

MONTHLY DIGEST ON THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

AMANI AFRICA

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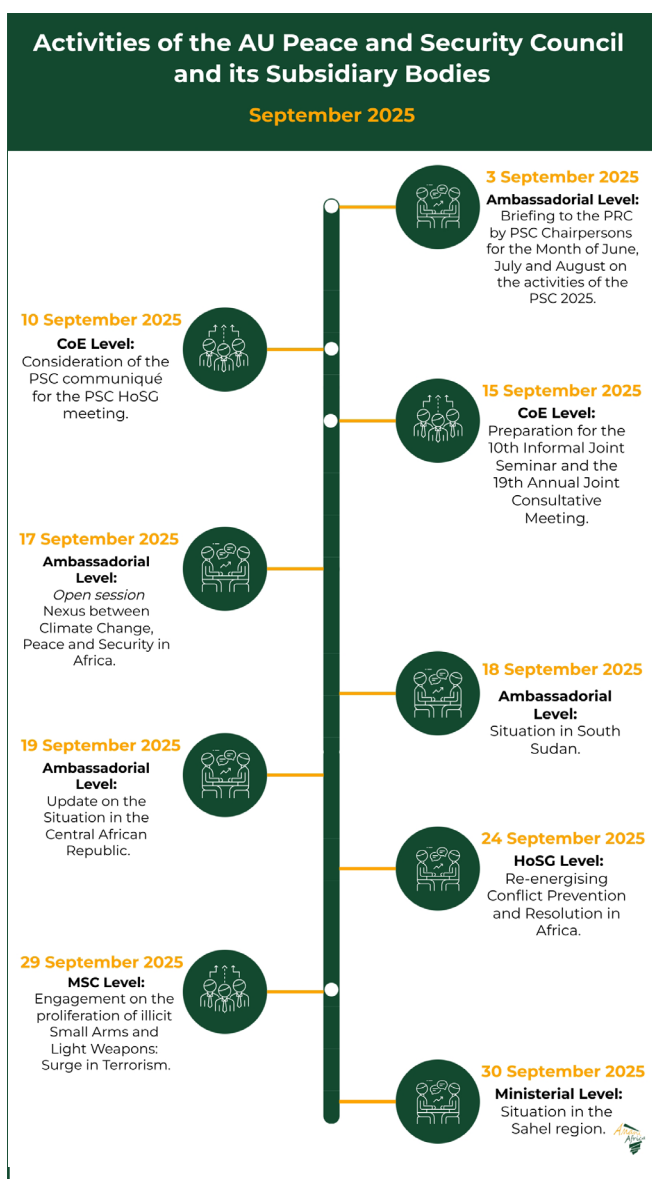
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THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

In September 2025, under the chairship of Angola, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) had a scheduled [programme of work](#) consisting of six substantive sessions covering six agenda items. All six planned sessions were convened, with one meeting held at Heads of State and Government level, one at ministerial-level and four at ambassadorial-level. Of the six agenda items, three focused on country- or region-specific situations, two addressed thematic issues.



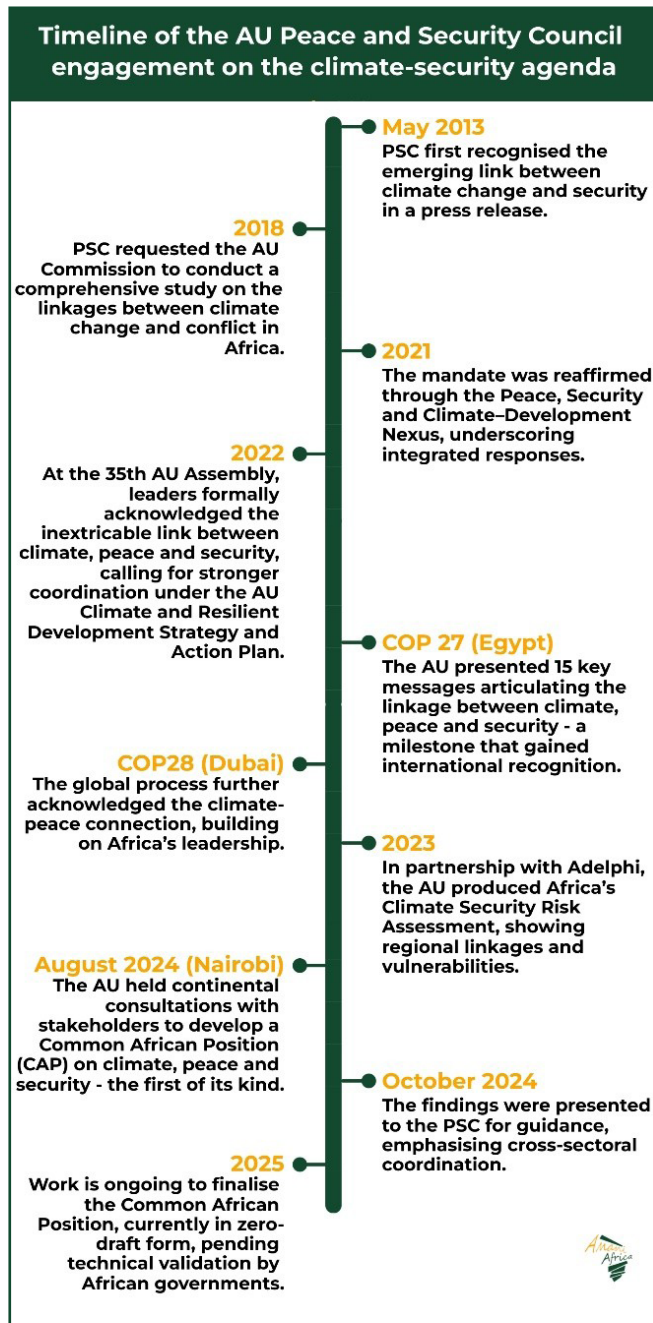
The PSC Provisional Programme of Work underwent one revision, which postponed the 'Open session on the Commemoration of the African Amnesty Month,' originally scheduled for 4 September and added a

