

## POLICY BRIEF

# THE 2026 ELECTIONS OF THE TEN MEMBERS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL: THE DYNAMICS, PROCESS AND CANDIDATES

## AMANI AFRICA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. TEN SEATS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
ARE UP FOR THE 2026 ELECTIONS.....1

II. ONE OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL’S MOST CONTESTED ELECTIONS.....2

III. HEIGHTENED COMPETITION FOR PSC MEMBERSHIP  
DOES NOT NECESSARILY BODE WELL FOR THE PSC.....4

IV. ARTICLE 5 (2) CRITERIA FOR PSC MEMBERSHIP:  
AN INSTRUMENT FOR SIFTING CANDIDATES AND/OR A FLASHPOINT.....4

V. THE ELECTION PROCESS.....5

VI. OVERVIEW OF THE CANDIDATES.....7

## I. TEN SEATS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ARE UP FOR THE 2026 ELECTIONS

30 March 2026 will mark the end of the mandate of 10 members of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) who were elected for a two-year term in February 2024 during the 37<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the AU Assembly. Since the election for the three-year term was held during the 38<sup>th</sup> AU Assembly in February 2025, the 2026 election of the PSC will be limited to these ten two-year term seats in the Council. Unlike the three-year term seats, which are allocated equally to the five regions of the AU, the regional allocation of the ten two-year term seats is based on the number of states in the different regions at the time of the adoption of the PSC Protocol. Thus, pursuant to the Protocol Establishing the PSC and the Modalities on the Elections of the PSC, the two-year term membership of the PSC is allocated for the five regions as follows: three seats for West Africa, two seats for Central, East and Southern Africa regions, and one seat for North Africa.

Notwithstanding the principle of rotation, it is not a requirement that the candidates for the election of the ten seats be totally different from those currently serving in the PSC. Article 5(3) of the PSC Protocol stipulates that member states may serve for consecutive terms, allowing the current PSC members to apply for an additional term. Of the ten current members whose term in the PSC ends on 30 March 2026, four of them, namely the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, are seeking re-election. North Africa and Southern Africa have no candidates

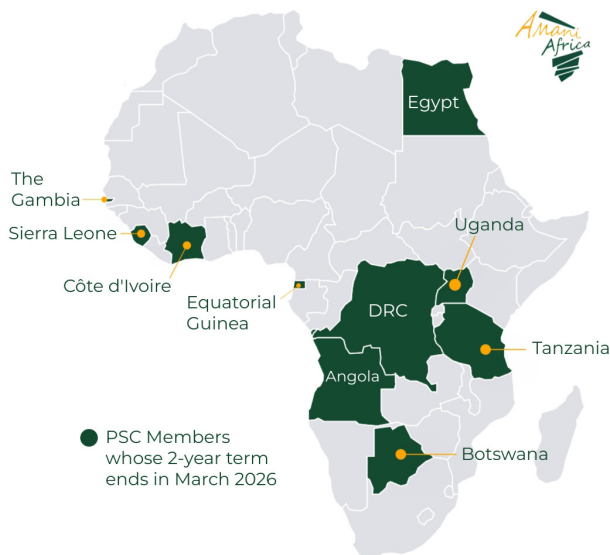
seeking re-election. The 10 members of the current PSC whose tenure ends on 30 March are listed in the table below.

Table 1: The ten (10) PSC Members whose 2-year term ends in March 2026

REGION	COUNTRY	PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP
Central Africa	DRC	2024-2026
Central Africa	Equatorial Guinea	2010-13, 13-16, 18-20, 24-26
East Africa	Tanzania	2012-14, 14-16, 22-24, 24-26
East Africa	Uganda	2006-10, 13-16, 16-18, 22-24, 24-26
North Africa	Egypt	2006-08, 12-14, 16-19, 20-22, 24-26
Southern Africa	Angola	2012-14, 18-20, 24-26
Southern Africa	Botswana	2006-08, 16-18, 24-26
West Africa	Côte d'Ivoire	2010-12, 12-14, 24-26
West Africa	The Gambia	2012-14, 14-16, 22-24, 24-26
West Africa	Sierra Leone	2016-18, 18-20, 24-26

While original authority for the election of the members of the PSC is vested with the AU Assembly, it is to be recalled that the Assembly delegated its envisaged power to elect members to the Executive Council during its sixth Ordinary Session ([Assembly/ AU/Dec. 106\(VI\)](#)). Accordingly, one of the agenda items tabled for the 48<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, to be held from 11 to 12 February 2026, will thus be the election of the 10 new or returning members who will serve in the PSC for the two-year term. The elections will be endorsed by the 39<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union to be held from 14 to 15 February 2026. Consistent with the stipulation of the PSC Protocol in Article 5, those elected will take their seats in the Council on 1 April 2026, joining the 5 three-year term

members.



