



# Security Council

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## **Strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to the statement by the President of the Security Council dated 16 December 2014 ([S/PRST/2014/27](#)), provides an update on the key developments in the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa. It provides an overview of the rising threats to peace and security on the continent within the context of a challenged multilateral system and ongoing conflicts, an effective response to which will require robust institutions and partnerships. Opportunities for deeper partnership with the African Union are identified, and an update is provided on the activities of the United Nations Office to the African Union and other United Nations entities since the issuance of my previous report ([S/2024/629](#)) on 26 August 2024, in line with the relevant decision of the Security Council, including resolutions [2320 \(2016\)](#), [2378 \(2017\)](#), [2457 \(2019\)](#) and [2719 \(2023\)](#), and the statement by the President of the Council dated 24 January 2025 ([S/PRST/2025/2](#)).

#### **II. The United Nations and African Union strategic partnership**

##### **United Nations Security Council and African Union Peace and Security Council**

2. The United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council continued their coordination and information-sharing as part of the strategic partnership between the two organizations in the area of peace and security. The three African non-permanent members of the Security Council continued to be a vital link between the two Councils, contributing to the goal of reflecting African perspectives in the Security Council.

3. On 17 and 18 October 2024, the members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council held their ninth joint informal seminar and 18th annual joint consultative meeting in New York. The joint meetings were preceded by technical-level preparatory meetings between the Committee of Experts of the Peace and Security Council and the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict



Prevention and Resolution in Africa, and a pre-seminar informal event in Tarrytown, United States of America.

4. At the joint informal seminar, the Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council deliberated on the need for adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for peace support operations led by the African Union, including the use of United Nations-assessed contributions and the mainstreaming of the women and peace and security agenda and the youth and peace and security agenda into peace processes. Participants also emphasized the importance of taking coordinated approaches to address the impact of climate change on peace and security, and improving the working methods of the two Councils.

5. At the 18th annual joint consultative meeting, deliberations focused on the situations in the Central African Republic, the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Lake Chad basin region, the Sahel, Somalia and the Sudan. Regarding the Central African Republic, the Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reaffirmed that the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic and the joint road map for peace in the Central African Republic (the Luanda road map) remained the only viable means for achieving lasting peace and stability. Concerning the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, they demanded the immediate cessation of foreign military support to the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) and any other armed groups operating in the region, and the immediate withdrawal of any such external party from the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They also condemned support provided by military forces to specific armed groups, in particular the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, and demanded the immediate cessation of such support. They stressed the need for continued political processes to address the root causes of conflict while respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

6. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council appealed to all stakeholders, including partners, to continue to provide enhanced support to the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Lake Chad Basin Commission. With regard to the Sahel, they strongly condemned all terrorist attacks and underscored the importance of the implementation of nationally owned transition processes, including the holding of elections and the restoration of constitutional order in the States concerned. In relation to Somalia, they underscored the importance of consolidating the peace and security gains made in the country, and reaffirmed their strong commitment and support for preserving the unity, territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of the country. With regard to the Sudan, they expressed deep concern over the ongoing armed conflict between the warring parties. They called on the parties to immediately cease hostilities and prioritize an inclusive national dialogue and political transition.

7. Since my previous report, the Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council have continued to strengthen coordination and information-sharing. The number of monthly meetings between the Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council and the President of the Security Council increased to 10. The meetings were facilitated by the Peace and Security Council secretariat, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the United Nations Office to the African Union. The Office and other United Nations entities gave briefings to the Peace and Security Council 26 times.

8. On 1 and 2 December 2024, the eleventh High-level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa was held in Oran, Algeria. Deliberations centred on enhancing cooperation between the Peace and Security Council and the African members of the Security Council.

9. With regard to the subsidiary committees of the Peace and Security Council and the Security Council, the military staff committees of the United Nations and the African Union held a three-day meeting in New York from 12 to 14 November 2024, which was focused on strengthening collaboration and lessons learned from peace operations, including the successive missions of the African Union in Somalia and the implementation of Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#). Since my previous report, the Peace and Security Council has revived its Sub-Committee on Sanctions, providing an opportunity for further collaboration with counterparts at the United Nations.

#### **United Nations Secretariat and African Union Commission**

10. Cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission, including between their respective special representatives and envoys, continued to strengthen, guided by the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.

