

PSC ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY BRIEF



MARCH 2022

PSC SECRETARIAT
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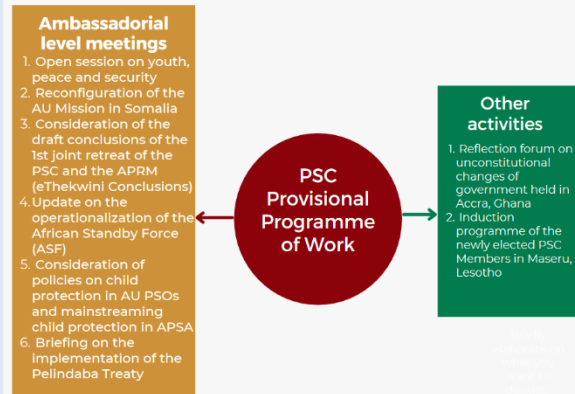
MONTH OUTLOOK

The Kingdom of Lesotho concluded its chairship of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) for the month of March 2022. The Provisional Programme of Work for March 2022 was adopted on 15 February 2022, with six meetings at ambassadorial level, namely (i) an open session on youth, peace and security; (ii) reconfiguration of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM); (iii) consideration of the draft Conclusions of the 1st joint retreat of the PSC and the APRM (eThekweni Conclusions); (iv) update on the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF); (v) consideration of policies on child protection in AU PSOs and mainstreaming child protection into APSA; and (vi) briefing on the implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty. In the course of the month, the PSC Members participated in the reflection forum on unconstitutional changes of government held in Accra, Ghana and the induction programme for the newly elected PSC Members in Maseru, Lesotho. The PSC Committee of Experts also met in preparation for the Induction Programme. It should also be noted that the PSC considered and adopted its Provisional Programme of Work for April 2022. The PSC Meetings for March 2022 were chaired by H.E. Ambassador Prof. Mafa Sejanamane, Permanent Representative to the AU.

OPEN SESSION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

The month of March commenced with an open session on Youth, Peace and Security in Africa, which was held on 3 March 2022 during the 1067th PSC meeting. The open session provided an opportunity for the PSC Members to interact with the second cohort of the five regional African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP). Council adopted a communiqué highlighting the important role played by the youth at the national, regional and continental levels in the prevention of violence, the promotion of good governance, peace, security, stability and socio-economic development and building foundations for peaceful societies, within the framework of the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap

Planned PSC Activities – March 2022



of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2030, Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063, the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (CFYPS) and its 10-Year Implementation Plan, as well as UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020).

The meeting also noted the progress made by the AU and RECs/RMs in developing the guidelines for the development and implementation of National Action Plans for the AU Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security. Council applauded the youth for their resilience and pro-activeness, which contributed to Africa's ability to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, and other positive strides to overcome the peace and security challenges facing the Continent. Taking into consideration the vulnerability of the youth to terrorism and radicalization, the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) in Algiers was requested to conduct a study on youth indoctrination in Africa and on the prevention of the risks of radicalization and violent extremism among young people.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AU – UN PROPOSAL ON THE RECONFIGURED MISSION TO REPLACE AMISOM

The 1068th meeting was a landmark meeting of the Council at which the PSC adopted a decision to authorize the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) to replace AMISOM with effect from 1 April 2022.

Council emphasized that the ATMIS will entail a reconfiguration of AMISOM and will, in this

regard, be guided by the Somali Transition Plan (STP), which outlines the process towards the gradual handover of security responsibilities to the Somali Security Forces by December 2024, with a full-fledged multidimensional mission to support the development of able, affordable and accountable Somali Security Forces and state institutions.

The PSC re-affirmed the critical importance of adequate, sustainable and predictable financing for the full duration of the mission running from 1 April 2022 up to 31 December 2024 in order to ensure the overall success of ATMIS in attaining its strategic objectives. In this regard, it appealed to the UN, European Union and other partners to establish a financial support package, including through UN-assessed contributions, taking into consideration the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council is the maintenance of international peace and security.

