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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1167TH MEETING

11 AUGUST 2023
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/CN.1167 (2023)

CONCEPT NOTE

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC) ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PERMANENT PRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE (PRC) SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (HRDG), AND THE AFRICAN GOVERNANCE PLATFORM (AGP)

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC) ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PERMANENT PRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE (PRC) SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (HRDG), AND THE AFRICAN GOVERNANCE PLATFORM (AGP)

I. CONTEXT

1. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) had its inaugural engagement with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) Sub-Committee on Human Rights Democracy and Governance (HRDG) and the African Governance Architecture Platform (AGP) on 1 August 2022 and on 11 August 2022, respectively. One of the outcomes of both meetings was the decision to institutionalize and regularize the PSC engagements with both bodies on an annual basis.

2. The joint engagements are aimed at promoting, deepening, and consolidating democracy, good governance and the rule of law. Furthermore, as part of the outcomes of the previous engagement, the PSC underlined the importance of ensuring that Member States fully comply with the provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG) throughout the African Continent. These engagements are also in line with the AU Constitutive Act, Articles 3 and 4 and also, Articles 3(f) and 7(m) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, which focus on democratic governance, rule of law and human rights, as well as conflict prevention. The engagements also contribute towards enhancing synergies between and among AU Institutions and Organs, as well as between the AU and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) in the promotion of good governance, lasting peace, security, stability and development in Africa.

3. The joint engagement will also be an opportunity for exchanging ideas on specific and joint actions/activities that will engage the bureaus of both PSC, PRC Sub-Committee and the African Governance Platform. It is against this background that the PSC, under the chairship of the Republic of Burundi, will be convening a virtual session dedicated to the theme: "Engagement with the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance (HRDG), and the African Governance Architecture Platform (AGP)**,** on Friday, 11 August 2023, starting at 10:00 a.m., Addis Ababa Local Time.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE AND THE AFRICAN GOVERNANCE PLATFORM

4. The PRC Sub-Committee was operationalized pursuant to the Decision of the Executive Council's 33rd Ordinary Session held from 28-29 June 2019 in Nouakchott, Mauritania on the Report of the Joint Retreat of the Permanent Representative's Committee (PRC) and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) – DOC.EX.CL/1089(XXXIII). As part of the outcomes of the Session, the Executive Council underscored the need to: 'Operationalize the PRC Sub-Committee on human rights, democracy and governance as previously approved by the Executive Council, in order to follow up on implementation of the ACHPR decisions and recommendations'.

5. Essentially, the mandate of the Sub-Committee is to promote AU shared values on human rights, democracy and governance. The functions of the Sub-Committee include, but are not limited to: hearing briefings from African Governance Architecture Platform recommending policy initiatives, draft declarations, draft resolutions and decisions in the area of human rights, democracy and good governance, considering proposals/documents concerning the programs, policies, strategies of AU human rights, democracy and governance initiatives; supporting efforts and initiatives aimed at the full operationalization of the AGA, its platform and its synergy with the APSA.

6. The Sub-Committee comprises 15 Members, namely, South Sudan (Chair), Algeria (1st Vice Chair), Burundi (2nd Vice Chair), Niger (3rd Vice Chair), Lesotho (Rapporteur), Cameroon, Chad, Eritrea, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Guinea Bissau, The Gambia, Togo, and Tunisia.

7. The African Governance Architecture (AGA) was created as a Pan-African Architecture on Governance. It was established as a Platform for dialogue between various stakeholders mandated to strengthen democratic governance in Africa and translating the objectives of the legal, policy pronouncements in the AU shared value instruments. The African Governance Platform (AGP)[1] was established by Decision [(Assembly/AU/Dec.1(XVI))] as an institutional framework composed of 11 AU Organs and institutions along with 8 Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with a formal mandate of promotion and sustenance of Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights. The AGA-APSA Secretariat, as a coordinating mechanism for the Platform. It has prioritized its principal objective to deepen synergy, coordination, cooperation, and harmonization of shared values instruments among AU organs, institutions and RECs, on democracy, governance, human rights, peace, and security.

8. The African Governance Platform, focuses primarily on operationalizing and coordinating joint programs and flagship initiatives of the African Governance Platform Members in an effort to enhance synergies, coordination and coherence among organs, RECs and Regional Mechanisms of the AU mandated to work on issues of democratic governance, human and people's rights and the rule of law. The Platform has a bureau elected from among its members, a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and a Rapporteur who shall serve for a non-renewable two-year term. Statutory meetings of the AGP are held twice a year. These meetings take place at the technical level involving representatives of the institutions, and at the political level, involving elected officials of the institutions.

9. The AGA Secretariat, which has now transitioned to the AGA-APSA Secretariat, consistent with the AU Reforms, is located within the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (PAPS), Governance Conflict Prevention Directorate (GCPD) and is mandated to, among other things, to coordinate the work of the African Governance Platform, as well as to serve as the Secretariat for the PRC Sub Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE ENGAGEMENT SESSION

10. The overall objective of the Engagement session, is to further the enhance the synergies and coordination between and among the PSC Members; the PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG, and the AGP. Building on the last engagements, the upcoming engagement will also be a platform for reviewing the progress achieved thus far in the implementation of the joint commitments; best practices; lessons learnt and challenges to be addressed; as well as to agree on practical, innovative best means and ways of enhancing the collaboration between the PSC and the two entities, in promoting the AU shared values.

IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

11. It is expected that at the end of the Engagement, the PSC will adopt a Communique detailing a set of recommendations on innovative, practical steps to be taken towards further enhancing the collaboration and coordination of efforts between and among the PSC and the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance, and the African Governance Platform. It is also expected that, at the end of the session, participants will have obtained a deeper understanding of

[1] African Governance Platform Members are all AU Organs, Institutions and RECs are - AUPSC, AUC, ACHPR, AfCHPR, PAP, APRM, AUABC, ECOSOCC, ACERWC, AUCIL, NEPAD - AUDA and all the 8 RECS. Current Chairperson is the ACHPR, Vice Chairperson is IGAD and Rapporteur is AUC-PAPS.

the PSC, PRC Sub Committee and their roles in the African Governance Platform. Furthermore, participants would have been able to identify, resource, and support joint activity/actives programs and Initiatives beyond joint briefings with a specific target and envisaged impact.

V. FORMAT, DATE AND VENUE

12. The Engagement session will be held virtually on, Friday, 11 August 2023, starting at 10:00 a.m., Addis Ababa Local time.

VI. WORKING LANGUAGES

13. The Session will be conducted in English and French languages, with simultaneous interpretation. The working documents will also be shared with all participants in English and French languages.

VII. PARTICIPANTS

14. Participants for the Engagement Session will include the following:

a) African Union Peace and Security Members;
b) Members of the PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG;
c) H.E Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department;
d) Hon. Rémy Ngoy Lumbu, Commissioner for ACHPR and the Chairperson of the AGA Platform;
e) AGA Platform Members;
f) PSC Secretariat Staff; and
g) AGA-APSA Secretariat Staff.

VIII. CONTACT DETAILS OF THE COORDINATING TEAM

15. For further inquiries, please contact:

PSC Secretariat

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