

CONCLUSIONS

THE INAUGURAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT, 17– 18 JULY 2025 MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) held a Joint Consultative Meeting from 17 to 18 July 2025, in Midrand, South Africa, at the Headquarters of the PAP, under the theme: ***“Enhancing Institutional Synergy and Collaboration for Sustainable Peace and Security in Africa”***. The Joint Consultative Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Chief Fortune Charumbira, President of the Pan-African Parliament and H.E. Ambassador Rebecca Amuge Otengo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for July 2025.

II. OPENING CEREMONY

2. The Co-Chairs delivered opening remarks outlining the objective and expected outcomes of the Joint Consultative Meeting. They expressed deep concern about the escalation of violent conflicts which increase the humanitarian crises across the African continent. They highlighted the need to ensure the nexus between peace, security and development, towards the promotion of economic growth, social progress, and good governance, that would contribute to reducing the underlying causes and structural drivers of conflict and enhancing long-term security.

3. The Co-chairs underlined the crucial role of the youth for the continent’s development, acting as drivers of economic growth, social change, and political progress. They indicated that with a youthful population, Africa has a significant youth dividend opportunity, but realizing this potential requires empowering young people with inclusion, education, skills, and job opportunities.

4. The Co-chairs underlined that the objective of the Joint Consultative Meeting is to strengthen cooperation, coordination and collaboration by enhancing mutual understanding of the respective mandates and operational frameworks as well as to fostering communication between the PSC and PAP. They stressed that the PSC/PAP cooperation will enhance the promotion of good governance, peace and security across the continent.

5. Equally, the co-chairs highlighted that the Joint consultative meeting aimed at engaging on conflict prevention, management and resolution and sharing experiences and best practices among Member States to enhance collective learning and improve the effectiveness of peace and security efforts of the PSC and PAP.

6. Dr. Phakamisa Siyothula, the Acting Chief Director of the AU Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, delivered the remarks on behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, and welcomed the delegations to South Africa, and underlined the critical role of the PSC and PAP in addressing the conflict situations in Africa. He also

highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts among African Institutions and Organs to achieve Agenda 2063, the AU's vision for the continent's future "The Africa we want".

III. PARTICIPANTS

7. The Joint Consultative Meeting was attended by the PSC Member States and Members of the Pan African Parliament, as well as the Commissioner for Political Affairs Peace and Security; the Chief Executive Officer of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and AU Commission and PAP Staff. The meeting was also attended by the representative from the AU Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.

IV. METHODOLOGY

8. The Joint Consultative Meeting was guided by the AU Constitutive Act and other legal instruments establishing the PAP and PSC, as well as the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Establishment of PAP; and the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union relating to the mandates and cooperation between both organs.

9. Reference was made to the:

- i. PSC Press Statement adopted by the 148th PSC meeting of 22 August 2008, which stressed the need to enhance cooperation with PAP in the area of conflict prevention, in particular regarding efforts to be made with a view to preventing post-electoral tension and violence, as well as their negative impact on peace, security and stability in Africa;
- ii. PSC Press Statement of the 344th Meeting held on 27 November 2012 which stressed the need to give full effect to the provisions of the PSC Protocol relating to the relationship with PAP, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the efforts being made towards the promotion of lasting peace, security, development and integration on the continent; and
- iii. PSC Communiqué of the 1160th PSC meeting, held on 30 June 2023 which decided to institutionalize and regularize the annual consultative meeting on peace and security in Africa, to be hosted alternately in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

V. AGENDA

10. The agenda of the Joint Consultative Meeting focused on the following areas:

- i. Session 1: Contextualizing the state of governance, peace and security in Africa;
- ii. Session 2: Inclusive Political Participation & Democratic Representation in Africa;
- iii. Session 3: Working Methods: Enhancing PSC/PAP Institutional Mechanisms for Collaboration;
- iv. Session 4: Parliamentary voice in support of AU's position to reform global governance; and
- v. Session 5: Consideration and adoption of the Joint Conclusions.