session on the 'Situation in South Sudan' on 18 September. Of the six agenda items, four resulted in communiqués as outcome documents, while one session produced a press statement and another a summary record. On average, it took approximately 10 days for the outcome documents to be released.

PSC AFFIRMS THE NEED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE, PEACE AND SECURITY AS PART OF THE WIDER CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY PROCESSES

On 17 September 2025, the PSC convened its 1301st meeting at the ambassadorial level to deliberate on the nexus between climate change, peace and security. The session was briefed by Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) and Solomon A. Dersso, Founding Director of Amani Africa Media and Research Services. This meeting represents a continuation of the Council's sustained engagement with the climate-security agenda, following the 1167th, 1098th and 1095th sessions.

Commissioner Bankole Adeoye's presentation emphasized that climate change acts as a risk multiplier rather than a direct cause of conflict, with impacts unevenly affecting vulnerable populations. He also stressed the need for nuanced, evidence-based policy approaches. Adeoye traced the African Union's progressive engagement with the climate-security nexus from 2013 through ongoing efforts in 2025, including AU studies, summit declarations and the development of the Common African Position on climate, peace and security.



In his [briefing](#), Solomon Dersso, Founding Director of Amani Africa, highlighted climate change as an existential threat facing humanity but with severe impacts in Africa due to weak socio-economic conditions. The briefing stressed that 'climate change (is) first and foremost and essentially a development and justice issue. Thus, as important and necessary as it is, the focus on climate, peace and security is supplementary to and not a substitute for the core climate change policy process with its focus on justice and development,' there by emphasising the principle of common but differentiated responsibility,

climate finance and just energy transition. The briefing also underscored the importance of mobility as a coping and adaptation strategy, urging the integration of mobility considerations in early warning systems and regional protocols.



Figure 1: During the 1301st session of the PSC.
(Source X [@africa_amani](#))

The adopted [communiqué](#) incorporated several key themes from Amani Africa's [briefing](#), including matters related to the climate finance targets, Article 3(5) of the UNFCCC, early warning integration and mobility/transhumance as adaptation strategies.

There were interventions from member states who raised question of whether the PSC is the best forum for addressing climate change. They strongly cautioned against the risks of 'securitisation' of the climate agenda and the associated transfer of responsibilities for the impact of climate change from countries that bear blame for the greenhouse gas emission that accounts for climate change to those bearing the brunt of the climate emergency while being responsible the least. Echoing Adeoye Council underscored that climate change is a 'risk multiplier,' a factor that exacerbates existing vulnerabilities rather than a direct cause of conflict. This framing reflects an approach that gives cognizance of the understandable concern some member states raised and seeks to properly situate the climate-security nexus in its proper context.

The session's deliberations also underscored that the quality of governance and adaptation mechanisms ultimately determines whether climate shocks lead to cooperation or conflict. Some delegations pointed to the need for strengthening local governance systems, early warning mechanisms and community-based disaster response structures.

The Council's communiqué went further by framing adaptation and governance not merely as responses but as peacebuilding strategies in their own right. Moreover, by recognising women, youth and vulnerable groups as active agents of resilience, the Council acknowledged the uneven impact of climate and its interaction with insecurity and fragilities, signalling a more inclusive understanding of peace that integrates social justice and equity.