## II. ONE OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL'S MOST CONTESTED ELECTIONS

Under the established practice, the regional candidates for elections to the PSC are communicated through the regional deans of the five AU regions. The list reveals that the 2026 elections of the PSC are set to be one of the most contested of PSC elections in recent years. For this election, there is only one region, Central Africa, that presented a list of candidates equal to the number of seats allocated for the region. As further expounded below, all the other four regions presented a list of candidates that is in excess of the number of seats available for each of them. It is not simply that in all four regions the list of candidates is in excess of the number of seats. Some of the regional lists carried a number of candidates that exceeds by as much as three times the available seats. That was the case for East Africa before the withdrawal of Rwanda and Kenya as discussed further below.

For some regions, most notably East Africa, the submission of a list of candidates in excess of available seats is common. Clean

slate is the exception, hence available seats for this region usually tend to be contested. The same applies to North Africa. As pointed out previously, past trends show that member states in these two regions do not usually agree on a clean slate for elections to the PSC.<sup>1</sup> Even in the immediate past election, these are the only regions with a list of candidates in excess of the number of seats.

Central Africa, which displayed in previous years similar practices to East and North Africa regions, has a list of candidates with a clean slate, as it did in the immediate past election held in February 2025. This is the only region with candidates who are sure to be elected. It is of interest in this respect to note that the certainty of the election of the candidates without any competition will mean that Gabon, which was suspended by the PSC for a military coup, will join the PSC despite the lack of conformity of the election held in Gabon for restoring constitutional order with Article 25(4) of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See various previous Amani Africa products on the election of the AU such as the one on the 2024 elections. (Amani Africa (February 2024), 2024 Elections of the Ten Members of the PSC: Conduct and Outcome of the Elections, available on <https://amaniafrica-et.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-ELECTION-OF-THE-10-MEMBERS-OF-THE-PSC.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> Solomon Ayele Dersso, Amani Africa (April 2025) Ideas Indaba, 'Can AU's anti-coup norm survive a scenario in which the military leaders of all suspended countries run for elections following the precedent in Chad and Gabon?' available on <https://amaniafrica-et.org/can-aus-anti-coup-norm-survive-a-scenario-in-which-the-military-leaders-of-all-suspended-countries-run-for-elections-following-the-precedent-in-chad-and-gabon/>

Trend-wise and compared to the immediate past PSC election held in February 2025, the surprise in the submission of the list of candidates for this election cycle comes from the two previously most predictable regions: West and Southern Africa. As pointed out in 2018, Southern Africa, 'together with ECOWAS, has been consistent in finalising the selection of candidates at the regional level and submitting the required number of candidates as per Articles 9 and 10 of the Modalities for the election of members of the PSC.'<sup>3</sup>

These two regions also had a clean slate for the February 2025 PSC elections<sup>4</sup>, despite the initial uncertainty about South Africa being on the ballot. In a departure from this established practice, these regions did not present a list of candidates with a clean slate for the upcoming elections.

In terms of the margins by which the list of candidates varies from the available seats, Southern Africa has only one more candidate than the two available seats. It is thus the region that will face the least competition compared to the other three regions. Depending on whether there will be similar last-minute negotiations among member states of the region, as it happened during the 2025 elections that saw the withdrawal of South Africa's candidacy, there is a possibility of Southern Africa entering the election with a clean slate.

<sup>3</sup> Amani Africa (January 2018), *The 2018 elections*, available on <https://amaniafrica-et.org/the-2018-elections-of-the-psc-2/>

<sup>4</sup> See Amani Africa (February 2025), *The 2025 Elections of the Five Members of the PSC: Conduct and Outcome of the Elections*, available on <https://amaniafrica-et.org/wp-content/uploads/The-2025-Election-of-the-Five-Members-of-the-PSC-Conduct-and-Outcome-of-the-Elections.pdf>

West Africa submitted a list of candidates that is over twice the number of seats available. There are no indications of any planned meeting of the West Africa region on the possibility of entering the elections with a clean slate. Unless any of the current candidates announce their withdrawal before the elections, it is expected that all seven candidates will be on the ballot. As a result, it is anticipated that the election for this region will be very competitive and is likely to involve many rounds.

