

## Sixth Annual informal consultative meeting between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission

New York/Addis Ababa, 13 November 2022

### Summary

On 13 November 2023, the Chair of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission convened the sixth annual informal consultative meeting between the two bodies. The meeting was an opportunity to further strengthen the partnership between the two bodies in support to peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts in Africa building on the review of the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy, the United Nations Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace and ahead of the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture in 2025. The meeting was briefed by the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. Participants welcomed the progress made in collaboration between the AU PSC and the UN PBC and called for further strengthening the partnership between the two bodies through strategic and concrete actions. They shared ideas to strengthen support for regional and national peacebuilding efforts in Africa, including through taking comprehensive, coherent and multidimensional approach in line with the principle of national ownership and leadership; enhancing inclusivity of the efforts with meaningful participation of civil society actors, especially women and youth; ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing; and enhancing collaboration among key peacebuilding actors.

1. On 13 November 2023, the Chair of of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC), H.E. Mr. Abdi Mahamoud Eybe, and the Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (UN PBC), H.E. Mr. Ivan Šimonović, convened the sixth annual informal consultative meeting between the two bodies. The Chair of the Commission was accompanied by H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith and H.E. Mr. Thomas Peter Zahneisen, Vice Chairs of the Commission, H.E. Mr. Sérgio França Danese, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the PBC, H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Chair of the Central African Republic Configuration of the PBC, and H.E. Ms. Anna Karin Eneström, Chair of the Liberia Configuration of the PBC. The meeting was an opportunity to further strengthen the partnership between the two bodies in support to peacebuilding efforts and sustaining peace in Africa and recommend areas for further cooperation between the two bodies, building on the review of the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy and the United Nations Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace and, and ahead of the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture in 2025. The meeting was held on the occasion of the visit of the Chair of the UN PBC to the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa.
2. In his opening remarks, **H.E. Mr. Abdi Mahamoud Eybe, the Chair of the AU PSC**, underscored the importance of strengthening the strategic partnership between the AU PSC and the UN PBC in support of the future of Africa. He noted that, building on the past informal consultative meetings between the two bodies, there was a new momentum for strengthened

cooperation between the two bodies in support of prevention and peacebuilding as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development. He stressed the need to reinforce collective commitments for peace in Africa and jointly prioritize conflict prevention drawing also on the United Nations Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace. The importance of anticipating early on tensions and acting proactively in addressing and solving them was deemed paramount to lessen the risk of conflict. He also called for strengthening efforts of mediation and facilitation of dialogues with all key actors, as well as support for capacity-building to promote reconciliation and strengthen social cohesion. Noting that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without ensuring equality and inclusion, he highlighted the importance of protecting and promoting human rights; advancing social inclusion and economic justice and addressing discrimination and violent extremism in order to achieve sustainable peace. In concluding, he urged all actors to work towards coordinated action for peace on the African continent.

3. **H.E. Mr. Ivan Šimonović, the Chair of the UN PBC**, highlighted that the UN PBC continues to mobilize support for regional and national peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts in Africa, with national ownership being at the core of its work. He stressed the critical importance of a holistic approach to peace and security encompassing development, humanitarian assistance, and human rights, as reflected in both the policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace and the revised AU PCRDR Policy. He underlined that the strengthening role of the PBC can be best achieved through fostering enhanced collaborative partnerships with key peacebuilding actors. He shared suggestions to enhance the AU PSC-UN PBC partnership, including (1) increased and more frequent interactions between the two bodies, with at least one ambassadorial informal consultative meeting and one expert-level meeting per year; (2) strengthened knowledge and information exchange on an ad hoc basis, including through the Commission's consultation with the AU PSC ahead of the provision of advice to the General Assembly and the Security Council; (3) joint engagement with regional economic communities and regional mechanisms (RECs/RMs), international and regional financial institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector; (4) joint support for the development and implementation of regional and national prevention strategies in Africa; (5) joint country visits; and (6) establishment of a focal point for the partnership between the two bodies.
4. **H.E. Mr. Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security** noted that the engagement between the AU PSC and the UN PBC demonstrated a clear aspiration to achieving collective and tangible actions. Taking note of the UN Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace, he emphasized that the AU Agenda 2063 focuses on both building peace and advancing sustainable development. Furthermore, he stressed the need for all the actors to work together to build and sustain peace while at the same time advancing post-conflict reconstruction and development. He therefore called for exploring the possible synergies and roles of the AU and the UN PBC to this end. He dwelled on steps taken by the AU Commission in support of the review of the AU PCRDR Policy, including the establishment of the AU working group for PCRDR. He noted that the review highlighted two new major pillars namely, the role of youth and environmental sustainability. He called for reinvigorating efforts to build peace in a manner that leads to inclusive and multidimensional development. He underscored the importance to work on the development

of the “sustainable peace network” to foster cooperation for peacebuilding. Noting that the AU Commission looks forward to the 2024 Summit of Future and the 2025 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, he urged to factor the special needs of Africa in advancing joint efforts to robustly prevent conflict.