The finalisation of the Common African Position (CAP) on the nexus between Climate, Peace and Security also received particular attention.

Relevant Previous PSC Decisions:

1051st Session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1051 \(2021\)](#)]:

- The PSC requested the AU Commission to expedite the finalisation of a climate-related security risks assessment study, in consultation with Member States and to define the varying security impacts of climate change on the African continent while taking steps towards mobilising a common African position towards climate change and security.

1079th Session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1079\(2022\)](#)]:

- The PSC highlighted the importance of a Common African Position on Climate Change.

1114th Session [[PSC/MIN/COMM.1114 \(2022\)](#)]:

- The PSC reiterated the request for the AU Commission to expedite the finalisation of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the

Study on the Nexus between Climate Change, Peace and Security on the Continent.

1263rd Session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1263 \(2025\)](#)]:

- The PSC looks forward to the finalization of the Common African Position on Climate Change, Peace and Security, following due process and taking into consideration the contributions from all AU Member States, the African Group of Negotiators and Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), or subsequent incorporation in the national and regional policies and frameworks.

Relevant Previous AU Assembly Decisions:

Assembly Decision [[Assembly/AU/Dec. 815\(XXXV\)](#)] of the 35th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, February 2022:

- The Assembly of Heads of State and Government requested the expedited finalisation of the climate-related security risk assessment study, in consultation with Member States, as well as to expeditiously develop a Common African Position on the nexus between Climate, Peace and Security.

In this regard, Commissioner Adeoye gave update during his presentation that the CAP on the nexus between Climate, Peace and Security will not be finalized before COP 30 but rather is now expected to be concluded ahead of COP 31. This postponement reflects both the need for further deeper consultation for achieving consensus among Member States and institutional coherence by ensuring alignment between all the relevant mandated AU frameworks, including the Africa Group of Negotiators.

The Council's call for the CAP to be aligned with the AU Climate Change and Resilience

Development Strategy and the Paris Agreement principles is reflective of the need for addressing the peace and security implications of climate change within the wider climate change policy framework of rather than in isolation from the core climate change policy processes, anchored on justice and development. The communiqué also encouraged 'the AU Commission to continue consultations with RECs/RMs, African Climate Commissions, the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), civil society organizations, African centres of excellence and the United Nations, with a view to finalize the CAP.'



Figure 2: 1301st meeting of the PSC on 'Climate Change, Peace and Security Nexus in Africa,' 17 September 2025. (Source X [@AUC_PAPS](#)).

Further reinforcing the need for situating the climate-security engagement within the wider climate policy framework, the PSC also acknowledged the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of July 2025 that affirmed the responsibility that states bear, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. The ICJ's finding that states bear binding legal obligations for climate change and liability for harm caused, reinforces Africa's normative position in global climate justice debates and underscores that climate inaction constitutes not just a policy failure but a legal transgression.

The discussion on climate finance and justice during the session underscored Africa's enduring concern with the inequities of the global financial architecture. Member States, almost collectively, invoked the

principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) to draw attention to the continent's disproportionate burden, having contributed less than 4 per cent of global emissions yet suffering some of the most severe consequences of climate change.

Echoing the briefing from Amani Africa, the Council also affirmed the need for projecting a common African voice strategically repositioning Africa in COP-30, UNGA, (AU-EU summit) and G20 engagements, on the basis of the substantive elements contained in the communiqué of the session. With respect to financing, apart from ensuring conflict-sensitivity and accessibility to countries affected by (fragility and) insecurity of climate finance, this will involve the PSC's call for 'implementation of both the commitment to mobilize climate finance to the scale of \$ 300 billion per year by 2035 adopted at COP 29 and the earlier goal of mobilizing USD 100 billion per year through 2025 to address the financing needs of developing countries.'

In terms of unilateral climate action measures such as Carbon Border Adjustment, the projection of common position by AU member states entails the PSC's emphasis on 'the critical need for implementation of Article 3(5) of the UNFCCC, which calls for a supportive and open international economic system to enable sustainable development and climate change mitigation, especially for developing countries, which was emphasized by the COP28 which reiterated the call for the avoidance of unilateral trade measures based on climate or environment, with the view of promoting equitable global cooperation for climate action.'

Beyond those that guide the engagement of Africa in the various global forums, the Council's call for leveraging private sector investments, strengthening domestic

capital markets and promoting innovative instruments such as concessional debt reflects a pragmatic effort to diversify sources of climate finance. However, sustaining efforts to address the climate financing gap will require that market-driven solutions complement public sources, including grant-based international funds, debt relief initiatives and targeted mechanisms that prioritise adaptation and peacebuilding interventions, which, though not commercially profitable, hold immense socio-political and stability value for the continent.