11. On 21 October 2024, the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission convened the eighth African Union-United Nations annual conference in Addis Ababa. They noted, with deep concern, the state of peace and security at the global level and, in some cases, the profound disregard for international law. They emphasized the shared principles of the two organizations. They reviewed and welcomed progress in the implementation of the three joint frameworks, covering peace and security; Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and human rights. Participants further deliberated on conflict situations in the Sahel, Libya, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. They discussed the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, and addressed unconstitutional changes of government and complex political transitions in Africa. They also discussed predictable and sustainable financing of African Union-led peace support operations, including in the context of Security Council resolutions [2719 \(2023\)](#) and [2748 \(2024\)](#). The conference also considered the findings of the Independent High-level Panel on Security and Development in the Sahel, which were presented by the Chair of the Panel, the former President of the Niger, Mahamadou Issoufou.

12. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission held the fourth high-level strategic dialogue on sustainable development held in Addis Ababa on 15 October 2024. They reviewed the progress made by the “college-to-college” formations of the framework for implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, strengthened institutional alignment on development matters and explored steps to further strengthen cooperation in the implementation of commitments envisaged under the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063. A significant milestone was achieved through the strategic engagement of the African Women Leaders Network, which played a pivotal role in advancing the gender mainstreaming agenda within the African Union-United Nations coordination framework.

13. The United Nations and the African Union held the 24th meeting of the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security in Addis Ababa on 17 February 2025, fostering greater coordination at political and operational levels. The meeting was focused on the most pressing peace and security challenges, including the situations in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan, and on implementation of resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#).

14. The Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union convened the second annual

retreat of African Union and United Nations special representatives and envoys in Abidjan on 24 October to discuss peace and security challenges and strategize on coordinated or joint responses.

15. The African Union and the United Nations continued collaboration in the implementation of the African Union-United Nations Joint Human Rights Framework. A joint steering committee, established to oversee the framework's implementation, conducted internal consultations to develop an implementation matrix spanning the 2025–2028 period and has met regularly to refine the strategic road map. The committee also revived the African Union-United Nations high-level dialogue on human rights, the first of which was held in 2018 in Addis Ababa. The second dialogue was held on 15 May 2025 in Geneva, focusing on multilateralism, strengthening human rights compliance and accountability in peace support operations, and collaboration between the African Union and United Nations human rights mechanisms.

16. In February 2025, the African Union announced that the Peace Fund had more than \$400 million in endowments. The United Nations Office to the African Union continued to support the Peace Fund in policy development and in the work of the Board of Trustees, on which the Special Representative to the African Union and Head of the Office serves as an ex officio member representing the United Nations.

17. The United Nations also provided technical support to the secretariat of the Peace Fund in developing the terms of reference for the appointment of a fund manager and custodian bank and a due diligence framework for resource mobilization, accounting and management of funds. As part of the knowledge and expertise exchange programme, the United Nations deployed a technical expert to the secretariat of the Fund to provide institutional support and technical expertise in advancing the implementation of the Fund's communication and public advocacy strategy. The United Nations Office to the African Union supported the review of: the report of the Fund's audit committee on the performance of the treasury policy and fund manager for the 2024 portfolio of investments; the review of activities and utilization of funds for 2024 and 2025; and modalities for the utilization and replenishment of the Fund.

18. Following elections held at the thirty-eighth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Addis Ababa in February 2025, the new leadership of the African Union Commission assumed office in March, with Mahmoud Ali Youssouf as its Chairperson. He expressed a strong commitment to the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, described as one of the cornerstones of multilateralism, and has pledged his commitment to further strengthen it. The Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security was elected for a second term.

### **III. The United Nations and African Union operational partnership**

#### **Challenges and opportunities for peace and security in Africa**

19. Since my previous report, free, fair and credible elections have been conducted in several countries, in particular with the peaceful transition of power from one political party to another in Botswana, Ghana, Mauritius and Senegal. African Union election observation missions noted improvements in terms of the participation of women and young people in elections and the greater use of domestic funds to organize elections and of preventive diplomacy to prevent electoral violence.

20. Despite increasing debt burdens, rising borrowing costs and persistent inflationary pressures, the economic outlook for Africa points to moderate growth of 3.6 per cent in 2025, approaching the 2010–2019 average of 3.7 per cent. About half the countries on the continent recorded an uptick in economic growth in 2024, and 16 were expected to exceed 5 per cent in 2025, according to United Nations forecasts.

21. Key areas of concern include the number and complexity of current inter- and intra-State conflicts, the increased impact of terrorism and the calling into question of the regional normative frameworks in parts of the African continent. Those challenges were often fuelled by weak or ineffective State authority, the inequitable management of natural resources, organized crime and acute food insecurity. Those factors were compounded by the impact of the drastic reduction of international development and humanitarian funding. Moreover, threats to multilateralism and external interference in conflict situations exacerbated instability. Conflict prevention and mediation efforts also became increasingly complicated, with multiple actors and forums seeking to bring an end to conflict.