The PSC acknowledged the critical role played by AMISOM in ensuring peace and stability in Somalia since 2007 and commended the Troop/Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) and AMISOM personnel for the sacrifice made in the search for peace and stability in Somalia. Council stressed the need to maintain AMISOM's legacy. In this regard, the Commission was requested to undertake a study on lessons learned on AMISOM and its activities over the past 15 years to identify and document good practices that can be utilized by AU Peace Support Operations, including ATMIS, in the implementation of their respective mandates.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1ST JOINT RETREAT OF THE PSC AND THE APRM (eTHEKWINI CONCLUSIONS)

On 10 March 2022, Council convened its 1069th meeting to consider the Conclusions of the 1st Joint Retreat of the PSC and APRM as a part of implementing its previous decision, PSC communiqué [[PSC/PR/COMM.\(CMXIV\)](#)], adopted at its 914th meeting held on 5 March 2020 which requested the Commission, working in close collaboration with the APRM Secretariat, to organize a Joint Retreat of the APRM to

thoroughly engage and interrogate the various review reports undertaken in the past two years.

The PSC adopted the Conclusions of the 1st Joint Retreat of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the African Peer Review Mechanism. Furthermore, the PSC decided to institutionalize the holding of the Annual Joint Retreat between the PSC and APRM, in order to strengthen cooperation between the PSC and APRM in areas of good governance. The PSC looked forward to the Second Joint Retreat to be held in Durban in the first quarter of 2022.

UPDATE ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE

At its 1069th meeting held on 10 March 2022, the PSC received an update on the Operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF).

In his briefing, the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security recalled the original vision of African leaders in deciding to establish the ASF, stressing among other reasons that there was the need to have a credible African capacity within the framework of the APSA to swiftly and effectively respond to the plethora of peace and security challenges facing the Continent. As such, he underscored the need to expedite the full and effective operationalization of the ASF and its utilization.

The PSC noted the progress made by RECs/RMs that have attained full operational capability (FOC), namely EASF, FOMAC, NARC and SADC, and encouraged the other concerned RECs/RMs and Member States to scale up efforts to further enhance the institutional capacities and capabilities of their Regional Standby Brigades, in order to also ensure their FOC.

The urgent need underscored the finalization of the MoU between the AU and RECs/RMs since it is key to the deployment and employment of the ASF; in this regard, the PSC requested the Commission to urgently share it with Member States for review and further inputs. Mindful of the growing threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism in the Continent, and pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Council and the

Assembly, it stressed the need for the AU Commission to expedite the establishment of the counter-terrorism special unit within the ASF, which would be deployed upon request by the affected Member State and RECs/RMs and upon approval by the Council.

It also underlined the need for the AU Commission to conduct a lesson learnt exercise on the SADC deployments in both Lesotho (SAPMIL) and Mozambique (SAMIM). The PSC then adopted a Summary Record as the outcome document of the meeting to keep the record of the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF POLICIES ON CHILD PROTECTION IN AU PSOs AND MAINSTREAMING CHILD PROTECTION INTO APSA

At its 1070th meeting held on 29 March 2022, the PSC received an update on the policies on child protection in African Union Peace Support Operations (AU PSOs) and mainstreaming child protection into the APSA.

The PSC expresses grave concern over the adverse impact of armed conflict on children's personal, social and cognitive development, as evidenced by the continued violations and abuses of their rights, as well as violence perpetrated against them, including gender-based violence, forced marriages, child labour, exploitation, recruitment as child soldiers and members of armed militias, a situation which further erodes their welfare and deprives them of their human dignity.

The PSC welcomed the progress made by the AU Commission towards the development of the Policy on Integration of Child Protection into the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the Policy on Child Protection in African Union Peace Support Operations (AU PSOs) and requested the Commission to submit the Policies to the Specialized Technical Committee for Defence, Safety and Security for consideration.

It should be noted that the two Policies were drafted in line with PSC communiqué [[PSC/PR/COMM.\(CMXCIV\)](#)] of the 994th meeting

held on 11 May 2021, which requested the Commission to institutionalize a child protection architecture within the APSA and develop a policy aimed at mainstreaming child protection into all phases of intervention, including conflict prevention.

BRIEFING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY OF PELINDABA

The PSC concluded the month of March with a 1071st meeting on the implementation of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) which was held on 31 March 2022. This meeting provided an opportunity for the PSC Members to interact with the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON), the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the status of implementation of the Treaty of Pelindaba.