Furthermore, the session's treatment of mobility as an adaptation strategy, marks a notable departure from traditional narratives that view cross-border movement as inherently destabilising. By encouraging sustainable cross-border transhumance and peaceful resource-sharing, the PSC framed mobility as a proactive resilience mechanism. This approach recognises that pastoralist and transboundary systems, when well governed, can enhance regional stability and ecological balance. This framing also carries policy implications: it calls for greater investment in cross-border governance structures, climate-informed peacebuilding and transboundary resource diplomacy, especially in regions such as the Sahel and Horn of Africa, where environmental stress and mobility intersect with weak governance and insecurity.

The other issue that received particular attention during the session and carried into the outcome of the session is the need for early warning and preparedness. The communiqué's emphasis on integrating climate indicators into early warning systems and linking them with peace and security mechanisms signals incremental progress toward operationalising the climate-security nexus within the AU's peace and security architecture.

Key Actionable Decisions Requiring Follow-up:

The PSC:

- Reiterated its call for the AU Commission to expeditiously develop the CAP on the nexus between Climate, Peace and Security in consultation with Member States to ensure their ownership.
- Requested the AU Commission to support and strengthen its collaboration with initiatives aimed at strengthening African capacities to anticipate, prevent and effectively manage the challenges of climate change, particularly with Member States, RECs/RMs, centres of excellence, civil society and international partners to scale up climate security action.

Recent Relevant Amani Africa Publications

- Open session on the '[Nexus between Climate Change, Peace and Security in Africa](#),' *Insights on the PSC*, 16 September 2025.
- [Amani Africa Briefing to the Peace and Security Council](#), 17 September 2025.

PSC CALLS FOR A GENUINE, ALL-INCLUSIVE SOUTH SUDANESE NATIONAL POLITICAL DIALOGUE AS THE COUNTRY REACHES A TIPPING POINT

At its 1302nd session, held on 18 September, the PSC adopted a [press statement](#) on the situation in South Sudan through an exchange of emails. This marks the fifth outcome document issued on South Sudan since the 4 March 2025 incident. No substantive deliberations were held during this session, and the press statement itself contains limited content, suggesting

that its adoption appears to simply signal the Council's growing concern about the deteriorating situation in South Sudan.

A key development likely prompting the PSC's decision to issue the statement was the start, on 11 September, of the trial of the First Vice President, Riek Machar, and seven others. They face charges related to the 4 March incident, during which the White Army rebel group clashed with government forces in Nasir County. This development is considered to constitute the most serious test for the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS).

In its press statement, the PSC noted recent developments in South Sudan without explicitly referencing this or other specific events. The Council underscored the continued relevance of the 2018 R-ARCSS as the only viable and sustainable path for achieving lasting peace and stability in the country.

The only notable new element in the PSC statement is its call for the organisation of a **genuine, all-inclusive South Sudanese national political dialogue** leading to national reconciliation critical to pave the way for the successful conduct of elections in December 2026. This is reflective of PSC's recognition of the unsustainability of the downward spiral caused by the recent political developments.

Despite continuing focus on South Sudan - demonstrated by frequent high-level visits to Juba and the number of PSC sessions as well as visits dedicated to the situation - AU appears to lack a robust diplomatic initiative capable of effectively addressing the evolving situation. According to sources, one key recommendation from the AU Panel of the Wise, following their April 2025 visit to Juba, was the appointment of a special envoy for South Sudan. During

its 1297th session, the PSC also requested the chairperson of the AU Commission to appoint a High-Level Representative to South Sudan. Subsequently, on 13 October, the AU Commission Chairperson [appointed](#) Abdiwelli Ali as the AU Special Representative and Head of Mission to South Sudan. As noted in our recent [insights on the PSC](#), while the appointment represents an important step, it does not, however, dispense with the PSC's earlier call in [June](#) for the AU Chairperson's sustained engagement with President Salva Kiir and regional leaders to foster inclusive dialogue, facilitate the release of political detainees, and support the full implementation of the R-ARCSS.

Relevant Previous PSC Decisions:

1297th session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1297.1 \(2025\)](#)]:

The PSC:

- Called for PSC High-Level delegation visits to South Sudan.
- Urged the Revitalised Transition Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) to provide a clear electoral road map, with benchmarks leading to the election in 2026.

Recent Relevant Amani Africa Publications

- [Consideration of the Situation in South Sudan](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 17 March 2025.
- [A Fragile Peace Under Fire – South Sudan](#), *Amani Africa Dispatch*, 25 April 2025.
- [Update on the Situation in South Sudan](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 11 June 2025.
- [Monthly Digest on the African Union Peace and Security Council](#), August 2025.

