JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

TWENTIETH ANNUAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

NEW YORK, 23 OCTOBER 2026

1. The members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) held their Twentieth (20th) Annual Joint Consultative Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States of America, on 23 October 2026, following the Eleventh (11th) Informal Joint Seminar which took place in the form of a retreat at Greentree Estate from 21 to 22 October 2026 hosted by the Greek Presidency and co-chaired by Cameroon and Greece and noted the efforts of Somalia in this process.

2. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC underlined that Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations accords the UNSC with the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Furthermore, they reaffirmed the mandate of the AUPSC concerning the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, as per the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

3. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC recalled the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in dealing with matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, before referring them to the Security Council as appropriate, and the UNSC's authority to utilize such regional arrangements, consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

4. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC recalled all their previous joint communiqués and reaffirmed their commitment to continue supporting the strengthening of the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union and the importance of regular consultations as an important mechanism for strengthening cooperation, enhancing coordination and exchanging views on peace and security issues affecting the African continent.

5. The 20th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting was preceded by the 11th Informal Joint Seminar, during which the members of the UNSC and AUPSC exchanged views on the African Union Peace Support Operations and United Nations peace operations, including the implementation of Security Council resolution 2719 (2023); Youth, Peace and Security; AU-UN joint efforts in addressing and countering terrorism in Africa, including the Sahel, Children and Armed Conflict; and the illegal exploitation of natural resources as a factor that exacerbates armed conflicts in Africa.

6. During the Annual Joint Consultative Meeting, they exchanged views on the following agenda items: the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM); the situation in South Sudan; and the situation in Sudan.

7. On the situation concerning the DRC, the members of the UNSC and AUPSC expressed deep concern over the prevailing insecurity, the deteriorating humanitarian situation and the reports of serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law, and of violations and abuses of

human rights, including by the March 23 Movement (M23) and other armed groups. They condemned sexual violence in conflict as well as recruitment and use of children in violation of the international obligations applicable to them, and other violations and abuses against children in contravention of international law and called for perpetrators to be held accountable. They reaffirmed their commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC. They called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the protection of civilians and humanitarian personnel as well as for safe and unhindered humanitarian access. They also called for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 2773 (2025) by all concerned parties, including the unconditional withdrawal of Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) from the DRC territory, as well as the cessation of RDF support to M23 and of DRC military forces to specific armed groups, in particular the FDLR. They also condemned the establishment of a parallel administration by the M23, and called for its dismantling.

8. They took note of the letter dated 24 September 2026 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo concerning the process of disarmament, demobilization, cantonment and repatriation of the FDLR, as well as its extension to all FDLR groups. They also took note of the protocol and called for its swift implementation to achieve the effective neutralization of the FDLR, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2773 (2025).

9. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC reaffirmed their firm condemnation of the illegal exploitation of natural resources by all armed groups and other actors, as well as the support provided by foreign military forces, which constitute a total violation of the ICGLR Protocol and international instruments. They called for an immediate cessation of these illegal activities.

10. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC reaffirmed their support for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and its mandate, particularly the protection of civilians and its role in the implementation of a permanent ceasefire, in line with UNSC resolutions 2773 (2025) and 2808 (2025). They expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by MONUSCO to the first two missions of the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus (EJVM+) of the International Conference on the Great Lakes (ICGLR) in Minembwe and Masisi in line with its mandate. They demanded that all parties take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security of MONUSCO personnel, their freedom of movement and the unimpeded implementation of the Mission's mandate.

11. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC commended the AU-led mediation, including the efforts of the AU Mediator and facilitators. They reaffirmed the central role of the African Union for the peace and stability in the eastern DRC. They welcomed the progress within the Washington and Doha peace processes and demanded all parties materialize their previous commitments to establish a permanent, effective and verifiable ceasefire, and underscored the primary role of the signatories in their implementation. They also underscored the importance of coherence, coordination and complementarity among the various mediation initiatives and called on all concerned parties to honour their commitments and fully implement the agreements reached towards achieving a comprehensive and lasting political settlement.

12. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC encouraged the countries of the Great Lakes Region to strengthen regional cooperation, economic integration and confidence-building measures in support of lasting peace and stability. They underscored the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict, and reaffirmed the necessity of tackling the illegal exploitation of and illicit trade in natural resources that fuel conflict. They called for the full implementation of commitments under the Peace, Security and

Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region, with a view to ensuring coherence among regional initiatives and consolidating peace and security. They reaffirmed their support to the United Nations' Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the AU High Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for the Great Lakes Region.

13. On the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), the members of the UNSC and the AUPSC welcomed the peace and security achievements made so far in Somalia by the Somali Security Forces (SSF) and AUSSOM in combating Al-Shabaab and advancing stabilization efforts in Somalia. They paid tribute to the AUSSOM Troop and Police-Contributing Countries for their sacrifices and continued commitment to peace and security in Somalia, and to AUSSOM personnel who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. They reaffirmed their commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia and encouraged continued support to consolidate these achievements.

14. The members of the UNSC and the AUPSC underscored the importance of identifying and optimising future resources and support mechanisms for AUSSOM. They stressed the need for an orderly, coordinated and phased transition of AUSSOM and recalled that the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has primary responsibility for ensuring security within Somalia. They emphasized the importance of the implementation of an agreed roadmap, strengthening the capacity of Somali security institutions and facilitating the orderly transfer of security responsibilities.

