

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

**11 November 2021
Chair's Summary**

1. On 11 November, the Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (UN PBC), H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek and the Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC), H.E. Mr. Mohamed Gad, convened a virtual informal consultative meeting to identify ways of further enhancing cooperation between the two bodies on the accompaniment of critical political transitions currently undergoing in Africa in the pursuit of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
2. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) H.E. Mr. Mohamed Gad, stressed the importance for the AU and the UN to strengthen their support to African countries undergoing transitions. He also noted that peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD) needed to be context specific, conflict sensitive and avoid imposing models. Peacebuilding and PCRD should take into consideration national ownership along with cultural and social specificities, which requires holding consultations with concerned countries during the early phase of a transition. While recognizing the necessity to pay attention to countries in the Horn of Africa, the Chairperson of the AU PSC also highlighted that countries in the Sahel and the Great Lakes Region needed immediate attention and support to achieve and sustain peace. In the Sahel region, joint efforts must be redoubled to build strong and resilient institutions with a strong focus on mediation, facilitation and dialogue, constitutionalism, and free and fair elections. In the Great Lakes Region, efforts must be stepped up to reinforce DDR and SSR programs.
3. In his opening remarks, the Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (UN PBC), H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek highlighted that the ongoing reform efforts at the AU, coupled with the UN reforms had provided an opportunity for fostering more closely aligned strategies for a shared UN-AU peacebuilding and PCRD agenda for sustaining peace in Africa. He stressed the importance to recognize and address gaps in institutional capacities and work systematically in bridging these gaps. While recognizing the wide range of tools, policies, and normative frameworks at the disposal of the AU in the context of peacebuilding and political transitions, the Chair of the PBC noted more needs to be done to fully operationalize these toolkits, including obtaining sufficient funding. He therefore underlined the need for stronger partnerships to ensure that peacebuilding activities are adequately resourced during political transitions in Africa, as demonstrated by the latest high-level roundtable on Financing Peacebuilding in Peacekeeping and Transitional Contexts, organized in collaboration with the

Cairo International Centre for Peacebuilding (CCCPA). Last, the Chair emphasized the necessity for both organizations to continue to explore synergies and comparative advantages and strengthen peacebuilding activities to maximize impact on the ground for countries and their communities while ensuring a shared understanding of country specific priorities.

4. H.E. Mr. Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security praised the timeliness of this 4th informal consultative meeting between the AUPSC and the PBC which took place during the AU PCRD Awareness Week ahead of the inauguration of the AU PCRD center in Cairo. He underscored the importance of the nexus between peace, security, governance, and development in Africa and the need for the UN to do more to address the current regression of democracy and the expansion of violent extremism and terrorism in some parts of Africa and promote human rights in conflict prevention, democracy, and gender equality to ensure consistently the spread of these values on the continent. He raised the importance for both entities to remain jointly committed to support peacebuilding in African countries keeping in mind long term social and development issues with the view of implementing the Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. Ms. Hanna Tetteh, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the African Union stressed that peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and development must be built on a strong UN-AU partnership. In this regard, she emphasized the successful collaboration in Burundi and the Central African Republic where the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund supported key AU-initiatives. SRSg Tetteh also called for more support to regional capacities and strengthened AU-UN partnership in close collaboration with International Financial Institutions and subregional organizations highlighting the crucial role of the RECs/RMs in peacebuilding. The SRSg noted that the UN PBC has engaged in 16 African contexts to support peacebuilding strategies in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders such as the AU and subregional bodies to address a range of political, socio-economic and security challenges currently transcending borders, including the effects of climate change. She also welcomed the upcoming PBC meeting on Chad in close cooperation with the AU. The strengthening of the cooperation between the two entities must include a strengthened engagement with civil society including women and the youth, which are playing an increasingly important role in facilitating local peacebuilding. Last, SRSg Tetteh emphasized that these efforts complement the vision outlined by the Secretary-General's report "Our Common Agenda" for stronger commitments and technical and financial investments in prevention and peacebuilding.
6. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:
 - They stressed the importance of strengthening the coordination of UN-AU efforts when it comes to political dialogue and support to countries undergoing transition in Africa. In this regard, they noted the opportunity offered by the ongoing AU and UN structural reforms to adopt a holistic, and comprehensive approach to

peacebuilding activities. This holistic approach must be based on national ownership supported by a range of stakeholders including civil society; it should also encompass early warning and conflict prevention, and ensure coherence between peace, security, and socio-economic development throughout the country's transition cycle.