PSC REQUESTS DEPLOYMENT OF AN AU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO CAR AND ANTICIPATES MINUSCA MANDATE RENEWAL

On 19 September 2025, the PSC convened its 1302nd session for an ‘update on the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR).’



Figure 3: PSC 1302nd meeting on ‘Update on the Situation in the Central African Republic,’ 19 September 2025. (Source: [X @AUC_PAPS](#))

Adopted as an outcome document, the [communiqué](#) ‘welcomes the steady progress in the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic (PAPR-CAR).’ It further commended ‘the CAR leadership for its demonstrable commitment to ensure full implementation of the Agreement in its letter and spirit,’ thereby signalling and performing the AU’s guarantor role. This affirmative framing functions as praise-

¹ The Council took note of the opening remarks by Ambassador Miguel Cesar Domingos Bembe, Permanent Representative of the Angola to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for September 2025; briefing by the Representative of the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission in the CAR; and statements by the representatives of the CAR; Equatorial Guinea - as Chair of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); ECCAS Secretariat; Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the CAR and Head of the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA); as well as a representative of the European Union (EU).

as-leverage while omitting time-bound benchmarks and concrete contingencies for spoilers such as rebel holdouts, financing shortfalls and reintegration deficits; **it risks complacency at a critical moment before the December 2025 elections.**

As expected, the PSC notes movement toward the long-overdue December 2025 polls. requested the AU Commission to ‘draw up a list of all necessary financial, technical and material resources to facilitate the completion of the electoral process planned to take place on 28 December’ and further requested ‘a full-fledged AU electoral observation mission.’

Echoing its earlier stance on CAR, the Council urged the government to ‘continue the constructive engagements and mutual confidence and trust-building measures with all political groups in the country.’ It also called on the authorities to ‘extend State authority throughout the territory of the country.’ It further asked them to create ‘conditions conducive for the successful organisation of the harmonised elections.’

Another salient aspect of the communiqué is its commendation of CAR’s implementation of the ‘demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) process.’ It urged ‘all armed groups and negative forces in the CAR to embrace the DDR programme’. However, as the [Insights](#) on the PSC issued for the session highlights, its implementation is hampered, among other factors ‘by verification challenges, resource constraints and the risk of splinter groups undermining progress. As a result, armed violence persists in several regions, underscoring the fragility of the peace process.’ Without credible verification and viable livelihood opportunities for reintegration, DDR risks becoming a promise without transformation.

On the humanitarian front, the communiqué expressed ‘deep concern over the prevailing humanitarian situation,’ driven by ongoing insecurity. It added that the ‘influx of refugees from the ongoing war in Sudan’ has worsened conditions. This acknowledges regional spillover and underscores the urgency of the crisis. It appealed to AU member states and international donors, ‘in the spirit of pan-African solidarity,’ to ‘urgently scale-up humanitarian and protection efforts to bridge the gap on humanitarian shortfalls.’

Of particular significance, the Council reiterated its ‘outright condemnation of all forms of foreign interference that fuel conflicts in Africa.’ The communiqué does not address how CAR should balance sovereignty with practical security needs, exposing a gap between rhetoric and operational reality.

Notably, the Council renewed its call for the ‘total lifting of the arms embargo’ and urged the A3 to forge a ‘unanimous position at the UN Security Council’. The appeal reflects frustration that current restrictions constrain CAR’s efforts to strengthen its national defence forces. It is recalled that, on 29 July 2025, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution [2789 \(2025\)](#), extending by one year the sanctions regime targeting non-state armed groups and individuals. Yet, lifting the embargo without robust oversight risks diversion of weapons to armed groups and an escalation of violence.

The Council also anticipated renewal of MINUSCA with ‘adequate, sustainable and predictable resources’ to secure the polls. It is recalled that the mission’s mandate was extended to 15 November 2025 by Security Council Resolution [2759 \(2024\)](#).

Relevant Previous PSC Decisions:

1157th session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1157 \(2023\)](#)]:

- The PSC urged the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) ‘to urgently identify the long-term peacebuilding and development needs and priorities.’

1221st session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1221 \(2024\)](#)]:

PSC requested:

- The Chairperson of the AU Commission to take steps to further enhance the institutional capacity of the AU Liaison Office in CAR.
- The AU Commission to continue providing necessary support for the DDR and Security Sector Reform (SSR) programmes in CAR.
- The AU Commission, through the AU PCRD Centre, to urgently conduct a needs assessment in CAR to identify priority areas of need for development and rebuilding.