15. Members of the UNSC and the AUPSC expressed deep concern over threats posed by terrorist organizations operating across Africa, particularly their resort to new and emerging technologies to launch coordinated attacks as well as finance their operations, and in this regard, members of the UNSC and AUPSC underscored the importance of further strengthening joint efforts of both Councils in the fight against this scourge.

16. They also welcomed the efforts undertaken by the AU and the UN to complete the joint roadmap for the implementation of resolution 2719 (2023). They underscored that any potential authorization, on a case-by-case basis, of African Union peace support operations through UNSC 2719 should use a financing model that is adequate, predictable and sustainable, including through the use of UN assessed contributions in compliance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the UN, standards for financial oversight and accountability mechanisms.

17. On the situation in South Sudan, the members of the UNSC and AUPSC expressed concern over recent security developments, including renewed hostilities and violations of the ceasefire, which have resulted in displacement and increasing humanitarian needs. They called on all parties to immediately cease hostilities and exercise maximum restraint.

18. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC reaffirmed that the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) is the only viable basis for the legitimacy of South Sudan's transitional government and that any changes to the R-ARCSS should be made through genuine inter-party dialogue between the parties to the Agreement. They called upon the Government of South Sudan to consider releasing all political detainees, including Dr. Riek Machar, in the spirit of national cohesion and reconciliation. They called on South Sudanese leaders to engage in genuine inter-party dialogue through an inclusive and transparent process. They also reaffirmed their strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of the Republic of South Sudan.

19. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC took note of the outcomes of the C5 Plus Summit held on 29 September 2026 and encouraged continued coordination and cooperation among the African Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC), the United Nations, alongside other relevant regional and international partners in support of peace and stability in South Sudan.

20. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC expressed concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in South Sudan, compounded by conflict, flooding and drought. They called for the protection of civilians and humanitarian personnel as well as for safe and unhindered humanitarian access. They also called upon the international community to continue providing humanitarian assistance to meet the pressing needs of the affected populations. They further called upon all relevant actors to comply with applicable Security Council resolutions and relevant decisions of the AUPSC, as applicable, on children and armed conflict.

21. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC reaffirmed their support for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and recognized the protection of civilian and humanitarian aid activities by UNMISS peacekeepers and troop and police contributing countries operating in South Sudan, and the UNMISS mandate. They strongly condemned the attacks against UN peacekeepers in South Sudan. They further stressed that continued constructive cooperation between the host government and UNMISS is essential to sustaining peace and stability.

22. On the situation in Sudan, the members of the UNSC and AUPSC noted the anniversary of the fall of El Fasher to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in October 2025 and strongly condemned the horrific atrocities that followed, including torture, killings, rape, and deliberate ethnic targeting. They called for all abuses and violations in Sudan to be independently investigated and for perpetrators to be held accountable.

23. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC expressed grave concern over the continued conflict and its devastating impact on civilians. They also condemned attacks against humanitarian personnel, including medical staff, assets and operations. They called on all parties to ensure the protection of humanitarian workers. They also called for all perpetrators of attacks on civilians, and human rights violations and abuses, in Sudan to be held accountable. They further called on all parties to fully comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and, as applicable, international human rights law, as well as to abide by the commitments undertaken in the Jeddah Declaration.

24. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC expressed serious concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation. They expressed grave concern over the worsening food insecurity and growing risk of famine, particularly in parts of Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan. They called for the protection of civilians and humanitarian personnel as well as for safe and unhindered humanitarian access. They further expressed concern at the impact of the conflict on neighbouring countries and commended them for hosting Sudanese refugees. They appealed to the international community to increase humanitarian support to Sudan and refugee-hosting countries.

25. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC reiterated that there can be no military solution to the conflict and called for a cessation of hostilities to secure a lasting ceasefire in Sudan. They welcomed the field visit of the AUPSC to Khartoum undertaken in August 2026 to show solidarity with Sudan and its

people. They also welcomed the efforts of the Quintet, including its recent engagement with all Sudanese stakeholders and its September 2026 mission to Khartoum. They reaffirmed that only an inclusive, Sudanese-led and Sudanese-owned political process can lead to lasting peace.

26. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC stressed the importance of greater coherence and coordination among the various mediation initiatives on Sudan. They welcomed the continued engagement of the African Union, the United Nations, neighbouring countries, as well as other regional and international partners. They also reaffirmed the central role of the African Union and the United Nations in promoting a ceasefire as well as supporting an inclusive and lasting political solution to the conflict.

27. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC rejected the establishment of a parallel governing authority in areas controlled by the RSF and unequivocally reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Sudan. They stressed that any unilateral steps that undermine these principles risk further fragmenting the country and jeopardizing prospects for a sustainable political settlement. They called on all Member States to refrain from external interference which seeks to foment conflict and instability and instead to support efforts for a durable peace.

28. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC agreed to convene the 12th Informal Joint Seminar and the 21st Annual Joint Consultative Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on dates to be jointly agreed by the two sides in due course, preceded by expert-level informal consultations and to exchange a Zero-Draft Joint Communiqué for their future engagement at least one month prior to the next annual joint consultative meeting.