and support to the A3+ on African files before and during their deliberations at the UNSC, engaging in joint missions and information exchange and establishing an informal platform for information-sharing between PSC and A3+ experts. In line with previous Assembly and PSC decisions, the Council emphasised the need for the A3+ to preserve, respect, protect and fully promote the decisions of the PSC on peace and security matters concerning Africa under consideration by the UNSC. To this end, it decided that all communiqués of the Council on African issues on the UNSC agenda should include a provision requesting their transmission to the UN Secretary-General for onward submission to the UNSC as working documents.

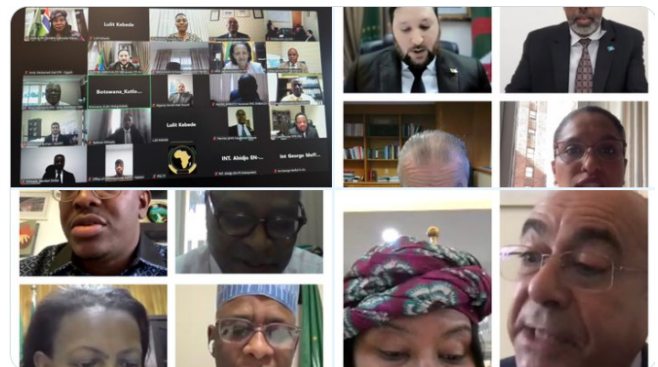


Figure 5: 1299th PSC Meeting, 'Briefing by the African Members of the United Nations Security Council to the PSC,' 29 August 2025. (Source X [@AUC_PAPS](#))

The Council further emphasised the role of the A3+ as spokespersons for African interests within the UNSC, in line with the conclusions of the Oran Process and highlighted the importance of strengthening coordination between the PSC and the A3+ through the full implementation of the Manual on the

Modalities for Enhancing Coordination. It underlined the need to invite A3+ representatives, whenever necessary, to PSC meetings on crisis and conflict situations, as well as thematic issues related to peace and security in Africa under UNSC consideration. The PSC also reiterated its request for the AU Commission to enhance cooperation between the PSC Committee of Experts and A3+ experts to better support their work. In addition, it called for monthly meetings between the PSC Chair and the UNSC Presidency in the month preceding their mandates to improve sequencing and coordination of Programmes of Work.

Council also commended the efforts made by the A3+ towards leading, both, as pen holders or co-pen holders, in some of the UN Security Council files on peace and security relating to Africa; and in mobilizing support from other members of the UNSC, particularly P5 and E10, with the facilitation of the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN in New York; and in this regard, expressed 'special appreciation to the initiative of Guyana and CARICOM to align their positions with the A3.' Finally, the PSC stressed the inclusion of the A3+ report in the PSC Annual Report on the State of Peace and Security in Africa, with a dedicated chapter on the A3+ and requested the AU Commission to coordinate this process in accordance with established procedures.

Relevant previous PSC decisions:

1289th Session: [[PSC/PR/COMM.1289 \(2025\)](#)]:

The PSC:

- Decided to adopt the *Manual on the Modalities for Enhancing Coordination Between the PSC and the African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3)* and requested the AU Commission to transmit it to the current A3+1 and its Secretariat, all AU Member States, the Friends of the Seminar, the Regional Economic Communities and Mechanisms

(RECs/RMs), the United Nations and other partners, while also ensuring its effective implementation.

983rd Session: [[PSC/PR/COMM.\(CMLXXXIII\)](#)]:

The PSC:

- Decided to ensure the monthly consultations between the A3 and the PSC Troika and to ensure timely provision of updates and strategic guidance to the A3 on peace and security issues ahead of the UN Security Council meetings.
- Tasked the AU Commission to ensure enhanced cooperation between the PSC Committee of Experts and the Experts of the A3, with a view to more effectively supporting the PSC and the A3.
- Agreed to establish a focal point from PSC Members to be in charge of co-operation and coordination between the PSC and the A3 and following up on the issues of the PSC and UNSC.