The list of candidates for East Africa, as contained in the AU Legal Counsel report that accompanies the 2026 elections, is two times more than the number of seats available. While there is no indication of any negotiations in the region for going to the elections with a clean slate, three of the candidates in the list, Comoros, Rwanda and Kenya, communicated their withdrawal from the elections. While the initial list reflected a common trend in the region and signified stiff competition, following the three withdrawals that came about in part due to lack of coordination, the region will have one of the least competitive elections.

Finally, North Africa also has a list of candidates more than twice the number of seats available. There is no indication that there will be regional negotiation or withdrawal by any of the candidates. The contestation for the election for the North Africa seat will thus be as, if not more, fierce as the February 2025 elections for the region.<sup>5</sup> It is to be recalled that the February 2025 elections for the

<sup>5</sup> *The 2025 Election of the Five Members of the PSC: Conduct and Outcome of the Elections* <https://amaniafrica-et.org/the-2025-election-of-the-five-members-of-the-psc-conduct-and-outcome-of-the-elections/>

North Africa region did not produce a conclusive outcome, becoming the first in the election of the PSC in which no candidate was able to garner the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> votes. This necessitated the holding of the elections for North Africa in April 2025 during the extraordinary session of the Executive Council.<sup>6</sup>

### III. HEIGHTENED COMPETITION FOR PSC MEMBERSHIP DOES NOT NECESSARILY BODE WELL FOR THE PSC

The fact that AU member states are keen to be in the PSC can be seen as a sign of the strong interest of member states in the PSC. In a context in which AU member states viewed their membership in the PSC principally as a responsibility for the collective good, this strong interest in membership in the PSC is positive. Yet, heightened competition does not necessarily reflect commitment to the PSC. The fact that only one region has a clean slate in its list is indicative of the weakening of the practice of consensus that characterised the submission of the number of candidates equal to the number of seats, particularly for the Southern and West Africa regions.

With regional and geopolitical tensions testing trust between countries at the regional level and undermining established regional diplomatic practices,

<sup>6</sup> Amani Africa (April 2025), *Update on the AU elections for membership in the PSC from the North Africa Region*, Policy Brief available on <https://amaniafrica-et.org/wp-content/uploads/Update-on-the-AU-elections-for-membership-in-the-PSC-for-the-Northern-Region-and-the-two-remaining-AU-Commission-Portfolios.pdf>

presence in the PSC is seen as the best way of safeguarding one's interests. Recent trends suggest that it is not principally out of interest in contributing to the collective responsibility of the PSC that states contest for membership in the PSC fiercely. Increasingly, the PSC has over the years become an arena in which member states, particularly when chairing the Council, push for their individual national interests, at times, even at the expense of and with no regard for the collective interest. The adverse effect of this became widely recognised in the PSC, so much so that it became an issue during the 16<sup>th</sup> retreat on its working methods.<sup>7</sup> Thus, the conclusions of that retreat called on PSC member states to balance their national interest with the collective interest and responsibility of the PSC when chairing the Council. This notwithstanding, states continue to foreground partisan interests without striking the delicate balance with the collective responsibility that the PSC

Emphasised the need to strike a balance between country situations and thematic files on the agenda of the Council to preserve its *raison d'être*. The need for the monthly PSC Chairs to fully comply with the provisions of paragraph 12 of the Manual on the Working Methods of the PSC and Annual Indicative Programme of Work (AIP) in developing the Monthly Provisional Programme of Work, and in particular, to reduce the introduction of new thematic issues on the agenda of the PSC and to always strike a balance between their individual national self-interests and Continental interests.

### IV. ARTICLE 5 (2) CRITERIA FOR PSC MEMBERSHIP: AN INSTRUMENT FOR SIFTING CANDIDATES AND/OR A FLASHPOINT

Compliance with Article 5 of the PSC Protocol criteria for membership in the

<sup>7</sup> See the conclusions, available on <https://amaniafrica-et.org/wp-content/uploads/Conclusions-16th-Retreat-EN.pdf>



PSC process is a perennial issue. It has featured in a number of the retreats of the PSC on its working methods. Most recently, and in the context of the policy debate on making the PSC more effective, this issue resurfaced. As such, it was one of the issues that featured during the summit-level 1303<sup>rd</sup> session of the PSC held on 24 September 2025.<sup>8</sup> The PSC summit in its communiqué 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 letter that the Legal Counsel circulated to member states inviting candidacy for the upcoming election effected this proviso.