Council noted the progress made in the development of Joint Action Plans in partnership with international organizations and other stakeholders in Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, aimed at consolidating and strengthening efforts towards nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful application of nuclear science and technology. The PSC encouraged States Parties to the Treaty to fulfil their financial obligations and ensure the timely implementation of the decision of the 4th Ordinary Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba held in March 2018, in order to enable AFCON to discharge its mandate with the required efficiency and effectiveness and to promote nuclear science and technology on the Continent.

It looked forward to the outcomes of the 5th Conference of States Parties scheduled to be held from 27 to 28 April 2022 and encouraged the States Parties to use this forum to propose actionable decisions for the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology for the benefit of the African peoples.

REFLECTION FORUM ON UNCONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT IN ACCRA



Following the PSC communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1061(2022)] adopted at the 1061st PSC meeting held on 27 January 2022 which called for the holding of a brainstorming Reflection Forum of the PSC and other relevant stakeholders on unconstitutional changes of government in Africa, the PSC participated in the Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa, in Accra, Ghana, from 15 to 17 March 2022.

The Forum was opened by H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, who set the tone for the Forum by emphasizing zero tolerance for the overthrow of constitutionally elected governments, including other forms of unconstitutional changes of government, as well as advised that a stable period of constitutional government and proper management of the economy can lead to inclusive prosperity for Africa.

The Forum was also attended by the representatives of the African Union (AU) Member States, AU Organs/institutions and the RECs/RMs, as well as the representatives of African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, professional bodies, youth and women groups and partners.

The Forum adopted a Declaration (Accra Declaration) to be endorsed by the PSC and subsequently submitted to the Extraordinary Session of the AU Heads of State and Government

Summit on Unconstitutional Changes of Government to be held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in May 2022.

INDUCTION PROGRAMME OF THE NEWLY ELECTED PSC MEMBERS, MASERU, LESOTHO



Consistent with the established practice of the PSC, and following the election of new Members in February 2022, the Commission from 23 to 25 March 2022, in Maseru, Lesotho, organized an induction programme for the outgoing, re-elected and newly elected Members of the PSC. The Induction Programme is a forum for acquainting, apprising and familiarizing the new Members with the mandate, work and working methods of the PSC, as well as the lessons it has learnt before the start of their respective terms. During the Induction Programme, certificates of appreciation were awarded to the 15 PSC Members and CoE Members who had finished their mandate. A Flag Ceremony was held for the newly-elected members of the PSC and those who have been re-elected.

The mandate of the fifteen (15) PSC Members ended on 31 March 2022. In this regard, the 40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council elected fifteen new PSC Members who were appointed by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU, held from 5 to 6 February 2022.

The three-year term Members whose mandate starts on 1 April 2022 and ends on 31 March 2025 are: Cameroon, Djibouti, Morocco, Namibia and Nigeria.

The two-year term Members whose mandate begins on 1 April 2022 and ends on 31 March 2024 are: Burundi, Congo, Gambia, Ghana,

Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

all the required support throughout the month and beyond.

ENVISAGED ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL 2022

The PSC adopted its Provisional Programme of Work for the month of April 2022. In April 2022, the PSC is expected to hold nine meetings. The meetings will focus on Mine Action; Continental Early Warning and Security Outlook in the Continent; Financing for ATMIS; Update on Member States in Political Transition (Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali and Sudan); Follow-up on the Great Lakes Summit of February 2022 in Kinshasa; Climate Change; Peace and Security in Africa; and Reflection meeting on Youth, Peace and Security in Africa to be held in Burundi with the 5 AYAPs. The PSC will adopt the PSC Provisional Programme of Work for May 2022. At the end of the month, the Chairperson for April will brief the PRC on the Council's activities for the month of April 2022.