22. The security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo was marked by armed group activity in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. The human rights situation in the eastern provinces continued to deteriorate, especially in areas controlled by M23. Escalating violence has severely restricted humanitarian access, and a sharp decline in humanitarian funding has deepened the crisis.

23. In the Sudan, security conditions remained highly volatile, with shifting front lines and increased aerial assaults, particularly in Khartoum, North Darfur and Kordofan States. The siege of El Fasher by the Rapid Support Forces continued. Ongoing clashes led to worsening living conditions, and there were reports of grave abuses against civilians. The use of drone attacks by both sides escalated, including on Port Sudan. The Kordofan region increasingly emerged as the epicentre of fighting, something that sparked growing concerns about regional spillover, while the spread of conflict into eastern and northern Sudan posed further risks to regional stability.

24. There was a sharp deterioration in the political and security situation in South Sudan, which has been significantly affected by the crisis in the Sudan. More than 1 million refugees and returnees arrived in fragile and conflict-affected areas.

25. In Libya, political divisions and institutional rivalries continued to undermine progress towards national elections and the reunification of institutions. The fragility of the status quo was demonstrated by armed clashes in Tripoli in May 2025, which resulted in civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure.

26. In West Africa, efforts continued to be focused on addressing the increasing insecurity in the region and advancing the political transitions in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and the Niger. Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger deepened their integration. Meanwhile, the Economic Community of West African States continued its mediation efforts with a view to ensuring an orderly withdrawal process and preserving the gains that had been made in relation to regional integration.

27. Climate change remained a significant threat multiplier for peace, security and sustainable development, aggravating instability across Africa. The year 2024 was the hottest on record, rising 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels, with North Africa experiencing the most rapid warming. The increase of extreme weather events, such as drought and floods across the continent, continued to intensify food and water insecurity, deepen livelihood vulnerabilities, drive displacement and contribute to instability in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

### **Partnership in conflict prevention and peacemaking**

28. In a turbulent peace and security environment, the United Nations continued to prioritize close cooperation with the African Union, regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, and other partners in conflict prevention and peacemaking. This included peace efforts in Libya and the Sudan, progress made in advancing the climate, peace and security agenda and the use of new technologies to strengthen early warning.

29. The Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan continued to closely coordinate his work with the High-level Panel on the Sudan, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the League of Arab States and other multilateral and bilateral partners. On 16 May 2025, on the margins of the summit of the League of Arab States in Baghdad, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States held a high-level consultative meeting on the Sudan. It was agreed that the three organizations would work together to develop a common framework for multilateral engagement and to include IGAD in follow-up engagements.

30. In Libya, the United Nations focused on advancing the political process towards establishing modalities for the conduct of inclusive elections, while the African Union supported efforts to advance national reconciliation. On 16 December 2024, the United Nations facilitated the establishment of an advisory committee of independent Libyan experts, as part of its multitrack political initiative. The committee's recommendations were made public in May 2025, and the United Nations undertook commensurate outreach with Libyan and international interlocutors. On 20 June 2025, the International Follow-up Committee on Libya of the Berlin Process, which includes the African Union, met in Berlin, co-chaired by Germany and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, to garner support for the Mission's efforts to relaunch a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process and take stock of emerging challenges since the second Berlin Conference on Libya in 2021. On 14 February 2025, the African Union facilitated the signing in Addis Ababa of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation. It continues to encourage more actors to sign the Charter. On 24 July, the Peace and Security Council met at the level of Heads of State and Government and reaffirmed the commitment of the African Union to continue to support the United Nations-facilitated Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process.

31. On 5 and 6 August 2024 in Accra, the African Union, the United Nations, the Association of African Electoral Authorities and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance convened the first continental initiative of women chairs of African election management bodies with a view to fostering peer learning. The chairs came from electoral commissions in Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

32. With regard to climate, peace and security, the United Nations Office to the African Union supported the organization of the consultation of States members of the African Union held in August 2024 at which the draft common African position on climate change, peace and security was considered. The purpose of the consultation was to address policy gaps, enhance technical capacities, secure funding and improve decision-making processes. In October 2024, the Peace and Security Council welcomed the outcome of the consultative meeting. On 6 March 2025, at a meeting of the Council entitled "Climate change: challenges to peace and security", participants emphasized the need for scaled-up climate finance and enhanced interdepartmental coordination in order to sustain efforts towards peace and address the root causes of conflict. The common position is expected to be finalized and

submitted to the Council ahead of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025.