As pointed out in the Monthly Digest on the PSC for September,<sup>9</sup> '[t]he 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).' The Monthly Digest further noted that '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.' But for undertaking such an exercise in a way that will garner wider support and credibility, there is a need for establishing the threshold and indicators by reference to which the determination of fulfilment

<sup>8</sup> See the outcome document, available on [https://amaniafrica-et.org/wp-content/uploads/1303comm\\_en.pdf](https://amaniafrica-et.org/wp-content/uploads/1303comm_en.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> September 2025 Monthly Digest, available on <https://amaniafrica-et.org/wp-content/uploads/September-Monthly-Digest-2025.pdf>

by a member state of the criteria can be assessed objectively and predictably.

While Article 5(2) criteria can serve as useful legally based instrument for sifting candidates and, if fully met by those elected into the PSC, will enhance the credibility and effectiveness of the PSC, there is no indication that the necessary technical work required and the consultation on the technical work done have been undertaken for it to be tested during the upcoming elections. If it is going to be relied on in the absence of such due process, it may become a diplomatic flash point.

## V. THE ELECTION PROCESS

The process for this election commenced with a Note Verbale from the OLC notifying State Parties of the schedule and inviting formal candidacies. On 3 October 2025, the OLC circulated the list of candidates submitted by various regions ahead of the 17 November 2025 deadline.

In this communication, the AU Commission reminded member states that the election process is governed strictly by the Constitutive Act, the PSC Protocol, and the March 2004 Modalities for Election. Specifically, the Commission highlighted that:

- **Eligibility:** Only State Parties not currently under sanctions (per Articles 23 and 30 of the Constitutive Act) are eligible for election.
- **Member Requirements:** Candidates must adhere to the criteria established in Article 5(2) of the Protocol, which are subject to periodic review by the Assembly

to ensure continued compliance under Article 5(4).

The PSC Protocol and the Modalities for Election of PSC members adopted in 2004 remain the relevant instruments in outlining the procedure and requirements for the election of PSC members. Article 5(2) of the PSC protocol prescribes that the election of members be conducted based on two sets of requirements. The first set involves the principles of 'equitable regional representation and rotation', which are premised on the sovereign equality of all States Parties to the PSC Protocol, hence the availability of membership in the PSC to all States Parties to the PSC Protocol. Accordingly, all Member States that are parties to the PSC Protocol, except a) those 'affected by sanctions in terms of Article 23 of the Constitutive Act'<sup>10</sup> including non-payment of assessed contributions, and b) those who currently occupy the three-year term seat in the PSC are eligible for elections.

As highlighted above, the second set of requirements that are of qualitative nature specified in Article 5(2) include member states' contribution to the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in Africa, participation in mediation and peacebuilding efforts, respect for constitutional governance and human rights, contribution to the Peace Fund and possession of sufficiently staffed and equipped permanent missions at the AU and UN headquarters.

As Amani Africa's previous analyses

<sup>10</sup> Six countries are suspended from the AU on account of the occurrence of unconstitutional changes of government and Sao Tome and Principe is suspended on account of non-payment of assessed contributions.

pointed out, there is almost no regard in PSC elections for these qualitative requirements. The requirements of regional representation and rotation take precedence. It is not thus uncommon that states are elected to the PSC without possessing many of the qualifications under Article 5(2) on account of the tension between sovereign equality of states expressed through the principle of rotation and the Article 5(2) additional qualifications resolved in favour of the former in the process of PSC elections. This contrasts with the various instances in which the Conclusions of the Retreats of the PSC reaffirmed the importance of possession of the Article 5(2) substantive qualifications. As noted above, it was also flagged in the outcome of the PSC summit of September 2025. Given some of the regional dynamics, particularly in North Africa, it would not be totally surprising if compliance with Article 5(2) of the PSC Protocol would not be invoked during this election.



The election will start with the Central Africa region. Given that the candidature for this region is a clean slate, the only issue to look out for is the margin of votes that the DRC and Gabon would garner beyond



the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority threshold required for securing the seat.

This is followed by the election for East Africa. This election may run for a number of rounds if two candidates do not receive the two third majority vote during the first balloting. After the third round, the countries with the fewest votes would be removed, and the remaining would proceed to the next round. That will be the point at which the states that won the two seats would be known.

