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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
1299<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

29 AUGUST 2025  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BN.1299 (2025)

**BRIEFING NOTE**

**ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL PLUS  
GUYANA (A3+)**

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GUYANA (A3+)**

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. Since then, the High-Level Seminar (HLS) on Peace and Security in Africa, referred to officially as the “Oran Process”, has emerged as the preeminent platform for reflection, dialogue and exchange on African peace and security issues. It provides an opportunity for African leaders and experts to review lessons learned, identify emerging challenges and develop strategies to strengthen coordination between the PSC and the A3+ members as well as assist incoming African Members of the UN Security Council in preparing to address peace and security issues in the continent.

2. Over the years, the Seminar has played a critical role in consolidating Africa’s collective voice at the UN, promoting unity among A3+ members and ensuring that AU decisions are consistently promoted and defended at the global level.

3. (A3+) Mechanism, has today emerged as a key framework for coordination, consultation and joint action among the African members of the UN Security Council. This mechanism, establishment in 2013, aim to promote and defend African positions on peace and security issues within the UN Security Council.

4. Its creation followed the meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), held in New York in September 2013 at the level of Heads of State and Government, which was devoted to strengthening the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations in the area of peace and security. At the conclusion of that high-level session, the PSC decided, through its communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM/1(CCCXCVII) (New York, 23 September 2013), to enhance consultations between the PSC and the African members of the United Nations Security Council, in order to ensure that the decisions adopted by the Council are effectively promoted and defended within the UN body. The decision also called on all AU member states elected to the UN Security Council to defend and promote AU decisions within the Council.

5. One of the main avenues of coordination between the A3+ and the PSC, consistently emphasized since the inaugural session of the Oran Process, has been the need for regular briefings by the A3+ to the PSC. Recently, the 11<sup>th</sup> Oran Seminar reaffirmed the importance of these briefings, stressing that they should take place on a quarterly basis, and as necessary, to keep the PSC informed on African issues under consideration by the UN Security Council.

6. Within this context, the PSC – at its 1289<sup>th</sup> meeting held in July 2025, adopted the Manual on the Modalities for Enhancing Coordination between the PSC and the African Members of the UN Security Council. This manual reaffirmed that the A3 shall brief the PSC on a quarterly basis, and at any other time as necessary, on African issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council, in order to share information and receive guidance on matters of peace and security concerning the continent.

**II. UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE A3+:**

7. The regular convening of the Oran Seminar has proven to be an essential platform for reflection, coordination and strategizing between the A3+ and the PSC. By providing a space for experience-sharing and collective assessment, it strengthens coherence in positions and enhances the coordination between A3+ and PSC, as well as in defending common African positions on peace and security issues concerning Africa within the UN Security Council.

8. The annual A3+ retreat offers a broader and more informal setting to deliberate on long-term strategies for reinforcing collaboration and synergy among members. With the participation of former A3+ members, these retreats contribute to institutional learning and the consolidation of best practices. The most recent retreat was held in Georgetown, Guyana in February 2025.

9. Since February 2023, high-level meetings of the A3+ have also been convened at the level of Heads of State or Ministers of Foreign Affairs, on the margins of the AU Summit in Addis Ababa and the High-Level Week of the UN General Assembly. In their High-Level meeting held in September 2024, the A3+ agreed to institutionalize such high-level meetings to be held in New York and Addis Ababa, to provide political guidance and reinforce the strategic direction of the A3+. The most recent meeting was convened in Addis Ababa in February 2025 on the sidelines of the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, while the next meeting is scheduled for September 2025 during the 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

10. The A3+ holds monthly coordination meetings at the level of Permanent Representatives and Political Coordinators in New York. These meetings serve not only to review the UNSC programme of work for the month but also to anticipate upcoming opportunities to harmonize positions and ensure that the mechanism acts in a consistent and proactive manner at the UNSC. Additionally, the A3+ Coordinator briefs and submits a comprehensive report to the African Group of Ambassadors in New York. This reporting mechanism ensures accountability and collective ownership of the work carried out by the A3+, on behalf of the Africa continent.

11. In its quest to expand its influence, enhance visibility and strengthen narrative, the A3+ mechanism has intensified its interactions with the permanent members of the Security Council (P5), with a view to advancing A3+ positions and safeguarding the African interests within the Council. To this end, the A3+ has established the tradition of holding regular meetings with the UN Secretary-General and the five permanent members (P5) of the UN Security Council at Permanent Representatives (PRs) and Deputy Permanent Representatives (DPR) levels.