33. Furthermore, on 23 June 2025, the Climate Security Mechanism, in partnership with the United Nations Office to the African Union, convened a partnership dialogue in Addis Ababa, followed by a strategic coordination workshop for Africa-based climate, peace and security advisers and experts on 24 and 25 June 2025. The meetings brought together representatives from the African Union, regional economic communities and mechanisms, United Nations entities and civil society organizations, as well as technical experts, to take stock of progress and strengthen collaboration on responding to climate-related peace and security risks and opportunities across the continent.

34. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs supported the organization of a meeting of a group of experts of the African Union to build capacities and share experiences on artificial intelligence, conflict analysis and early warning. At the workshop, which was held from 30 June to 4 July 2025 participants examined artificial intelligence as a complementary tool to strengthen early warning mechanisms, in line with the relevant communiqués of the Peace and Security Council.

#### **Partnership in peacekeeping and peace support operations**

35. The United Nations continued to work in close collaboration with the African Union, regional economic communities and regional mechanisms to enable peacekeeping and peace support operations across Africa.

36. On 21 October 2024, at the eighth African Union-United Nations annual conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission endorsed a joint road map for the operationalization of Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#). The road map continued to be implemented by a joint African Union-United Nations task force with the following four workstreams: (a) joint planning, decision-making and reporting; (b) mission support; (c) financing and budgeting; and (d) compliance and protection of civilians. The joint task force steered the finalization of guidelines on joint planning and support planning, and prepared a joint report pursuant to Security Council resolution [2748 \(2024\)](#) detailing the progress made in preparing for the hybrid implementation of the framework established in resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#) for the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM). That report was submitted to the Security Council on 7 May (see [S/2025/295](#)).

37. With regard to the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations worked with the African Union by providing technical and logistical support for the Luanda process, led by the African Union-designated mediator, the President of Angola, João Lourenço. On 12 April 2025, the African Union Commission appointed the President of Togo, Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, as its mediator, succeeding the President of Angola. The mediator is supported by a five-member panel of facilitators appointed by the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Also in April, the United Nations, in partnership with the African Union and relevant regional economic communities, co-facilitated a technical working group on women and peace and security, which was held in Nairobi. The workshop resulted in a gender-responsive framework for engagement and a draft road map to guide women's participation in the peace processes in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

38. On 1 August 2025, a joint summit of the East African Community and SADC agreed to an immediate merger of the Communities' facilitation with the African Union mediation effort, to be supported by a single secretariat headquartered in Addis Ababa and headed by the African Union. These proposals were endorsed on 13 August 2025 at the joint East African Community-SADC extraordinary summit of Heads of State and Government. The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region provided technical assistance to the African Union-designated mediator as well as to the panel of facilitators appointed by the East African Community and SADC.

39. With regard to Somalia, the United Nations continued to work closely with the African Union on the transition from the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) to AUSSOM. A joint report of the African Union and the United Nations pursuant to Security Council resolution [2748 \(2024\)](#), submitted to the Security Council on 26 November 2024, provided details on the overall mission design for AUSSOM. In line with Council resolution [2767 \(2024\)](#), the United Nations, through the United Nations Office to the African Union, supported the development of the concept of operations and implementation plan of AUSSOM. The Office supported the assessment of military and police personnel and enabling capabilities to be deployed to ATMIS and AUSSOM, including predeployment visits to Egypt, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia. On 25 April 2025, the Office participated in a lessons-learned exercise concerning ATMIS that had been requested by the Peace and Security Council on 1 August 2024.

40. With regard to South Sudan, international efforts were focused on preventing a relapse into widespread conflict and emphasizing the need for the full implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. On 5 and 6 May 2025, following a visit of the Panel of the Wise, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission undertook an official visit to Juba, in close coordination with IGAD, to engage with the South Sudanese authorities and key stakeholders on the evolving political and security situation and the status of the peace process. The African Union and IGAD called for the immediate cessation of hostilities and de-escalation of the crisis; release of detainees and constructive engagement in mediation and inclusive dialogue; completion of training and deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces; and completion of the constitution-making and electoral processes with a view to a successful conclusion of the transition.

41. With regard to the Lake Chad basin, the United Nations and the African Union continued to provide technical advice and expertise to the Multinational Joint Task Force, including through participation in the 15th meeting of the Joint Steering Committee of the Lake Chad Basin Commission. In coordination with the Mine Action Service and the African Union, the United Nations Office to the African Union conducted an assessment mission to the Lake Chad Basin Commission in N'Djamena. The mission was focused on addressing the threat of the improvised explosive devices in that area of operation.