Key Actionable Decisions Requiring Follow-up:

- Decided to institutionalise and to include the consultative meeting between PSC and A3+, at ambassadorial level, in the PSC's annual indicative programme as a statutory activity; and further directed that this consultative meeting be held to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Oran Process.
- The A3+ to brief and consult with the PSC on a quarterly basis and at any other time necessary, on African issues on the UNSC agenda.
- Reiterated its decision to ensure the monthly consultations between the A3+ and the PSC Troika, as well as to synchronize to the furthest extent possible the monthly programmes of work of both the PSC and the UNSC.
- AU Commission tasked to develop regular reports on its activities in

connection with the meetings of the UNSC on African issues, including its interaction with the A3+ and their contributions to the success of efforts to defend the decisions of the Council and the AU, particularly in terms of the implementation of AU decisions, as well as, strengthening the role of the PSC in its engagement with the A3+.

Recent Relevant Amani Africa Publications

- [Briefing by the African Members to the UN Security Council](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 28 August 2025.
- [General debate of the PSC and A3+ on African matters in the UNSC Agenda](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 17 January 2022.
- [Making Africa's Voice Matter in the UN Security Council: Bridging the Gap Between Ambition and Reality in the Role of the African Three Members of the UNSC](#), *Special Research Report*, 24 March 2021.
- [The Unified Role of the African Members of the UN Security Council \(A3\) in the United Nations Security Council](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 4 March 2021.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE PSC FOR THE MONTH

The PSC conducted a field mission to South Sudan from 11 to 12 August and later convened for its [1297th](#) meeting, on 15 August, to adopt the Field Mission Report, through a [communiqué](#). During the field mission, subsequent to holding wide-ranging consultations with different stakeholders in the country, the PSC also paid a courtesy call on President Salva Kiir Mayardit, engaging him on the implementation of the Revitalised Peace Agreement and preparations for the December 2026

elections.

From the communiqué, Council took note of the commitment expressed by President Salva Kiir to conclude South Sudan's transition process and hold elections in December 2026, in line with the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). Council also noted the completion of phase one of the unification of forces and urged the parties to advance phase two of the process. In this regard, Council called for the full implementation of all outstanding tasks in the Revitalised Agreement. Furthermore, the PSC reiterated its call for 'an immediate and unconditional release of the First Vice President, Dr Riek Machar, along with all political detainees...' This echoes, previous PSC's pronouncement, as captured in our [Ideas Indaba](#) analysis of the field mission, of expressing deep concern over the continued detention of First Vice President Riek Machar and the dismissal and detention of SPLM-IO officials from the Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity, describing these actions as blatant violations of the R-ARCSS. In this regard, it reiterated its call for their immediate and unconditional release and reinstatement, emphasising that these measures are essential to de-escalate political tensions and prevent the total collapse of the peace agreement. Council further tasked the AU Commission 'to urgently deploy a Technical Assessment Team to South Sudan to engage the Transitional Government of South Sudan and other relevant stakeholders to identify the technical and financial needs of South Sudanese authorities regarding security sector reform, constitution making process and elections organization, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) among others,' and also tasked the Chairperson of the AU Commission 'to urgently appoint an AU High-Level Representative to South Sudan, preferably

a former Head of State, to maintain regular engagements with the South Sudanese authorities and other key stakeholders.'

In addition to the field mission to South Sudan, the PSC also adopted the ToR of the PSC sub-committee on [Counter-terrorism](#); and the ToR of the PSC sub-committee on [PCRD](#); as well as the CoE Report on the Review of the AU Liaison Offices. Prior to this, the CoE convened a meeting on 1 August to review the ToRs of the PSC sub-committee on Counter-terrorism.



MEDIA AND RESEARCH SERVICES

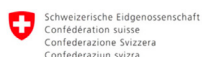
ABOUT AMANI AFRICA

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Amani Africa wishes to express its gratitude to the Government of Switzerland, the Embassy of Ireland, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland for the support in the production of this Monthly Digest.



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