- They called for further collaboration and coordination between the two organizations, in close coordination with International Financial Institutions and subregional organizations underlining the crucial role of the RECs/RMs in supporting national peacebuilding priorities.
- They encouraged further discussions on cross-cutting issues of mutual interest, including the capacity and institution-building, the rule of law as well as SSR and DDR. They also noted the importance of mental health and psychosocial responses as an important component of DDR processes.
- They called for the strengthening of the regional approach between concerned stakeholders to address cross border issues complementing national peacebuilding efforts with the aim of sustaining peace in the Sahel and Great Lakes Region. They agreed to foster more closely regional strategies supporting regional capacities to sustain peace in Africa and reiterated their willingness to work together to mobilize peacebuilding tools in support of engagement for political solutions. The Peacebuilding Fund and the African Union Fund constitute key tools that need to be supported by the international community to achieve and sustain peace in Africa.
- They reiterated the importance of ensuring broader participation of stakeholders in the political transition processes in Africa by recognizing the critical role of women peacebuilders and youth in peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery efforts, with the aim of achieving sustainable peace while safeguarding human rights. They further called for the Women, Peace and Security agenda to be fully integrated in regional and national peacebuilding efforts in line with the Gender Strategy and action plan of the UN PBC and the related AU strategic frameworks and initiatives such as the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation, officially referred to as FemWise-Africa.
- They underlined the necessity to do more for climate change and environmental protection to enable effective peacebuilding in Africa and in this regard, commended the upcoming meeting on climate security of the AU PSC.
- They underscored the importance of exploring innovative ways to ensure adequate, predictable, and sustained financing for peacebuilding during transitions in Africa. The pursuit of partnerships between the two bodies, IFIs and the private sector

should be further stepped up to support peacebuilding and post conflict reconstruction development programs in Africa, especially in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic recovery.

- They welcomed the presentation of the Secretary General’s Common Agenda including broadening the flexible agenda of the PBC to include more countries and regions. They stressed the need to further operationalize the New Agenda for Peace and raised their support for more adequate, predictable, and sustained financing for peacebuilding, some of them including additional contributions to the PBF.
 - They recognized the revitalization and operationalization of the African Union Policy Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development through the planned inauguration of the AU PCRD center in Cairo later in November. They called for deepening synergies between the AU Center and the UN Peacebuilding Architecture to align efforts in support of African owned and led peacebuilding activities during political transitions.
 - They welcomed stronger engagement of AU representatives in PBC meetings and suggested to hold more frequent meetings between the two bodies, including at the expert level, and, if resources permit it, to organize joint field visits in 2022, with a view to develop practical recommendations to both bodies for deepening their relationship. They called for strategic alignment of their Programs of Work and ensuring the AU representation in all relevant PBC meetings along with systematic references to AU-UN partnership in the PBC’s written advice to the Security Council on peacebuilding.
7. In their closing remarks, the Chair of the PBC and the Chair of the AU PSC thanked the briefers and the Member States for their interventions and reiterated the need to further strengthen the partnership between the two bodies for countries undergoing transitions in Africa, including at expert level. They underscored the importance of DDR and SSR programs for peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development initiatives while highlighting the critical role play women in conflict prevention. Last, further efforts must be done in the cooperation to ensure sustainable financing and funding on peacebuilding. The meeting closed with a reference to the next AU PSC meeting dedicated to climate change and security.