42. The United Nations continued to support the African Union in its commitment to ensure that its peace support operations are planned and managed in compliance with international human rights law, including regional human rights instruments and international humanitarian law, and applicable standards of conduct and discipline. Support included: a review of the draft policy on remedial actions for victims of misconduct and harm in African Union peace support operations, in October 2024; the preliminary consultations of the African Union, United Nations and SADC on the development and implementation of a human rights compliance framework for the Southern African Development Community Mission in the Democratic Republic of



the Congo, in November 2024; and a working session with the African Union organs that have human rights and international law mandates, in January 2025.

43. The United Nations Office to the African Union continued to support African Union efforts to strengthen the African Standby Force. In October 2024, it participated in a working session on developing tools to generate military capability for the Force. In December, it provided advice at a technical consultative meeting on the strategic review of the Force, the objective of which was to evaluate the Force's suitability to address the contemporary security challenges in Africa. It supported the preparatory stages of the development of a police roster for the Force. It provided technical support to the African Union during its annual police coordination meeting with the planning elements of the African Union related to the police and with the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms in order to advance the operationalization of the Force. It also supported the review of the African Union police roster standard operating procedure and the African Union guidelines on assessment for mission service and assessment of operational capabilities.

44. The United Nations Office to the African Union provided strategic and technical support to the African Union in the areas of human resource policy development and reforms to strengthen institutional capacity, improve operational effectiveness and ensure alignment with best practices. Such support included the review, updating and drafting of human resources policies, culminating in the development of the first draft of the African Union human resources manual and administrative guidelines for field missions. Following the endorsement, at the eighth United Nations-African Union conference, of a curriculum for the operational synergy training programme for the African Union-United Nations resource programme, the United Nations convened a workshop from 24 to 28 February 2025 with capacity development experts from the African Union to design the programme. Through the triangular partnership programme, and in collaboration with the Office, the United Nations customized and launched the first field medical assistants course and an associated train-the-trainers course for troop-contributing countries of the African Union. The two courses, which were developed in coordination with the African Union, were customized to meet the requirements for African Union peace support operations and are intended to enhance the safety and security of medical and non-medical practitioners. The engineering and medical courses organized under the triangular partnership programme now include components on countering improvised explosive devices, in order to enhance the preparedness of personnel deployed to high-risk operations such as AUSSOM.

#### **Partnership in peacebuilding and the rule of law**

45. The United Nations maintained strong collaboration with the African Union on initiatives related to peacebuilding and the rule of law, in particular security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and mine action.

46. On 15 October 2024, the Peace and Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission held their 7th annual consultative meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting underscored the importance of closer partnership between the two organizations in supporting peacebuilding efforts, including preventing relapse into conflict, through information-sharing and joint analysis with a view to supporting national and regional priorities in peacebuilding and development. Participants acknowledged that the global context and the complex nature of conflicts called for a multidisciplinary approach, including security approaches and investments in peacebuilding, socioeconomic development and resilient institutions.

47. The United Nations continued to support the African Union in the implementation of its policy framework for security sector reform, including by

participating in the 6th annual meeting of the African Union Steering Committee on Security Sector Reform in December 2024. The United Nations Office to the African Union supported an African Union study on processes for security sector reform led at the national level. The study informed the meeting of the Peace and Security Council held on 7 May 2025, at which key strategic areas were recommended in order to promote security sector governance in Africa across the conflict cycle.

48. As part of the African Union project on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration capacity, the United Nations and the World Bank Group jointly provided support, including through the annual meeting of the African Union-Regions Standing Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration. The United Nations Office to the African Union also supported several activities of the African Union, including two policy forums, in November 2024 and January 2025, as part of a research project on regional approaches to armed group dynamics in the Sahel. The Office supported the organization of a workshop held on 19 and 20 March 2025 on the political dimensions of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, which highlighted the utility of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in mediation and political processes. The Office also supported human-rights-based early warning, something that emphasizes the importance of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration as an entry point.

49. Acting through the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Mine Action Service, the United Nations extended support to the African Union in relation to mine action and countering improvised explosive devices. That support included participation in a joint assessment mission for the Multinational Joint Task Force, with a focus on improvised explosive device threats in the Force's area of operation. The two entities also provided technical assistance to the African Union for a mine action assessment mission in Zimbabwe.

#### **Partnership in countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism**

50. Working in consultation with the United Nations Office to the African Union, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, as the secretariat of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, continued to advance cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations. Such cooperation included the adoption of a decisions document, in support of the implementation of action 23 of the Pact for the Future on enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional and subregional organizations to prevent and combat terrorism in accordance with international law.

