

Concept Note

Dialogue on the State of Peacebuilding in Africa: opportunities for a closer relationship between the African Union and the UN Peacebuilding Architecture

Overview

The “Dialogue on the State of Peacebuilding in Africa: opportunities for a closer relationship between the African Union and the UN Peacebuilding Architecture,” organized and hosted by AMANI Africa together with Cameroon and UNOAU, will serve as a strategic platform to reflect on Africa’s evolving peacebuilding priorities with a view to identifying opportunities for greater collaboration between the African Union and the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. By bringing together policymakers, practitioners, and experts, the dialogue aims to generate actionable recommendations that promote inclusive and sustainable peace and security in Africa.

Considering the major geopolitical shifts and evolving priorities in international peace and security, the need for effective peacebuilding has become increasingly urgent. Equally critical is the primacy of diplomacy—encompassing preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, and mediation—as essential tools for achieving and sustaining peace. Through rigorous analysis, the exchange of experiences and lessons learned, and inclusive engagement, this initiative seeks to ensure approaches that reflect African realities and contribute to lasting peace across the continent.

1. Background & Rationale

The African continent has witnessed significant progress in peacebuilding over the past decades. However, persistent challenges such as protracted and increasing conflicts, fragility, and governance gaps underscore the need for better and more effective peacebuilding interventions responsive to local needs and tailored to national realities, with the involvement of strategic partners such as the AU, there is an urgent need to interrogate the role of peacebuilding actors, as well as approaches, and outcomes across Africa including by drawing lessons from the review of the AU Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy and PSC policy engagements in PCRD. There is a need to identify gaps, synergies, and redundancies within and across regional and international peacebuilding frameworks. The challenges of how to plan for and integrate peacebuilding interventions in peace processes, funding, coordination mechanisms, and implementation at national, regional, and continental levels remain areas of concern that require attention.

2. **Core Objectives**

- To critically examine how the ongoing dialogue between AU PSC and UN PBC can be leveraged to foster closer collaboration between the African Union and the UN Peacebuilding Architecture.
- Facilitate evidence-based dialogue among key stakeholders aimed at developing practical strategies for improving coordination, funding, and implementation of peacebuilding interventions that reflect African realities and enhance the role of local actors in sustaining peace.

3. **Dialogue Structure**

The event will be in the form of a panel discussion, followed by an informal interactive exchange between members of the PBC and members of the AU PSC. The Panel will include speakers from Amani Africa (tbc), AU (tbc), UNOAU (tbc), a local peacebuilder (tbc) and both a member of the PBC and the AU PSC.

4. Prospective **participants and participating** institutions will include the African Union AUC leadership and entities focused on Peace and Security, Conflict Prevention, and Peacebuilding. United Nations entities active in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Think-tanks and research institutions specializing in peace and security in Africa.

Moderator

Dr. Solomon Ayele Derrso

Founding Director, Amani Africa

Opening

3:45 - 3:52 PM: Welcoming Address

H.E. Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga

Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union; and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)

3:52 - 4:00 PM: Opening Address

H.E. Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono

Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the African Union; and Chairperson of the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) for November 2025



Panel Discussion

4:00 - 4:10 PM - H.E. Ambassador Erastus Ekitela Lokaale

Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, New York

4:10 - 4:20 PM - H.E. Ambassador Salimata Touray

Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the African Union (Peacebuilding Case Study)

4:20 - 4:30 PM - H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Mary Spehar

Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

Discussion

4:30 - 5:45 PM

Vote of Thanks

5:45 - 5:52 PM - H.E. Ambassador Ricklef Johannes Beutin

Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations, New York; and Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Closing

5:52 - 6:00 PM