The next turn of the election, which is also as most anticipated as that of the election in the East Africa region, is in North Africa. Similar to East Africa, this election may also run for a number of rounds. If, after the third round, none of the remaining candidates garners the required majority of a minimum of 32 votes, the candidate with the fewest votes would be removed. How the next round of voting unfolds will determine whether a candidate will garner the required number of votes or if the voting will unfold into further rounds. Whether there will be a conclusive outcome will depend on whether or not any one candidate gets the required majority vote during these rounds.

The next election is for Southern Africa. Unless one of the candidates withdraws or a last-minute agreement is reached for a clean slate, it is possible that the election may also go at least for three rounds if no two candidates get the required two-thirds majority in the first round.

The last and final election is for the West Africa seats. Similar to East Africa, the election for this region may unfold for several rounds as well.

## VI. OVERVIEW OF THE CANDIDATES

Following the invitation of the AU Legal Counsel, 21 countries submitted their candidature for the upcoming term. The withdrawal of three countries, the list of candidates as at 5th February is as contained in the table below.

Table 2: Candidates for the Two (2) Year Term of Office

No	REGION	COUNTRY	TERM
1	Central	DRC	2024-2026
2	Central	Gabon	2004-10, 18-20
3	East	Djibouti	2010-12, 12-14, 18-20, 20-22, 22-25
4	East	Somalia	-
5	East	Uganda	2006-10, 13-16, 16-18, 22-24, 24-26
6	North	Libya	2004-06, 10-13, 14-16
7	North	Morocco	2018-20, 22-25
8	North	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	-
9	Southern	Lesotho	2004-06, 12-14, 19-22
10	Southern	Malawi	2006-08, 20-22
11	Southern	South Africa	2004-07, 10-12, 14-16, 16-18, 22-24
12	West	Benin	2008-12, 20-22
13	West	Côte d'Ivoire	2010-12, 12-14, 24-26
14	West	Ghana	2004-08, 20-22, 22-24
15	West	Liberia	18-20

16	West	Senegal	2004–08, 20–22, 22–24
17	West	Sierra Leone	2016–18, 18–20, 24–26
18	West	Togo	2004–06, 16–18, 18–20

From the 18 candidates, 16 of them are either currently serving or previously elected to the PSC. Three of the candidates, Comoros, Somalia and Sahrawi, never had the opportunity of serving in the PSC. The history of membership in the Council, while not decisive, is one of the considerations member states note when voting in the Executive Council, particularly when there is no clean slate in the running for securing a regional seat. Such is particularly the case when there are candidates of similar capacity and standing.

From Central Africa's candidates, the DRC is seeking re-election to serve in the Council for another 2 years. DRC had never had the opportunity of serving in the PSC until it was elected in 2024 during the 37<sup>th</sup> AU Summit of the Assembly. It was the last AU member state that became qualified for election after becoming a state party to the PSC Protocol in 2022. Its election into the PSC increased the number of States Parties from Central Africa to seven. On the other hand, Gabon, one of the first members of the Council from the region, has served the PSC previously for a total of 8 years. It first maintained its three-year term for two rounds, from March 2004 to April 2010. It was absent from the PSC until its return in 2018 after 10 years, where it served for a two-year term, from April 2018 to April 2020.

At the time of the filling of the list of Candidates to the AU Legal Counsel, the list of candidates for East Africa was six,

three times more than available seats. As the election approaches two of the states communicated their withdrawal from the election. The first to withdrew was Rwanda. It is to be recalled that Rwanda was on the ballot during the February 2025 elections. It received the least votes and lost the election.<sup>11</sup> A week before the elections, Kenya also sent notification on its withdrawal from the race. The last time Kenya was in the PSC was for the three-year term seat for the period of April 2019 to March 2022. These two withdrawals left four candidates for the election for East Africa, which is still twice more than the available seats. As this publication was being finalised, on 5 February 2025 during the regional meeting of the East Africa held at the AU Commission, Comoros announced its withdrawal. These withdrawals are further indication of the lack of prior coordination between countries of the region, a persisting issue.

