The United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) has continued to enhance the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union through strategic level coordination, regular interaction and technical support to the African Union. In 2014, UNOAU and the African Union Peace and Security Department adopted a Joint Framework for ‘An Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security’ in the areas of early warning, joint analysis, conflict prevention, addressing conflict including peace operations, and peacebuilding. A work plan with the AU Department of Political Affairs was also developed focusing on governance support through policy advice on electoral assistance and constitutional support.

The United Nations' sustained engagement with the AU has been instrumental for the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) across its key pillars. On a systematic basis, UNOAU delivered UN statements to the AU peace and Security Council (AUPSC) bringing UN and AU positions closer. In parallel, the SRSG’s engagement with the three African members of the UN Security Council was strengthened through regular consultation. UNOAU established joint analysis teams with the Continental Early Warning System to scan potential crisis in Africa. On the African Standby Force, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department of Field Support (DFS) and UNOAU, undertook a joint assessment with the African Union Commission, to define the support required from the United Nations towards the operationalization of the African Standby Force.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General presented to the Security Council, in a Letter dated 2 January 2015, the key findings and recommendations from a lessons learned exercise on the transitions from the African Union peace operations to United Nations peacekeeping missions in Mali and the Central African Republic. The lessons learned exercise which was coordinated by DPKO, DFS and UNOAU recommended, inter alia, that creative and flexible mechanisms be developed between the African Union and the United Nations, to be employed, when and where appropriate, to inform future transformation processes. In parallel, UNOAU has continued to provide support for developing and refining African Union policies and guidelines for conflict prevention and peace support operations, including the AU Continental Structural Conflict Prevention Framework, the AU Mission Start-up Guide, the AU SSR Policy Framework and the DDR capacity building programme through the development of three Operational Guidance Notes on Security Sector Reform (SSR), and five AU Operational Guidance Notes on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). At operational levels, the Office provided technical assistance and mission support to African Union engagements in the Central African Republic and in support of the African Union Mission in Somalia.