51. The Office of Counter-Terrorism extended its technical and capacity-building assistance to the African Union and its States members, including through its programmes on border security and management, fusion cells, countering terrorist travel, the protection of vulnerable targets, and preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism. It continued to seek resources for these efforts, including through the Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa. Representatives of the African Union participated in United Nations high-level events, including the annual retreat of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, held on 25 June 2025 with the theme "Strengthening partnerships between regional organizations and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact through policy interventions and capacity-building".

## **IV. Partnership with other regional organizations and arrangements**

### **Regional economic communities and regional mechanisms**

52. The United Nations and the African Union collaborated with regional economic communities and mechanisms to address peace and security challenges on the continent, based on comparative advantages.

53. In the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations and the African Union worked closely with the East African Community, SADC and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided technical and logistical support to the Southern African Development Community Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in line with Security Council resolution [2746 \(2024\)](#). The action plan of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region for 2025–2027, adopted on 28 May 2025 at the 12th meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, is aimed at bringing together United Nations entities to contribute knowledge, expertise and other resources towards peace in the region.

54. With regard to South Sudan, with IGAD in the lead and the United Nations and the African Union providing support, parties to the conflict were consistently engaged with in order to bring the peace process back on track in pursuit of a peaceful and credible end to the transition period.

55. With regard to the Sudan, the United Nations, the African Union and IGAD remained actively involved in efforts to address the devastating conflict. The three organizations worked closely together to facilitate a cessation of hostilities and an inclusive Sudanese-led political process, including with the League of Arab States.

### **Other regional organizations and arrangements**

56. The African Union, the European Union and the United Nations worked together in support of peace and security efforts in Africa. They convened their fifth trilateral meeting in New York on 22 September 2024, at which they discussed peace, development and humanitarian efforts in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. They commended the Security Council for its adoption of resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#) on the financing of African Union-led peace support operations through United Nations assessed contributions on a case-by-case basis. They also exchanged views on migration, including in the context of the African Union-European Union-United Nations tripartite task force on the situation of migrants and refugees in Libya.

## **V. Other activities of the United Nations Office to the African Union**

57. The United Nations Office to the African Union continued to serve as the leading interlocutor in Addis Ababa and the facilitator of the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in peace and security matters. The Office worked to ensure a well-coordinated, coherent and strategic approach to the partnership between the two organizations in the area of peace and security, liaising closely with United Nations Headquarters, regional offices and the agencies, funds and programmes accredited to the African Union. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the Office provided critical

leadership in United Nations engagement with the African Union, its States members and other partners in peace and security. He has developed and nurtured strong and constructive relationships underpinned by shared values and principles and the three joint frameworks.

58. The United Nations Office to the African Union engaged frequently with the African Union Commission and other organs of the Union to facilitate greater alignment between the two organizations. The Special Representative met regularly with the senior leadership of the Commission, particularly with the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security. The Office and the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union maintained the practice of holding an annual retreat to identify priorities for their collaboration. At the most recent retreat held on 5 March 2025, participants reflected on the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations in the area of peace and security in a context of a challenged multilateral system. The retreat provided insights into the strategic priorities for 2025, and reaffirmed the mutual commitment to enhance the partnership, greater coherence and more focused technical collaboration.

59. The Special Representative fostered a strong relationship with the Peace and Security Council. In addition to regularly briefing the Council on a range of peace and security matters, he held monthly meetings with the rotating Chairperson of the Council to further strengthen collaboration and information-sharing. He also met regularly with representatives of States members of the African Union and with members of the diplomatic corps in Addis Ababa. The United Nations Office to the African Union worked closely with the Peace and Security Council secretariat to coordinate preparations for meetings with the Security Council and facilitate briefings to the Peace and Security Council by United Nations special representatives, envoys and other senior officials. The Office also developed strong relationships with regional think tanks participating in the African Network of Think Tanks for Peace established by the African Union Commission.

60. Since my previous report, the United Nations and the African Union Commission have resumed the director-level consultative meetings facilitated by the United Nations Office to the African Union. Conflict prevention and horizon-scanning cluster meetings were also held at the technical level. Those mechanisms enabled the two organizations to share perspectives and analyses of emerging and ongoing threats to peace and security, and to strategize with regard to possible joint and coordinated efforts to address them.

61. With regard to climate, peace and security, the United Nations Office to the African Union supported other African Union-led initiatives, including a technical session on climate, peace and security with the African Group of Negotiators and member States held on 7 April 2025 during the sixth Africa climate talks, and a working session held on 15 May on integrating climate, peace and security considerations into the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative.