1241st session [[PSC/PR/COMM.2.1241 \(2024\)](#)]:

PSC requested:

- The Government of the CAR to continue constructive engagements with all political groups in the country to reach consensus on the organisation of inclusive, transparent and credible democratic elections.

Key Actionable Decisions Requiring Follow-up:

PSC requested:

- The Chairperson of the AU Commission to work in collaboration with the Embassy of the CAR in Addis Ababa, to draw up a list of all necessary financial, technical and material resources to facilitate the completion of the electoral process planned to take place on 28 December;
- The Chairperson of the AU Commission deploy a full-fledged AU electoral observation mission to the CAR, for the 28 December 2025 harmonised elections; and

- The Chairperson of the AU Commission mobilises the necessary resources to enable the Liaison Office to more effectively discharge its mandate.

Recent Relevant Amani Africa Publications

- [Consideration of the Situation in CAR, Insights on the PSC](#), 10 July 2024.
- [Briefing on the Situation in CAR, Insights on the PSC](#), 12 June 2023.

PSC'S SUMMIT-LEVEL SESSION PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON AU'S ROLE IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION

On 24 September, at its 1303rd session, the PSC convened a summit-level meeting on re-energising conflict prevention and resolution in Africa on the margins of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly.² The session was Angola's signature event, reflecting President João Lourenço's concurrent chairship of the AU and the PSC, as well as his role as the AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa and his mediation efforts in the eastern DRC crisis.



Figure 4: 1303rd meeting of the PSC on 'Re-energising Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa,' 24 September 2025. (Source @ [AfricanUnion](#))

² Angola's President and PSC Chairperson for September 2025, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, presided over the session, while Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the AU Commission and the António Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations delivered statements during the session.

The [communiqué](#) adopted as the outcome document of the session had first been discussed at the Committee of Experts level on 10 September. It is a comprehensive document that addresses a wide range of challenges undermining the AU's effective discharge of its conflict prevention and resolution mandate.

A key highlight of the communiqué - captured in its first operative paragraph - is the assertion that 'the AU is fully equipped with relevant and capable tools, mechanisms and instruments to prevent and peacefully resolve conflicts,' emphasizing that the priority should now be ensuring the full implementation of AU instruments, as well as PSC and Assembly decisions, in advancing conflict prevention and resolution. Although this pronouncement is not new, it provides timely strategic guidance as the AU undertakes a review of its peace and security architecture (APSA).

Another notable issue addressed during the session was the Council's call for the five AU regions to fully comply with Article 5(2) of the PSC Protocol, which outlines the criteria for the election of PSC Members. In this regard, the session requested the AU Commission to ensure that the criteria stipulated under Article 5(2) are duly communicated to Member States at the time of issuing the call for candidatures and reaffirmed the importance of their full implementation.

The most important new element in the PSC summit meeting in this respect is, the Council's decision to implement Article 5(4) of the same Protocol, which mandates a periodic review by the Assembly to assess the extent to which PSC Members continue to meet the eligibility requirements set out under Article 5(2). Of significance in this respect is the request of the PSC that the Chairperson of the AU Commission undertakes this review and submit it to the

Council for consideration. The quality and capacity of PSC Members are directly linked to the Council's effectiveness and efficiency in discharging its mandate. It remains to be seen how this review could realistically be carried out and lead to the exclusion of states that do not possess the requisite qualities for enabling the effective functioning of the PSC.

The issue of compliance with PSC membership criteria has been a longstanding concern. It became particularly contentious during 2020 - 2021, when several developments indicated non-observance of Article 5(2) requirements. A notable instance was Benin's closure of its Embassy in Addis Ababa despite holding a seat on the PSC - an act in clear contravention of Article 5(2)(h) of the PSC Protocol - which resulted in the Council operating with only 14 active members. At certain points during this period, five out of fifteen PSC Members lacked accredited ambassadors to the AU for several months, further undermining the Council's operational effectiveness. This situation became a major concern and was the subject of extensive discussion during the PSC's Mombasa Retreat held in May 2021.

The PSC also underscored the importance of maintaining consistency in the application of AU normative instruments in order to preserve and enhance the institutional integrity, credibility and legitimacy of the Council, as well as the confidence and trust of the African people. This represents a notable act of introspection, particularly in light of the missteps made in the Council's handling of the situation in Chad following the death of President Idriss Déby. When the Transitional Military Council assumed power, the PSC departed from its established norm of suspending Member States undergoing unconstitutional changes of government (UCGs). This deviation was widely viewed as a serious reputational setback for the AU,

fostering perceptions of double standards - especially given that other countries experiencing UCGs were suspended from AU activities.