12. It is to be emphasized that the contributions of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2022–2023) and Guyana (2024–2025), as “Plus” members, have been instrumental in strengthening cooperation with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on regional priority issues within the UN Security Council. It is suggested the establishment of an operational mechanism to ensure automatic Caribbean representation when matters of mutual interest are under consideration. These recommendations could be reflected in the upcoming Africa-Caribbean Summit in September 2025.

13. The AU Mission to the UN, acting as the Secretariat of the A3+, continues to provide technical backstopping support to the A3+ mechanism. It also helps facilitate institutional memory, ensures smooth transitions between outgoing, current and incoming A3+ members as part of efforts to ensure continuity of Africa’s representation within the UN Security Council.

### III. KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

14. The African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) has been mandated as per its rules of procedures and conclusions of Oran process Seminars to involve the A3 Group in the preparation of the joint PSC/UNSC consultative meetings and organizes a video conference between the PSC and the A3 Group through their respective Chairpersons. In addition to invite the A3 Group to all its meetings on crisis and conflict situations to provide them with a platform in Addis Ababa to better understand the PSC's positions on different situations, in order to communicate them to their counterparts in New York. From other side, the A3 Coordinator shall regularly inform the PSC of the activities of the A3 at the UN Security Council, and their activities shall be reflected in the PSC's report to the Assembly;

15. Sequencing the meetings of the UNSC and the PSC particularly on African files remains a priority. Ensuring that PSC deliberations precede related security council discussions allows the A3+ to receive continental guidance and to defend African positions more effectively;

16. The participation of A3+ representatives in PSC meetings on crisis and conflict situations, as well as pertinent thematic issues for consideration by the UNSC, will provide a platform for the A3 representatives to contribute to the position of the PSC on matters relating to peace and security in Africa that will be on the agenda of the UNSC, so as to advise their counterparts in New York ahead of UN Security Council (*Manual on the PSC Working Methods, para 110*);

17. The monthly meetings between the Chairperson of the PSC and the President of the Security Council have, in practice, become procedural and routine exchanges, with both sides limiting themselves to presenting their respective Programmes of Work. To maximize its utility, it is proposed that this meeting be scheduled in the month preceding each Presidency as this would allow the two Chairs to exchange views in advance and apply the principle of sequencing the meetings of both councils and thereby ensure that African priorities are better reflected and defended within the UNSC with a strategic impact;

18. Consideration could also be given to reflecting the activities of the A3+ in the annual Report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa. This would inform the Assembly on the efforts of A3+ within the Security Council and the extent to which they continue to promote African positions as articulated by the PSC. This would help to reinforce the institutional linkage between the two bodies and solidify the recognition of the A3+ as a key instrument for defending the priorities of Africa in New York;

19. Call for a unified position to explicitly reference the A3+ in UN resolutions, including the UN General Assembly resolution on AU-UN cooperation and the 2025 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) outcome document. Such omissions risk undermining the visibility and legitimacy of the mechanism, and run counter to the broader objective of strengthening and consolidating Africa's voice at the UN Security Council and in global governance;

20. Welcoming the efforts of the AU in New York to develop and maintain an institutional memory for the A3+ as well as a documentary on the history and experiences of the A3+ mechanism since its inception in 2013. This initiative is of particular importance in ensuring continuity, documenting lessons learned and preventing the loss of valuable institutional knowledge in the context of the rotating membership of the A3+.

#### **IV. OBJECTIVES**

21. In this regard, the session will aim to:

- i. Ensure an effective implementation of the High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa (HLS-PSA) recommendations;
- ii. Keep the PSC informed on African issues under consideration by the UN Security Council;
- iii. Reflect on previous coordination experiences between PSC and A3+;
- iv. Exchange views on ways and means of strengthening coordination between A3+ and PSC in voicing African interests within the UNSC;

- v. Defining clear priorities of A3 engagements to preserve African interest within the UNSC.

## V. LIST OF SPEAKERS

22. The following will address the PSC Meeting:
- i. Chairperson of the PSC for the month of August, 2025;
  - ii. Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security;
  - iii. A3 coordinator;
  - iv. PSC Member States and A3 + members.