MESSAGE: COMMISSIONER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PEACE AND SECURITY



On behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye congratulated the outgoing Chairperson, H.E Ambassador Prof. Mafa Sejanamane of the Kingdom of Lesotho, for his commendable chairship of the Council for the month of March 2022. He also congratulated the outgoing PSC Members for the commitment they demonstrated during their tenure at the PSC and welcomed the new PSC Members. The Commissioner also welcomed Ambassador Willy Nyamitwe of the Republic of Burundi on his assumption of the chairship of the Council for the month of April 2022. He assured the Republic of Burundi of the Commission's readiness to provide

CHAIRSHIP OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL FROM APRIL 2022 TO JUNE 2023

Burundi	April 2022
Cameroon	May 2022
Congo	June 2022
Djibouti	July 2022
The Gambia	August 2022
Ghana	September 2022
Morocco	October 2022
Namibia	November 2022
Nigeria	December 2022
Senegal	January 2023
South Africa	February 2023
Tanzania	March 2023
Tunisia	April 2023
Uganda	May 2023
Zimbabwe	June 2023

Key Speakers/Invited Guests – MARCH 2022

S/N	Meeting/Activity	Key Speakers	Outcome
1.	1067 th meeting on 3 March 2022 Open session on youth, peace and security in Africa	H.E. Prof. Mafa M. Sejanamane, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for March 2022; H.E Ambassador William Awinador-Kanyirige, on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Adeoye Bankole, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; H.E. Ms. Hanna Tetteh, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union; Ms. Chido Cleo Mpemba, Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on Youth; Ms. Kadiddatou Sako Traoré and Mr. Joseph Akilimali,, Representatives of the AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), partners and other relevant stakeholders.	Communiqué – PSC/PR/COMM/1067 (2022)
2.	1068 th meeting on 8 March 2022 Consideration of joint AU-UN proposal on the reconfiguration mission to replace AMISOM	H.E. Professor Mafa Sejanamane, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of March 2022; H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; H.E. Ambassador Francisco Caetano Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for Somalia and Head of AMISOM; H.E. Abdullahi Ahmed Jama, Permanent Representative of Somalia to the African Union; H.E. Hannah Tetteh, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) to the African Union and Head of the UN Office to the African Union; H.E. Birgitte Markussen, European Union (EU) Ambassador to the AU.	Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM/1068 (2022)
3.	1069 th meeting on 10 March 2022	H.E. Ambassador Prof. Mafa Sejanamane, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for March 2022;	Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM/1069 (2022)

	Consideration of the draft Conclusions of the 1 st joint retreat of the PSC and the APRM (eThekweni Conclusions).	H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; H.E. Ambassador Tesfaye Yilma Sabo, Co-Chair of the Inaugural Joint Retreat and the Chairperson of the PSC for December 2021; APRM representative of H.E. Ambassador Ombeni Yohana Sefue, Co-Chair of the Inaugural Joint Retreat and Chairperson of the African Peer Review (APR) Panel of Eminent Persons.	
4.	Update on the operationalization of ASF.	H.E. Professor Mafa Sejanamane, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of March 2022; H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; Representatives of EASF, ECCAS (FOMAC), NARC, and SADC standby forces	Summary Record PSC/PR/SR/1069(2022)
5.	1070th meeting of 29 March 2022 Consideration of policies on child protection in AU PSOs and mainstreaming child protection into APSA	H.E. Ambassador Prof. Mafa Sejanamane, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for March 2022; H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; Dr Robert Nanima Special Rapporteur on Children Affected by Armed Conflicts - African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; Dr. Edward Addai, Representative of the United Nations Children Emergency Fund to the AU; Ms. Doris Mpoumou, Director and AU Representative, Save the Children International.	Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.1070 (2022)

6.	1071 st meeting of 31 March Briefing by AFCONE on the implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty	H.E. Ambassador Prof. Mafa Sejanamane, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for March 2022; H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; Mr. Messaoud Baaliouamer, Acting Executive Secretary of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE); Ms. Hester Adriana Paneras, Representative of the United Nations; Mr. Mr. Mame Ibrahima Tounkara Deputy Head of Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.1071 (2022)
7.	Induction/orientation of newly elected PSC member states – Maseru, Lesotho 20 – 26 March	Nine (9) newly elected PSC Members, namely: Congo, Gambia, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe Six (6) re-elected PSC Members, namely: Burundi, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal Nine (9) outgoing Members, namely, Algeria, Benin, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, accompanied by staff from the AU Commission Ambassador Catherine Muigai Mwangi, Facilitator Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Amani Africa	Induction Report
8.	Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Government – Accra Ghana, 15 – 17 March	Representatives of the African Union (AU) Member States, Members of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU, AU Organs/institutions and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), as well as representatives of African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, professional bodies, youth and women groups and partners.	Accra Declaration