Conflict prevention took the spotlight in the communiqué, which underscored the imperative of re-energising and prioritising preventive diplomacy as the 'most viable and cost-effective approach' to promoting peace, security and stability on the continent. In this context, the session not only emphasised the need for effective early warning analysis and timely responses to emerging conflict and crisis situations, but also stressed the importance of drawing lessons from past early warning assessments and the corresponding response actions.

While the PSC once again deplored the persistent culture of denialism among concerned Member States and RECs/RMs - a concern repeatedly highlighted in its previous sessions - this meeting went a step further by requesting the AU Commission to develop a mechanism to address denialism for the Council's consideration.

The communiqué also rightly highlighted the need to revitalise the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), which has faced institutional setbacks following the AU's reform process. It further underscored the importance of enhancing inter-agency coordination between the CEWS and the corresponding structures within the RECs/RMs. However, the communiqué did not specify how these measures would be operationalised, leaving implementation details vague.

Relevant Previous PSC Decisions:

1208th session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1208 \(2024\)](#)]:

- The PSC requested the AUC to hasten the ongoing AUC institutional reforms to enhance the utility of the CEWS in PSC decision-making processes as one of the pillars of the African Peace

and Security Architecture (APSA).

1073rd session [[PSC/PR/COMM. 1073 \(2022\)](#)]:

- The PSC requested the AUC to elaborate a trigger mechanism and indicators to facilitate the role of the Council in responding to early warning information on potential conflict or crisis situations and urgently submit both for consideration by Council, in accordance with the Conclusions of the 11th Retreat of the PSC on the African Peace and Security Architecture Study and Working Methods held in Cairo, Egypt, on 29 to 31 October 2018.

In terms of bridging the gap between early warning and early action, the PSC reiterated paragraph 17 of the communiqué adopted at its [1298th](#) session, held on 27 August 2025, on CEWS. In this regard, the Council welcomed the establishment of a Continental Security Cartography as a decision-support tool for prevention and early action. It also directed the AU Commission, together with AUCTC, AFRIPOL, CISSA and APRM, to establish and institutionalise a dynamic and continuously updated risk-mapping tool.

With regard to conflict resolution, the PSC expressed concern over the proliferation of peace initiatives and the growing externalisation of African conflicts. In this respect, the Council called for the harmonisation of all peace initiatives under AU leadership. Indeed, the AU's agency and leadership role in addressing conflicts on the continent have notably diminished in recent years. While the PSC has repeatedly underscored the need to harmonise peace initiatives, particularly in Sudan and more recently in the eastern DRC, such calls risk becoming hollow and rhetorical unless the AU itself takes the lead in launching a credible and coordinated peace initiative. **Only when the AU demonstrates such ownership and leadership will external actors be compelled to align their diplomatic and political efforts behind a**

single and credible African-led mediation process.

Key Actionable Decisions Requiring Follow-up:

The PSC:

- Requested the AUC to ensure that the criteria stipulated in Article 5(2) of the PSC Protocol are duly communicated to Member States following the call for candidatures for the election of PSC Member States.
- Directed the AUC Chairperson to fully implement Article 5(4) of the PSC Protocol and undertake a review and submit for consideration by the Council.
- Requested the AUC to develop a mechanism to address the issue of denialism for Council's consideration.
- Requested the AUC to work closely with relevant stakeholders, notably, the RECs/RMs, the Panel of the Wise and its subsidiary bodies, APRM, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant AU agencies and institutions responsible for security matters, in developing the modalities for an Integrated Preventive Diplomacy and Action.
- Requested the AUC to continue to engage with relevant partners with a view to integrating RECs/RMs into AU-partner financing frameworks in support of their actions, particularly in the area of early warning.
- Directed the AUC, together with AUCTC, AFRIPOL, CISSA, and APRM, to establish and institutionalise a dynamic and continuously updated risk mapping tool.

Recent Relevant Amani Africa Publications

- [Re-energising conflict prevention and resolution in Africa](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 23 September 2025.
- [Re-energising conflict prevention and](#)

[resolution in Africa: a quest to salvage the APSA?](#), Policy Brief, 19 September 2025.

PSC DECIDES TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO SUPPORT THE COUNTRIES OF THE SAHEL IN FIGHTING TERRORISM AND CONVENE AN AU SUMMIT ON THE SAHEL

The final session of the month, convened on 30 September at the **ministerial level**, centred on the escalating challenges in the Sahel region. Coming in as Council's 1304th meeting, the PSC adopted a [communiqué](#) as the outcome document of the session.

