

Mr. David Mehdi Hamam, Director, OSAA
STATEMENT

**Sub-regional virtual Workshop on
Strengthening the capacity of African Countries to design and
implement policies that promote the nexus between peace,
humanitarian work, development, and human rights for an
accelerated implementation of the SDGs**

Virtual Workshop for Central, Northern and Western Africa Subregions

10-11 June 2021

- Distinguished Participants and Delegates. Ladies and Gentlemen. All protocol observed.
- On behalf of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) and Under-Secretary General and Special Adviser on Africa, I would like to first welcome you all to this 2-day virtual sub-regional workshop for Central, Northern and Western Africa Subregions.
- I am most grateful for the participation of all representatives from African Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and African Think Tanks, as well as UN entities.
- OSAA through its advocacy and analytical work, continues to highlight emerging and persisting challenges in promoting the nexus approach in Africa.
- It has collaborated with UN entities, the AU and Experts as well as Researchers to deliberate on the role of advocacy and research in strengthening the nexus approach in Africa.
- One of the major gaps identified was the need for capacity building for Member States to consider the benefits of incorporating humanitarian, human rights and peacebuilding objectives and activities and their linkages with development in their own planning processes.

- In this context OSAA is organizing this virtual regional workshop for Central, Northern and Western Africa Subregions to contribute to building the capacity of African member States' policy makers to design and implement policies that promote the nexus between peace, security, human rights, humanitarian affairs and development.
- The workshop also aims at validating the baseline assessment study.
- Yesterday, we concluded the 2-day virtual regional Workshop for Southern and Eastern Subregions.
- The workshop, which had very stimulating and fruitful discussions provided a conceptual and analytical basis for strengthening the nexus approach in Africa.
- The workshop highlighted key topics and recommendations on issues on humanitarian affairs, peace, security, governance, and climate change, which will be used to enrich the baseline assessment study and training manual.
- In this regard, the workshop has validated the baseline assessment study.
- Ladies and Gentlemen, the complex and often protracted crises and fragile post-conflict situations in Africa, which has also been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic is reversing the hard-fought socio-economic development gains in Africa.
- The 2030 Agenda and the Africa Union Agenda 2063 recognize that development, peace, security, humanitarian, and human rights efforts are complementary and need to reinforce each other, to promote inclusive and sustainable development in Africa and around the world.

- This calls for adopting comprehensive and holistic approaches spanning the nexus on peace, security, development, human rights, and humanitarian affairs.
- In 2019, the UN Secretary-General issued a global call for a decade of action to deliver the SDGs by 2030. The decade of action calls Member States to deeply orient their domestic policies and actions with the 2030 Agenda.
- This requires them to develop integrated development frameworks, empower sustainable development governance mechanisms, create insightful and inclusive data systems, and deliver ambitious climate plans, among others.
- In this regard, and in order help strengthen the capacity of African countries in integrating the nexus in their policies and plans, OSAA is implementing an extra-budgetary project on “Strengthening the capacity of African Countries to design and implement policies that promote the nexus between peace, security and development for an accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.
- The project which is being implemented in close collaboration with key implementing partners including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UN-Office of High Representative on Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), is funded from the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund through the support of the People’s Republic of China.
- We are grateful to the People’s Republic of China for their generous financial support for this project.
- Through this project, OSAA aims to contribute towards raising awareness of and strengthen capacities of African countries, to formulate and implement

policies that reinforce the interlinkages between development, peace, security, humanitarian affairs, and human rights.

- Furthermore, by promoting the nexus approach this would contribute towards breaking the silos and building back better from the coronavirus pandemic while further accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.
- In line with the objectives of the project, OSAA commissioned a baseline assessment study to help promote the synergies between these different pillars in order to accelerate sustainable development across Africa.
- In undertaking the baseline study, OSAA administered a survey to African Governments and civil society organizations aimed at identifying African perspectives on the nexus.
- The baseline assessment study assesses the degree of awareness and capacity of African countries to formulate and implement policies that reinforce the interlinkages on development, peace, security, humanitarian efforts and human rights.
- The study also seeks to assess the understanding of the nexus at national level and therefore the capacity needed to implement policies and strategies that take into consideration the nexus approach.
- Based on the baseline study, a training manual has also been prepared.
- The four sub-regional studies on the interlinkages between the development, peace and security, human rights, and humanitarian pillars, prepared by ECA are complementary to the regional baseline assessment study.
- I wish to commend ECA for the preparation of these four sub-regional studies.
- In this regard, the workshops aim at identifying policy recommendations that could be used by member states to integrate the aspects of the nexus in their

national development plans to sustain peace and promote sustainable development.

- Our meetings today and tomorrow are equally important as they provide us with the opportunity to review and discuss contents and findings of the assessment study and training manual and enrich them.
- Following, which we will validate the baseline assessment study.
- Both documents will be officially launched at a global platform in due course.
- Finally, I wish you fruitful deliberations and look forward to the outcome of the workshops.
- I thank you.