## VI. KEY OUTCOMES

23. Considering the above updates, the PSC may wish to consider:
- a. **Takes note with appreciation** of the efforts of the A3 in championing, promoting and defending the common African positions and interests in the UN Security Council; and in this regard, stresses the need for the PSC to continue, as appropriate, to provide timely guidance to the A3;
  - b. **Commending** the efforts of the A3 in mobilizing support from other members of the UN Security Council; in this regard appreciates the initiative of Guyana and CARICOM to align their positions with the A3;
  - c. **Requesting** that PSC deliberations precede Security Council discussions on African files, to provide timely continental guidance for the A3+;
  - d. **Ensuring** that the outcomes of PSC meetings on issues that will be on the agenda of the UNSC shall be timeously transmitted to the A3+ to inform negotiators on outcomes of the UN Security Council;
  - e. **Reaffirming** the need for the A3, to respect, protect, promote in all circumstances, decisions and positions of the AU, on all matters of peace and security in Africa and urge them to redouble efforts to strengthen the cohesion and coordination within the A3 and with PSC;
  - f. **Emphasizing** the importance of implementing the relevant conclusions of previous sessions of the Oran Process, particularly with regard to the conformity of the positions of the A3+ with the decisions of the PSC on the issues on the UNSC agenda;
  - g. **Highlighting** the need for greater coherence between the decisions of the AU-PSC and those of the UN Security Council in terms of African issues;
  - h. **Emphasizing** the role of the A3 as spokespersons for African interests within the Security Council, in accordance with the conclusions of the annual high-level seminar on peace and security in Africa, as well as the strengthening of coordination between the PSC and the A3 through the dedicated manual;

- i. **Requesting** the A3+ to brief the PSC on a quarterly basis and at any other time necessary, on African issues on the UNSC agenda, to facilitate information sharing and necessary guidance;
- j. **Reiterating, once again, its decision** to ensure the monthly consultations between the A3 and the PSC Troika, and to ensure timely provision of updates and strategic guidance to the A3 on peace and security issues ahead of the UN Security Council meetings, as well as to synchronize to the furthest extent possible the monthly programmes of work of both, the PSC and the UN Security Council;
- k. **Further reiterates its requests** to the AU Commission to ensure enhanced cooperation between the PSC Committee of Experts and the Experts of the A3, with a view to more effectively supporting the PSC and the A3+;
- l. **Inviting**, whenever necessary, the A3+ representatives to PSC meetings on crisis and conflict situations, as well as pertinent thematic issues relating to peace and security in Africa on the agenda of the Security Council;
- m. **Requesting** that monthly meetings between the Chair of the PSC and the UNSC Presidency be held in the month preceding their respective mandates, to enhance sequencing and coordination of Programs of Work;
- n. **Advocating** for African concerns to be taken into account fairly and systematically in the deliberations of the Security Council;
- o. **Establishing** that PSC communiqués on issues before the UNSC, including country situations, should include a provision directly requesting the A3/A3+ to ensure the implementation of the communiqué in question and its transmission to the UNSC Chair and the UNSG through identical letter;
- p. **Requesting** African Union Member States to explicitly reference the A3+ in UN resolutions to strengthen its visibility and legitimacy;
- q. **Requesting** the AUC, through the Permanent Observer Mission of the AU to the United Nations, monthly reports on its activities in connection with the meetings of the UN Security Council on African issues, including its interaction with the A3 and their contributions to the success of efforts to defend the decisions of the Council and the AU, particularly in terms of the implementation of AU decisions, in addition of recommendations for strengthening the role of the PSC in monitoring the activities of the A3;
- r. **Directing** the secretariat to include the consultation meeting between PSC and A3+, at **ambassadorial level**, in the PSC's annual indicative program as statutory activity;
- s. **Further Direct** this consultative meeting to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the HLSPSA – Oran Process;
- t. **Commending** the tireless efforts of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2022–2023) and Guyana (2024–2025) as “Plus” members of the mechanism, and express the aspiration to

institutionalize the “Plus” framework as an automatic modality whenever a CARICOM Member State joins the UN Security Council;

- u. **Emphasizing** the role of the AU Observer Mission to the UN should as the secretariat of the A3 mechanism with the aim of strengthening ties between the A3 and the PSC and bringing African members of the Council into line with AU dynamics on issues on the UNSC agenda, in this regard, **stress** the need for the AU mission to synchronize the monthly work programs of the UNSC and the AU/PSC, with the aim of enabling the AU organ to examine in advance the issues before the UNSC in order to provide the necessary guidance to the A3;
- v. **Further requesting** the AU Commission to take all necessary measures to implement the decisions contained in this communiqué, and to keep the Council regularly informed;
- w. **Looking forward** to the 12th High-Level Seminar to be convened in Algiers, Algeria, in 1 and 2 December 2025.

## VII. DATE AND VENUE

24. The meeting will be held virtually on Friday 29 August 2025, starting at 4 p.m. Addis Ababa local time, using the ZOOM platform (a link will be shared). It will be conducted using simultaneous interpretation of two AU official languages, namely: English and French.

## VIII. METHODOLOGY

25. During the briefing meeting, the AU PSC Members and A3+ coordinator and members will make statements followed by discussions.

## IX. CONCLUSION

26. This meeting provides a timely opportunity to translate recommendations of Oran process Seminars into concrete actions to strength the African voice in the UNSC. The discussion will be reflected in a PSC communiqué.