VI. SESSIONS

A. Session I: Contextualizing the state of governance, peace and security in Africa

11. The Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security H.E. Amb Bankole Adeoye, made a comprehensive briefing on the state of peace and security in Africa. Emphasis was made on the effect of geopolitical shifts in Africa and the critical need of addressing multifaceted security challenges on the continent, as well as efforts deployed by the AU. It was acknowledged that there is need for collective action in preventing conflicts, managing and mobilizing resources, and called for concerted and intensified efforts of the PSC and PAP towards peace and security across Africa.

12. During the discussion the PSC Members and PAP Members:

- i. Welcomed the efforts and peace initiatives deployed by the AU and its Member States in the search of sustainable peace, security and development in the continent;
- ii. Expressed concern that despite the efforts deployed by the AU Organs, such as the PSC in addressing peace and security challenges in Africa, the situation continues to deteriorate. In this regard, they stressed the importance of coordination of PSC/PAP efforts in complementing each other in addressing governance, peace and security challenges;
- iii. Underscored the imperative to strengthen and make full use of African Institutions to address the peace and security challenges in the continent;
- iv. Urged the need for the implementation of decisions adopted by the AU Policy Organs, including by the PSC;
- v. Highlighted the growing disillusionment among Africa's youth, marked by unemployment, social exclusion, and political apathy. To this end, underlined the need for more inclusion of youth, and women in all efforts aimed at addressing the conflicts on the continent and in the Africa's development agenda;
- vi. Also underlined the imperative to enhance synergies between PAP and PSC, including through Joint actions to amplify democratic norms and to develop mechanisms to strengthen governance in the continent;
- vii. PAP to enhance the linkages with the national constituencies in support of the promotion of peace and security in Africa;
- viii. Expressed concern over the widening spread of the scourge of terrorism in the continent and underlined that one of the key area to address regarding terrorism in Africa is the need to strengthen regional cooperation and information sharing; as well as enhanced collaboration between African institutions and improved coordination among various regional frameworks. It was further agreed that, tackling the socio-economic factors such as poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunities, particularly to young peoples, could contribute to fighting terrorism;
- ix. Underscored that border cooperation is crucial in the fight against the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) which contribute to terrorism. In this respect, emphasized the need for Member States to work together, in order to enhance border security, improve arms control measures, and disrupt the flow of illicit weapons, thus

mitigating the threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism, and transnational organized crime;

- x. Highlighted the urgent need to address Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCG) in Africa and its root causes, recognizing that such instability hinders the continent's progress and development; in this regard, there is need for a multi-faceted approach focused on strengthening democratic institutions, promoting good governance, and fostering inclusive development;
- xi. Emphasized the use of early warning systems and increased awareness visits to conflict-prone areas;
- xii. Called for adherence to constitutionalism, which can serve as a safeguard mechanism for abuse of power, guarantee separation of powers and the rule of law; underlined the need for PAP and PSC to work collaboratively to promote and safeguard constitutionalism;
- xiii. Underscored the need to adopt a model law on AU Agenda 2063. In this regard, AU Member States were encouraged to adopt and integrate the agenda into their national policy frameworks and programs, this involves aligning national development plans with the continental framework and ensuring that the agenda's goals and priorities are reflected in national policies and legislation;
- xiv. Expressed concerns over, and condemned, external interference in the internal affairs of AU Member States which affects peace processes, in particular in countries experiencing conflicts in Africa;
- xv. Underscored the need to embrace African Solutions to African Problems, emphasizing that the AU and its Member States should always play a leading role in addressing the continent's challenges; this approach promotes ownership, and the utilization of African resources and expertise, as well as generating homegrown and African-owned solutions;
- xvi. Underscored the need to address all the conflicts in the Continent, including by the implementation of the Declaration of Johannesburg on Silencing the Guns in Africa and take into consideration the humanitarian situation of the people facing the conflicts in their country;
- xvii. Called for advocacy for increased AU Member State voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund, thereby advancing African ownership and self-reliance in peace and security financing and gradually reducing dependency on external donors;
- xviii. Expressed concern over the financial constraints which hinder the implementation of PAP's activities, in particular on peace and security and encouraged support for resource mobilization to support the mandate of PAP;
- xix. Acknowledged the inextricable link between peace, security and development; in this regard, they underscored the need for the PAP to champion the establishment of socio-economic programs aimed at economically empowering people, especially women, youth, children and special interest groups on the continent, including post-conflict reconstruction and development programmes;

- xx. Underlined the fact that the international dynamics should bring African Union Member states together with the PSC and PAP, to strengthen their unity and combine their efforts to face external interference and preserve the integrity of the AU and its Member states; and
- xxi. Underlined the need for better natural resources governance given its direct linkage to peace, security, stability and development. To this end, called for mineral and natural resources value addition before export so as to power the growth and development of the continent and provide opportunities for the young men and women in Africa.