62. During the reporting period, the United Nations Office to the African Union deepened its partnership with the African Union on gender and on women and peace and security. Together with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office provided technical advice to the African Union with a view to drafting a policy framework for a minimum 30 per cent quota for women's participation in African Union-led peace processes. In August 2024, at the request of the African Union, the Office and other United Nations entities supported the convening of the Juba dialogue on women's participation in constitution making.

63. In December 2024, my Special Representative to the African Union participated in the fifth Africa Forum on the women and peace and security agenda at the African Union Headquarters. He continued to encourage the Peace and Security Council to advance women's effective participation in leadership roles and in peacebuilding processes. He emphasized the need to protect women and prevent conflict-related sexual violence in accordance with the Framework of Cooperation between the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the African Union Commission Concerning the Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence in Africa. The United Nations Office to the African Union supported the deployment of members of the African Women Leaders Network and the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa) as facilitators, for instance to Namibia, to conduct high-level advocacy in relation to elections.

64. Lastly, the United Nations Office to the African Union provided support to the African Union in the design and delivery of training and other capacity development programmes aimed at personnel from regional economic communities and mechanisms, including military police and civilians deployed in African Union-mandated and authorized peace support operations. A total of 28 training programmes were delivered in various critical knowledge areas. The Office also supported the African Union in the planning of a continental maritime exercise and worked with the African Union Commission to establish a continental maritime coordination centre. It further supported the development of a facilitators' guide and toolkit for the generic predeployment training of the African Union formed police unit. It provided technical and strategic advice to build capacities for security sector reform in States members of the African Union, including through monitoring and evaluation exercises conducted in November 2024, and to develop training tools for operational guidance notes.

## VI. Observations and recommendations

65. A strong multilateral system, anchored in international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to effectively address the most pressing challenges of the present time related to peace and security, sustainable development and human rights. The Pact for the Future, which was adopted on 22 September 2024, renewed the commitment of Member States to multilateralism and international cooperation, guided by the principles of trust, equity, solidarity and universality. The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union forms a key pillar of that multilateral system.

66. I warmly welcome the commitment of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to further strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. Looking ahead, it is important to build on the progress made in the past few years in strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, and efforts must be intensified to ensure that the partnership is mutually reinforcing, more responsive and more effective for the peoples that the organizations serve.

67. The framework established by the Security Council in resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#) represents a critical opportunity to ensure the predictable and sustainable funding for African Union-led peace support operations. The resolution underscores the mutually supportive role that the African Union and the United Nations can play in advancing peace on the continent. I regret the lack of consensus in the Council on the hybrid application of the resolution to AUSSOM. The United Nations and the African Union Commission will continue to work side by side in implementing the joint road map

to strengthen institutional and operational readiness within the framework of the resolution.


68. I pay tribute to the many sacrifices made by the Somali security forces and AUSSOM in combating Al-Shabaab. I am deeply concerned about the dire financial situation of AUSSOM, which remains critical in order to support Somalia in the final phase of the security transition. I call on all partners to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for the Mission.

69. The conflict in the Sudan continues despite various mediation efforts. The devastating impact of the conflict is being felt across the region, including the influx of refugees to neighbouring countries. There is a need for sustained and coordinated international efforts to urgently secure a ceasefire and advance an inclusive intra-Sudanese dialogue. I reiterate my call for an immediate cessation of hostilities. My Personal Envoy for the Sudan remains committed to ongoing efforts in search of a resolution to the conflict.

70. I welcome the signing of the peace agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda in Washington, D.C. on 27 June 2025, the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Alliance Fleuve Congo/M23 in Doha on 19 July 2025, in complementarity with the African Union-led mediation initiatives, all of which are aimed at fully and sustainably resolving the persistent conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is important that the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council accompany those processes.

71. The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union continues to grow in depth and scope, covering the three pillars of peace and security, development and human rights. I express my appreciation to the African Union Commission and its other organs, to African Member States, and to the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, for their efforts and collaboration towards addressing challenges to peace, security and development in Africa.


72. Lastly, I wish to express my appreciation to my Special Representative to the African Union, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, and to the staff of the United Nations Office to the African Union and all United Nations and African Union entities, for their role in continuing to foster a strong partnership between the two organizations in peace and security.