5. **H.E. Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the AU and Head of the United Nations Office to the AU** commended the work and continuous commitment of the UN PBC and the AU PSC in support of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development in Africa. In fostering further the UN-AU partnership, he recommended that policies be more holistic, coordinated and mutually reinforcing with a focus on preventing conflict and building and sustaining peace. While acknowledging that the annual informal consultative meetings of the AU PSC and the UN PBC have created momentum for continued collaboration, he called on the two bodies to commit to deeper and mutually reinforcing engagement. In connection with A New Agenda for Peace, he emphasized the critical importance to prioritize the development of regional, subregional and national capacities to prevent and manage conflict and encourage countries to develop national prevention strategies. He stressed the need to ensure that peacebuilding strategies are inclusive and nationally owned, taking into account all national stakeholders, including the government, women and youth, and civil society organizations. He concluded his remarks with a call for adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding in Africa.
6. **Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support**, emphasized the potential as well as momentum for greater synergies and closer collaboration between the AU PSC and the UN PBC. She conveyed UN Secretariat’s commitment to support the partnership between the two bodies, building on both the New Agenda for Peace and the revised AU PCR Policy. She underscored the critical importance to ensure financing for peacebuilding and called on the AU PSC and the UN PBC to jointly mobilize investment in peacebuilding; support to peace-positive investment of the private sector in fragile and conflict-affected settings; and advance partnerships with international financial institutions. Highlighting the catalytic support provided in Africa by the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), she emphasized its potential to be scaled up and reinforced with the upcoming projects of the AU Peace Fund. Finally, she reiterated the importance of strengthening partnerships with RECs/RMs, international financial institutions as well as civil society actors, including women and youth, in support of peacebuilding. She noted the AU pivotal role in championing the youth, peace and security agenda and youth’s meaningful role in peacebuilding.
7. In the ensuing discussion, participants welcomed the briefings and made the following remarks:
  - They recognized the 2024 Summit of the Future and 2025 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture as important milestones in strengthening collective support for peacebuilding

and sustaining peace in Africa. They emphasized in that regard the need to take strategic and concrete actions to accelerate this collective effort.

- They urged the UN and the AU to continue to enhance the partnership in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Enhanced complementarity and synergies between the two bodies were deemed critical in leveraging comparative advantages, building on the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.
- They welcomed the progress already made in the review of the AU PCRDP Policy pending the adoption of the revised policy at the upcoming AU Summit. They proposed to create a joint action plan for the further operationalization of the policy.
- They welcomed the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General contained in his policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace, including the formalization of the participation of regional organizations in the UN PBC to enable holistic engagement, coordination and inclusiveness in its work. They encouraged the Commission to include the AU more rigorously in its deliberation, including ahead of the provision of its advice to the General Assembly and the Security Council.
- They welcomed the progress made in terms of collaboration between the AU PSC and the UN PBC and called for strengthening the partnership through strategic and concrete actions, including through: increased and more frequent interactions between the two bodies at both ambassadorial-level and expert-level; enhanced information sharing; joint engagement with key peacebuilding actors; joint support for the development and implementation of regional and national prevention strategies; and joint country visit, among others.
- They underscored the critical importance of national ownership and leadership and inclusivity in regional and national peacebuilding efforts. To ensure legitimacy and sustainability of peacebuilding process, they stressed the need to ensure meaningful participation of civil society actors, especially women and youth. They encouraged in that regard engagement with local communities in regional and national peacebuilding efforts.
- They emphasized the need for comprehensive, coherent and multidimensional approach to prevention and peacebuilding and called for accelerating the efforts to advance the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- They stressed the urgent need to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for peacebuilding as well as equitable access to resources, building on the General Assembly resolution on financing for peacebuilding (A/RES/76/305). They called for allocating assessed contributions of the UN to the AU-led peace support operations. They also stressed the need to increase funding to the PBF to support catalytic funding to peacebuilding efforts in Africa.

- They underlined that prevention and peacebuilding need stronger collaboration and partnerships among all key peacebuilding actors, including international and regional financial institutions, RECs/RMs, civil society organizations and the private sector.

### *Chair's recommendations*

- Increase interactions between the AU PSC and the UN PBC at both ambassadorial and expert-level, including at least one ambassadorial-level informal consultative meeting and one expert-level meetings per year, with a focus on challenges and opportunities, as well as good practices and lessons learned, regarding specific themes, regions, and countries related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa.
- Strengthen exchanges of knowledge, information, and practices between the two bodies, including through consultation with the AU PSC in support of the Commission's advisory role to the General Assembly and the Security Council.
- Jointly engage with RECs/RMs, international and regional financial institutions, civil society organizations, private sector and among others in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa.
- Jointly support the development and implementation of regional and national prevention strategies in Africa.
- Explore joint country visits of the AU PSC and the UN PBC to countries and regions in Africa, as appropriate, and joint advocacy for necessary resources for peacebuilding activities.
- Establish a focal point in the Peacebuilding Commission for AU- UN PBC partnership.
- Explore opportunities for experience sharing and learning through cross fertilization of ideas and staff exchange among the staff of the UN and the AU.