B. Session II: Inclusive Political Participation and Democratic Representation in Africa

13. This Session acknowledged that, whereas inclusive political participation and democratic representation in Africa is making progress, there are some challenges that need to be addressed. It stressed that, while there has been a push for greater inclusion of women and youth, significant barriers still remained in the form of systemic inequalities, negative perceptions, and limited access to political participation and democratic representation.

14. The meeting observed and recommended the following:

- i. Recognized that inclusive political participation in Africa, particularly through elections, has seen progress, especially for women, and youth, but faces persistent challenges that requires strengthening of institutions and enhanced opportunities for political participation particularly for youth, women, and special interest groups, in particular people with disabilities;
- ii. PAP to institutionalize public hearings and consultative forums with grassroots actors and civil society organizations, to ensure bottom-up inputs are integrated into continental peace and security decision-making;
- iii. Highlighted that the democratic system in Africa is facing challenges and needs improvement to ensure its continued functionality and effectiveness, and in this regard there is a need to strengthen the democratic system by embracing and fostering greater public participation, accountability, transparency, and adherence to democratic principles, including rule of law and freedom of speech;
- iv. Underscored that combating political violence and fostering tolerance in Africa requires a multi-faceted approach which includes promoting good governance, addressing the root causes of conflict such as inequality and exclusion, strengthening democratic institutions, and encouraging dialogue and reconciliation; in this respect underlined the imperative to empower civil society, promote education, and foster a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity; and
- v. Emphasized the fact that culture plays a crucial role in promoting peace and security by fostering unity, social cohesion, and sustainable development, making it essential to respect diverse cultures and empower African communities to leverage their cultural heritage for positive change; as such underlined the need to respect and promote African culture and emphasized the importance of recognizing and valuing the continent's diverse traditions and heritage.

C. Session III: Enhancing PSC/PAP Institutional Mechanisms for Collaboration

15. The session recalled that PSC and PAP were established by the AU Constitutive Act, and the desire to bring development and prosperity of African people. The session also underlined the imperative for structured and regularized engagement between the two organs, including through the establishment of clear thematic areas of focus and fostering communication and collaboration through various mechanisms. For this session, the following observations and recommendations were highlighted:

- i. Underlined the need for regular engagement between the PSC and PAP, through among others PSC Chairperson participating in PAP Sessions, the PSC Troika/PAP bureau engagements;
- ii. Continuation of a more structured participation of PAP Members on AU Election Observation Missions, early warning assessments, and post-conflict peacebuilding missions, and legislative harmonization processes ensuring consistency in AU peace and security operations;
- iii. Reiterated the need to institutionalize the annual engagement between the AU PSC and PAP, through the holding of an annual consultative meeting between the two organs to be held in alternation in South Africa and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- iv. Recognized the use for PAP's contribution to AU's early warning mechanisms, particularly due to its connection with grassroots community and its engagement with African peoples at the local level;
- v. Recognized the role of the PAP in advocacy for the ratification and domestication of peace and security instruments and treaties;
- vi. Underlined the necessity for PAP to engage in parliamentary diplomacy especially in countries in transition;
- vii. Underlined the need for experience sharing and lessons learned between the two organs on issues related to peace and security and governance;
- viii. Called for capacity building in areas such as mediation, and preventive diplomacy for PAP;
- ix. Requested the PAP and PSC Secretariats to develop a draft roadmap on structured collaboration between the two Organs, identifying concrete areas of collaboration and monitoring the progress;
- x. Encourage the establishment of a plan of action and financing plan for peace and security activities involving the two organs;
- xi. Also underlined the need for the PSC and PAP to undertake Joint activities, such as elections monitoring, field missions, fact finding missions and preventive diplomacy;
- xii. Recognized the need to strengthen the capacity of PAP Bureau to closely engage more with the PSC;
- xiii. Proposed joint press statements, co-authored reports, and enhanced digital information exchange platforms; and

- xiv. on a bi-annual basis, agreed that a representative of PAP, briefs PSC Members on the activities carried out by PAP related to the promotion of Peace, Security and good governance.

