AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1095TH MEETING

1 AUGUST 2022
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1095 (2022)

COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUÉ

Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1095th meeting held on 1 August 2022 that was dedicated to a Joint Engagement between the PSC and the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance (HRDG).

The Peace and Security Council,

Noting the opening remarks by H.E. Jainaba Jagne, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of The Gambia to the AU, as Chairperson of the PSC for the month of August 2022, and the statement by the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, H.E. Bankole Adeoye, read on his behalf by Ambassador Calixte Mbari, the AU Acting Director for the Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate; ***also noting*** the briefing by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the AU, H.E. Taonga Mushayavanhu, as the Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance; as well as the statements by the Members of the Sub-Committee and the PSC Members;

Reaffirming the determination of the AU to promote, deepen and consolidate democracy, good governance and the rule of law, as well as the importance of ensuring that the Member States fully comply with the provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) throughout the African Continent, in line with the Preamble and Articles 3 and 4 of the AU Constitutive Act, and pursuant to Articles 3 (f) and 7 (m) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council;

Mindful of the nexus between human rights, democracy, and governance on the one hand, and peace, security and stability on the other;

Determined to effectively silence the guns in Africa by the year 2030, in order to create the necessary conducive conditions conducive for the realization of Agenda 2063 and the overall AU Vision of an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Continent; and

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:

1. ***Welcomes*** the convening of the Inaugural Joint Engagement between Council and the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance, with a view to exploring synergies and reinforcing the AU early warning and preventive diplomacy efforts;

2. ***Commends*** the Sub-Committee for its efforts to promote human rights, democracy and good governance in the Continent, including through seminars and other forms of civic education and awareness-raising campaigns, as well as for collaborating with the other key stakeholders, such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); and ***commends, in particular,*** H.E. Taonga Mushayavanhu Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe for his exemplary leadership of the Sub-Committee;

3. ***Emphasizes the nexus*** between the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Continent and, in this regard, ***underscores the importance*** of further strengthening the institutional capacity of the AGA-APSA Secretariat under the reconfigured Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, including by availing the necessary resources from within the Continent to ensure independence and effectiveness in the implementation of AGA and APSA;

4. ***Requests the Chairperson*** of the Commission to further strengthen the institutional capacity of the AGA-APSA Secretariat and the AGA Platform Members, in order for these critical institutions to more effectively discharge their respective mandates;

5. ***Underlines the importance*** of joint activities between the PSC and the Sub-Committee, as determined by the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub-Committee ;

6. ***Emphasizes the need*** for enhanced synergies and complementarity of efforts between the Council and the PRC Sub-committee, and Reiterates that the PSC remains the lead policy organ to steer this joint consultative process, in accordance with its mandate;

7. ***Encourages the Member States*** to establish strong, accountable, transparent institutions that are responsive to the legitimate demands of the population and effectively contribute towards the deepening and consolidation of democracy, constitutionalism, good governance, rule of law and the promotion of political stability;

8. ***Underscores the importance*** of universalization of signature and ratification of all AU normative instruments and Shared Values by all Member States, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Charter on Women's Rights, the African Charter on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the AU Convention on Prevention and Combating of Corruption; ***requests*** the Member States to expedite the universal signature and implementation of the ACDEG and fully support national institutions charged with the mandate of promoting democracy, human rights and good governance; as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; ***congratulates*** all Member States which have already acceded to these Continental and international normative instruments and ***encourages*** those that have not yet done so, to also do the same without further delays;

9. ***Takes note*** of the declaration of intent by the State of Libya to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) and ***looks forward*** to the actual ratification;

10. ***Recognizes*** the critical role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including the media and think tanks, in promoting human rights, democracy, good governance, peace, security and stability in the Continent, through civic education, awareness-raising campaigns and, in this regard, ***encourages*** the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance to engage CSOs through the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC);

11. ***Expresses deep concern*** over the devastating effects of the actions of non-State armed groups on the efforts of Member States to promote, human rights, democracy and good governance, as well as on the Continental peace and security agenda;

12. ***Underlines the need*** for Member States to promote gender equality and the mainstreaming of gender matters in the initiatives and work of the Subcommittee and the PSC in the promotion of democracy, peace and security;

13. ***Decides*** to institutionalize and regularize the Joint Engagement as an annual event to be held during the month of August; and

14. ***Decides*** to remain actively seized of the matter.