It is interesting to note that this region continues its trend of having the least adherence to regional rotation. Among the contenders, Djibouti, Rwanda, and Uganda are seeking a return to the Council, while Comoros and Somalia are bidding for their first-ever terms. It is worth recalling that this is not the first time that Somalia has run for PSC membership. Somalia ran for the three-year term seat in the PSC during the February 2025<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> See Amani Africa (2025), *The 2025 Elections of the African Union Peace and Security Council: The Process, Candidates and Dynamics*, available on <https://amaniafrica-et.org/wp-content/uploads/The-2025-Elections-of-the-African-Union-Peace-and-Security-Council-The-Process-Candidates-and-Dynamics.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> See Amani Africa (2025), *The 2025 Elections of the African Union Peace and Security Council: The Process, Candidates and Dynamics*, available on <https://amaniafrica-et.org/wp-content/uploads/>

and the February 2022 elections of the PSC<sup>13</sup> and for the two-year term seats during the February 2020 elections of the PSC.<sup>14</sup> Djibouti has served in the PSC for a total of eleven years. It was on the ballot during the February 2025 elections but announced its withdrawal during the Executive Council session dedicated to the conduct of the elections.<sup>15</sup> Uganda, on the other hand, has been previously elected six times and served in the PSC for a total of 13 years. Currently part of the PSC, it is seeking renewal of its current mandate. This will be the third consecutive time that Uganda is on the ballot for the two-year term seat it currently occupies.

The North Africa region has fielded two more candidates than the one seat available to the region. The election in this region is expected to be perhaps the most fiercely contested of all the others. Libya, Morocco and the Sahrawi are the three states vying for the North Africa seat currently occupied by Egypt, which is not seeking renewal of its current mandate.

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[\*The-2025-Elections-of-the-African-Union-Peace-and-Security-Council-The-Process-Candidates-and-Dynamics.pdf\*](#)

<sup>13</sup> See Amani Africa (2022), *2022 PSC Election of the PSC: Overview of the process and list of candidates*, Policy Brief available on <https://amani-africa-et.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-PSC-elections-overview-of-the-process-and-list-of-candidates.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> See Amani Africa (2020), *The candidates for the 2020 Elections of the PSC*, available on <https://amani-africa-et.org/the-candidates-for-the-2020-elections-of-the-psc/>

<sup>15</sup> See Amani Africa (2025), *The 2025 Election of the Five members of the PSC: Conduct and Outcome of the Election*, Policy Brief available on <https://amani-africa-et.org/wp-content/uploads/The-2025-Election-of-the-Five-Members-of-the-PSC-Conduct-and-Outcome-of-the-Elections.pdf>

Libya has previously served in the Council for a total of 7 years. Libya was one of the candidates that run for the three-year term seat during both the February 2025 and April 2025 elections. Morocco, which joined the AU in 2017, on its part has served the Council previously for a total of 5 years, having finished its 3-year mandate in March 2025. It was also on the ballot of the elections held in February 2025. Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) has never been a member of the PSC. It is the first time that SADR is on the ballot for election in the PSC. Considering Morocco's policy position on the status of SADR, this election is not seen as an ordinary contest for membership in the PSC. It carries particular strategic significance and is expected to exercise the minds of the representatives of AU member states the most.

The Southern Africa region has presented three candidates for the two available seats. Lesotho has previously served in the Council for a total of 7 years, while Malawi has previously served in the Council for a total of 4 years. South Africa, on the other hand, has previously been elected to the council six different times since March 2004 and has served in the PSC for a total of 15 years. All the candidates are seeking to return to the PSC after four years of absence. Following its established practice, there are no current members of the region seeking re-election.

The last region, West Africa, has presented seven candidates, more than twice the available three seats. Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo have had a history of previously serving in the PSC. Benin has previously served in the Council for a total of six years, all being on 2-years terms since its first

election to the Council in 2008. It is seeking a return after four years of absence. Côte d'Ivoire, a current member of the PSC, has served for a total of six years. It is seeking re-election of its current mandate.

Ghana, first elected in 2004, has served the PSC for a total of eight years and is seeking reelection after a two-year absence. Liberia, the only country from the region which has only served the PSC once, 2018 – 2020, is seeking to be re-elected to the Council after six years of absence. Senegal, which finished its 2-year mandate in March 2024, has previously served in the Council for a total of eight years. It is seeking to be re-elected after two years of absence. Sierra Leone is seeking re-election, having served in the Council for a total of six years including its current term. It was a member of the PSC while simultaneously serving in the UN Security Council.

Lastly, Togo, among the first members of the PSC (as Senegal), is seeking to be elected back to the Council after six years of absence. It has served the PSC for a total of six years.

How these elections conclude and the outcome they produce is sure to affect the dynamics in the PSC. Together with the prevailing peace and security and geopolitical context, these elections will also shape how the PSC exercises its mandate.



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