D. Session IV: Parliamentary voice in support of AU's position to reform global governance

16. The session highlighted the imperative of Africa's strong voice for the reform of global governance to better represent Africa's interests and, in this respect underscored the need for parliamentary voice in support of the AU's positions on reforming global governance and institutions given its importance in amplifying the continent's voice in international affairs and ensuring greater representation and equity in global decision-making bodies. The session further underlined that the AU's efforts are driven by the need to address historical imbalances and ensure that Africa's voice is heard on issues critical to its development and future, embraced in Agenda 2063.

17. In this session, the meeting observed and recommended the following:

- i. Expressed concern over the continued marginalization of Africa in the global governance and institutions;
- ii. Underlined the imperative for PAP and PSC to actively advocate for the reform of global institutions to better represent African interests and ensure more equitable global governance;
- iii. Identified the PAP as a critical institutional actor capable of galvanizing continental momentum and serving as a strategic vehicle to articulate and advocate for Africa's common position;
- iv. Called upon PAP to Join the PSC to advocate for the reform of global institutions, including by advocating for the AU common position on African representation in bodies such as the UN Security Council in line with the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte declaration which seeks the allocation of at least two seats, in the Permanent Category, with all its prerogatives and privileges including the Right of Veto, and two additional seats in the Non-Permanent seat category of the Security Council, to Africa;
- v. Also emphasized for PAP and PSC to continue enhancing AU's participation and engagement in the G20, as well as advocating for reform in the global financial architecture based on African common positions;
- vi. Emphasized the imperative for PAP's voice in advocating for favourable credit rating, a comprehensive debt relief, including debt restructuring and cancellation for African countries facing severe debt distress; Stressed the need for stronger African voice for a rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system under the WTO;
- vii. Emphasized the imperative to strengthen Africa's engagement in the ongoing reform of the global tax system with a view to reducing Africa's vulnerability to base erosion and profit shifting by multinational cooperations;
- viii. Called for climate justice and equitable burden-sharing in climate action, emphasizing that countries with historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions should lead in mitigation efforts and provide financial and technological support to developing nations; in this respect called upon PAP to join the PSC and other AU Organs in advocating for a global financing

architecture rooted in justice and historical responsibility, particularly highlighting the disproportionate burdens faced by African nations due to climate change;

- ix. Involve PAP going forward in comprehensive review engagements for strengthening commitments to the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA), whose comprehensive review process is underway, upon instruction by the Heads of State at the February 2025 Summit, with the aim of aligning and streamlining all related frameworks; and
- x. Underscored the need for reparations for the historical injustices that Africans, people of African descent, and their descendants endured during the era of colonialism and slavery in line with the African Union Theme of the year for 2025 entitled “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations”

E. Session V: Consideration and adoption of the Joint Conclusions

18. The session adopted the Joint Conclusions of the meeting outlining priority areas of collaboration from which a roadmap and workplan for collaboration will be developed. The Conclusions will be adopted by the PSC at its Session at a later date in a form of a Communiqué and by the PAP at its 5th Ordinary Session of the Sixth Parliament as recommendations and resolutions.

19. The meeting requested the PAP Members to present these Conclusions to their respective national and regional parliaments, as well as sharing with all other relevant stakeholders.

VII. CONCLUSION

20. The Joint Consultative Meeting was concluded following the closing remarks of the President of the Pan African Parliament and the Chairperson of the Peace and security Council, as well as the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

21. The participants commended the PSC Secretariat and PAP Secretariat for the collective and successful organization of the Joint Consultative Meeting and looked forward to the 2026 Joint Consultative Meeting to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at a date to be jointly agreed upon.