The meeting, which was attended by Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the AU Commission, among others,³ saw council expressing profound concern over the worsening security and humanitarian conditions in the region, highlighting the urgent need for action. It noted with alarm the sluggish progress of political transitions in the region and strongly urged the transitional authorities of the three countries to accelerate these processes inclusively, ensuring the involvement of all key stakeholders.

The appointment of Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of Burundi, as the AU Special Envoy for the Sahel was warmly welcomed, as was the leadership of Joao Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of Angola, Chairperson of the AU and the AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa. His efforts, through Tete Antonio, Minister

³ The meeting was attended by Tete Antonio, Minister of External Relations of Angola and Chairperson of the PSC for September 2025; Leonardo Santos Simão, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN and Head of the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and by the representative of the EU.

of External Relations and Chairperson of the Executive Council, as Special Envoy, were commended for fostering deeper engagement with Sahel countries to gather critical insights into the region's situation.



Figure 5: PSC 1304th meeting on the 'Situation in the Sahel Region,' 30 September 2025.
(Source: X [@AUC_PAPS](#))

In response to the complex challenges, the Council encouraged the transitional authorities in the affected Sahel countries to adopt comprehensive, multidimensional 'whole of government – whole of society' approaches to tackle the structural root causes and drivers of terrorism and violent extremism. It called for enhanced collective security measures, including improved intelligence-sharing, joint operations and strengthened border management among regional stakeholders.

The most notable, long overdue decision of the PSC, is that of the provision for the establishment of a Task Force to support the Countries of the Sahel in fighting against terrorism, as has been called for in various Amani Africa works on the Sahel. To this end, the PSC 'directed 'the Chairperson of the Commission to establish the Task Force for Sahel addressing security, socio-economic and humanitarian challenges in the region, including addressing terrorism and violent extremism.' The effective implementation of this decision will determine the restoration of AU's role in peace and security and in arresting the alarming deterioration of the situation in the Sahel.

The Council also appealed to AU Member States, the international community and AU-UN agencies to bolster support for peace initiatives by mobilising predictable, adequate and sustainable financial and material resources, including through the AU Peace Fund, to support peace-strengthening and quick-impact projects. **Emphasising the need for intensified diplomatic engagement with Sahel countries undergoing political transitions, the Council welcomed Angola's proposal to convene a Summit to address the region's ongoing crises.**

Relevant Previous PSC Decisions:

1279th Session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1279 \(2025\)](#)]:

The PSC:

- Recommended the establishment of a continental mechanism, anchored by AFRIPOL, to continuously map, update and analyse criminal flows and networks and disseminate this intelligence securely to law enforcement bodies.
- Requested the AU Commission, in coordination with AFRIPOL, AU Centre of Countering Terrorism and CISSA, to carry out a comprehensive study on organised transnational crime, peace and security in the Sahel region.

1212th Session [[PSC/PR/COMM.1212 \(2024\)](#)]:

The PSC:

- Tasked the AU Commission to facilitate a joint deployment of the AU Panel of the Wise with its counterparts within ECCAS and ECOWAS, respectively, to engage with all the countries in political transition; and also provide quarterly briefing reports to the Council.

Key Actionable Decisions Requiring Follow-up:

The PSC:

- Requested the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development

(PCRD) Centre tasked to develop programmes tailored for supporting the countries of the Sahel region.

- Decided to establish a Task Force to support the countries of the Sahel in fighting against terrorism and directed the AUC Chairperson to ensure it addresses security, socio-economic and humanitarian challenges in the region, including terrorism and violent extremism.
- Called for a field visit by Evariste Ndayishimiye, AU Special Envoy for the Sahel, with the support of the AUC, to the three countries of the Sahel, to engage on political transition processes.

Recent Relevant Amani Africa Publications

- [Briefing on the Situation in the Sahel region](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 29 September 2025.
- [Informal consultation with countries in political transition](#), *Insights on the PSC*, 17 March 2025.
- [Is the African Union failing countries in a complex political transition? Insights from the Peace and Security Council's recent session](#), *Ideas Indaba*, 16 September 2024.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE PSC FOR THE MONTH

Beyond its substantive sessions, the PSC subsidiary organs engaged in several key activities. On 10 September, the Committee of Experts (CoE) convened to discuss the 'Consideration of the PSC communiqué for the PSC [1303rd](#) meeting.' Five days later, on 15 September, the CoE met again to prepare for the 10th Informal Joint Seminar and the 19th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the AUPSC and the UNSC. Additionally, on 29 September, the Military Staff Committee (MSC) held a meeting that focused on 'Engagement on the proliferation of illicit

small arms and light weapons (SALW): Surge
in Terrorism.'



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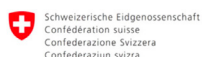
ABOUT AMANI AFRICA

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.

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