



PRESS RELEASE

The African Union Peace and Security Council and the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation Convene their Inaugural Annual Joint Consultative Meeting

Gaborone, 30 August 2024. The Delegation of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), comprising the representatives of the fifteen (15) PSC Members, namely, Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, The Gambia, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda, undertook a mission to Gaborone, Botswana, on a two-day working visit to the Headquarters of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for the Inaugural Annual Joint Consultative Meeting with the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (SADC OPDS).

Led by H.E. Ambassador Tebelelo Alfred Boang, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of August 2024, the Delegation is accompanied by the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye and the Head of the PSC Secretariat.

The main objective of the Inaugural Joint Consultative Meeting is to establish a forum for the AU PSC and the SADC OPDS to further enhance collaboration, coordination, and complementarity of efforts in the implementation of their respective but complementary mandates of promoting peace, security and stability in Africa, particularly in relations to the Southern Africa region. The meeting was an unprecedented opportunity for the two sides to share experiences, lessons, best practices and perspectives on how to address peace and security challenges in the region. This is critically important as it significantly contributes towards further strengthening the cooperation and collaboration between the AU PSC and the SADC OPDS.

The Inaugural Joint Consultative Meeting was being held as a fulfillment of the provisions of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, particularly Article 16, which outlines the general modalities for enhanced cooperation and collaboration between the AU PSC and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs). It is also being held within the spirit of the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the AU Commission and the RECs/RMs and the 2020 Revised Protocol; the Joint Communiqués of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Joint Consultative Meetings between the AUPSC and the RECs/RMs respectively held on 24 May 2019, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; on 26 April 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and from 28 to 29 August 2023 in Bujumbura, Burundi; as well as the Decisions and Declarations of the Mid-Year Coordination Meetings between the AU and the RECs/RMs.

The RECs/RMs are key pillars of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA). They are also key strategic actors in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2030, in order to pave the way and to create the conducive conditions for the realization of the aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063.

The PSC Delegation seized the opportunity of its Inaugural Joint Consultative Meeting with the SADC OPDS to also pay a courtesy visit to the Government of Botswana, that was represented by Honourable

Thomas Kagiso Mmusi, the Minister of Defence and Security, and H.E. Dr. Lemogang Kwape, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Through the two Ministers, the PSC Delegation congratulated and commended the Government of Botswana for the sterling manner in which Botswana steered the affairs of the PSC during the month of August 2024, and expressed deep gratitude of the AU for the continued invaluable support of Botswana to the promotion of the AU peace and security agenda, including through contributions to peace support operations and peacemaking efforts in the Continent, as well as to United Nations peacekeeping missions. The Delegation equally commended the Government of Botswana for respecting, upholding and promoting, the AU normative instruments and shared values, particularly, constitutionalism, democracy and good governance, as enshrined in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

The PSC Delegation was afforded an opportunity to tour the Botswana Consumers Fair 2024 where it was hosted by the Diamond Hub. The Fair is an annual platform for exhibitors to market their products and services directly to the consumers and an opportunity for promoting and diversifying the economy through the creation of live platforms for various sectors thereby promoting direct trade. The Delegation drew a number of critical lessons from the Government of Botswana on sustainable and transparent management of the country's renowned diamond wealth for peace, security, stability and equitable national development, also known as the 'Diamond for Development Policy', which is attributed for the enduring peace and stability in the country.

The PSC Delegation also took note of the ongoing preparations for the organization of elections in October 2024, expressed the AU commitment to deploy the AU Election Observer Mission and expressed the hope for successful transparent and credible democratic elections.

For more Information, please contact:

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