# UNITED NATIONS - AFRICAN UNION PARTNERSHIP

## IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MEDIATION, PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEBUILDING

August 2024 - July 2025

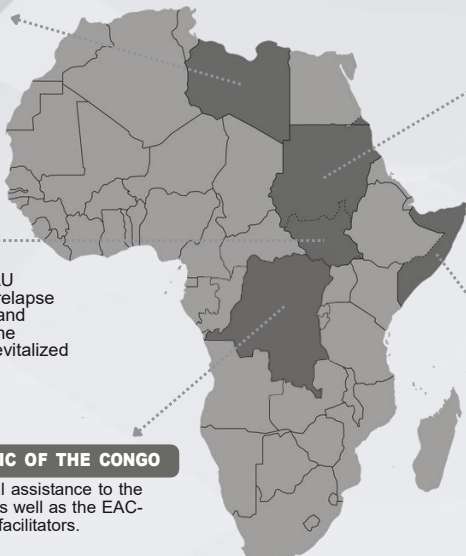


### POLICY DIALOGUE

-  1 Annual Joint Consultative Meetings between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council
-  1 informal meeting of the AUPSC Military Staff Committee and representatives of the Security Council Military Staff Committee
-  10 informal coordination meetings between the incoming President of the Security Council and the Chairperson of the AUPSC, facilitated by the AU and the UN
-  1 consultative meeting between the AU Peace and Security Council and the UN Peacebuilding Commission
-  26 UN briefings to the AU Peace and Security Council
-  1 UN-AU Annual Conference between the Secretary-General and the AUC Chairperson
-  1 UN-AU High-level Dialogue on Human Rights
-  1 meeting of the UN-AU Joint Task Force on peace and security
-  1 joint retreat of the AU and UN special representatives and envoys

### LIBYA

The UN focused on advancing an inclusive, Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process that leads to national elections and unified institutions, while AU supported efforts to advance national reconciliation.

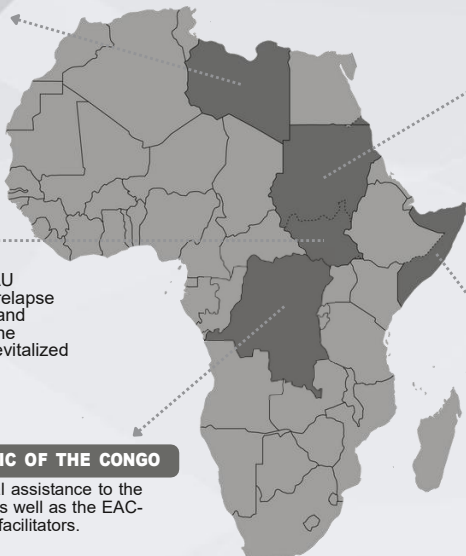


### SUDAN

In the midst of a devastating conflict, the UN, the AU, IGAD and LAS enhanced coordination to pursue a cessation of hostilities and advance an inter-Sudanese dialogue.

### SOUTH SUDAN

The UN, IGAD and the AU worked on preventing a relapse into widespread conflict and refocusing attention on the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement.












### SOMALIA

The UN continued to work closely with the AU on the transition from ATMIS to AUSSOM.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The UN provided technical assistance to the AU-designated Mediator as well as the EAC-SADC-appointed panel of facilitators.


### COMMITMENTS

-  The Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the AU Commission endorsed the Joint Roadmap for the operationalization of UN Security Council resolution 2719 (2023).
-  The UN provided technical assistance to the AU on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; climate, peace and security; and the use of new technologies in early warning.
-  The UN Climate Security Mechanism, in partnership with UNOAU, convened the 2025 Partnership Dialogue in Addis Ababa.
-  The UN provided technical support to the AU Peace Fund, which surpassed \$400 million in endowment.
-  The UN provided support and expert advice to the AU and regional peace operations, such as AUSSOM and MNJTF, and the operationalization of the African Standby Force.
-  The UN assisted the AU in the design and delivery of 28 training programmes.
-  The UN continued supporting the implementation of the AU Compliance and Accountability Framework.
-  The UN supported the deployment of members of the African Women Leaders Network and FemWise-Africa to conduct high-level advocacy on elections.
-  The UN launched the first Field Medical Assistants Course (FMAC) and FMAC Training of Trainers for Troop-Contributing Countries of AU peace support operations.

*ATMIS: African Union Transition Mission in Somalia; AUSSOM: African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia; EAC: East African Community; FemWise-Africa: Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation; IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development; LAS: League of Arab States; MNJTF: Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram; SADC: Southern African Development Community.*

*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.*

For more information, visit [dppa.un.org](http://dppa.un.org), [peacekeeping.un.org](http://peacekeeping.un.org) and [unau.unmissions.org](http://unau.unmissions.org)



**PREVENTING CONFLICT  
KEEPING THE PEACE  
SUSTAINING PEACE**