

PSC ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY BRIEF



FEBRUARY 2022

PSC SECRETARIAT
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MONTH OUTLOOK

The Republic of Kenya, through H.E. Jean Kamau, Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the African Union (AU), saved as the chairperson of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU. The Provisional Programme of Work for February 2022 was adopted on 26 January 2022, with one Heads of State and Government (HoSG) level meeting on two agenda items: (i) the implementation of the Nairobi deliberations on terrorism and violent extremism in Africa; and (ii) the situation in Western Sahara; one ministerial meeting on the general discussion on urbanization, women, peace and security in Africa; two ambassadorial meetings; one meeting dedicated to considering the situations in Guinea and Sudan; the second meeting to consider the updates on the consultations on AMISOM post-2021; two field missions to South Sudan and Sudan, and two meetings of the PSC Committee of Experts.

The Provision Programme of Work was revised and the meeting of the HoSG on terrorism and violent extremism in Africa and the situation in Western Sahara; the ambassadorial meeting on the situation in Sudan; the field mission to Sudan; and the CoE meeting on the preparation for the HoSG and preparation for PSC induction were postponed. In addition, the PSC also received an update on the situation in the Horn of Africa. It should also be noted that the PSC considered and adopted its Provisional Programme of Work for March 2022.

PLANNED PSC ACTIVITIES, FEB 2022

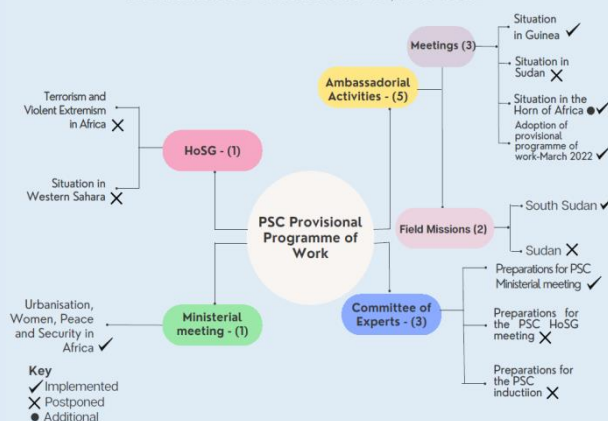


Figure 1- Planned, Postponed, Implemented and added meetings/activities of the PSC for February 2022

GENERAL DEBATE ON URBANIZATION, WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

The month began with an open session at its 1063rd meeting held on 8 February 2022 at the ministerial level on the theme Urbanization, Women, Peace and Security. Council adopted a communiqué expressing concern over the remarkable population growth in the continent and rapid urbanization amid other prevailing challenges that include a mismatch between the supply of services and pace of urbanization, persistent violent conflicts and crises, as well as other threats to peace, security and development, which if not well managed has negative effects on women and girls.

In this regard, Council, among others, requested the AU Commission, through the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and other relevant departments, in collaboration with Member States and RECs/RMs, to develop a Continental Comprehensive Roadmap on Urbanization that is both security and gender-sensitive and submit to the PSC for consideration.

Council also requested the AU Commission, in close coordination with the UN-HABITAT, to continue rendering support to the Member States in their respective national efforts of implementing AU relevant decisions, to address challenges related to urbanization

such as those relating to peaceful coexistence and stability, as well as the safety and security of women and girls.

UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN GUINEA

The situation in Guinea was addressed at the Ambassadorial level on 10 February 2022 at its 1064th meeting, five months since the PSC suspended Guinea from its participation in all activities of the African Union, its Organs and institutions until normal constitutional order is restored in the country. The adopted communiqué which among others, welcomed the recent developments in Guinea, including the adoption of the Transition Charter, the appointment of a civilian Prime Minister, formation of a Transition Government, adoption of the Government's roadmap for the transition and appointment of members of the National Transition Council (NTC).

Council expressed deep concerns over the slow pace of implementation of the Transition Charter; and urgently called on the Transition Authorities and the National Transition Council to expedite the establishment of a clear, practical and time-bound calendar on the implementation of the Transition Charter, in particular, the holding of national elections, to facilitate the prompt return to constitutional order. Council also requested the Guinean military leaders to adhere to their commitments and not contest in the upcoming elections at the end of the transition period, to facilitate a total return to civilian rule, in line with the Constitution of the country. The AU Commission was requested to undertake a needs assessment mission to Guinea to engage Guinean authorities and other stakeholders on the adoption of a transitional plan that is in accordance with AU and ECOWAS norms and to provide quarterly briefings to the PSC.

UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

The High Representative of AU Chairperson for the Horn of Africa, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on 10 February, briefed the Council on his effort in the Horn of Africa, focusing on Ethiopia. This is the second briefing to the Council since his appointment. The first briefing was in November 2021.

The High Representative highlighted the recent developments in Ethiopia, including the establishment of the National Dialogue Commission coupled with the promulgation of the necessary legislation; the release of prisoners; the issue of humanitarian access; withdrawal of forces; the general improvement in goodwill and commitment to dialogue as the only viable approach to address the challenges facing the country, with the facilitation of the AU.

The High Representative informed the Council that despite the progress made, there are still limitations in access to essential services worsening the dire humanitarian situation in Tigray and other areas directly affected by the conflict. He appealed to PSC Members to continue to urge the Federal Government to lift the blockade and restore services as critical confidence-building measures and call on all parties to fully withdraw from occupied territories and to return to their original positions in order to lay the foundation for the commencement of dialogue and negotiations.

Council also reviewed the overall situation in the Horn of Africa and mutually recommitted to sharpening the strategy for promoting sustainable peace and stability in the region. The PSC did not issue any outcome and the High representative issued a press release following his briefing to the Council.

UPDATES ON THE STATUS OF CONSULTATIONS ON AMISOM POST-2021

Following the ongoing consultations between the AU, Federal Government of Somalia (FGS),

United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) on the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) post-2021, the PSC on 15 February 2022 received an updated briefing on the status of consultations on AMISOM post-2021.

The PSC commended the FGS for the exceptional level of cooperation that was extended to the AU technical team during the consultations on the draft Concept of Operations (CONOPs), the Joint Proposal and the Logistics Support Concept for the new AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) to be launched on 1 April 2022. Council underscored the importance of ensuring a common understanding between the AU and the FGS on the follow-on mission in Somalia.

Council Members emphasized the importance of squarely aligning the ATMIS mandate with the Somalia Transition Plan, as well as the importance of seriously considering the views of T/PCCs in the development of the CONOPs, bearing in mind that they have a better appreciation of the realities on the ground. The PSC agreed to receive a comprehensive briefing and to consider the CONOPs and the AU-UN joint report in early March 2022.

FIELD MISSION TO SOUTH SUDAN



The PSC has remained actively seized of the situation in the Republic of South Sudan and has repeatedly encouraged the South Sudanese stakeholders to remain steadfast and to honor their commitments, so as to build lasting peace, security and stability in South Sudan and, by extension, throughout the region.

Against this background and pursuant to its mandate of promoting peace, security and stability in Africa, the PSC, from 22 to 25 February 2022, undertook its sixth field mission to the Republic of South Sudan since its first mission in October 2016¹. The field mission is in line with the African Union (AU) obligation as a Guarantor of the R-ARCSS, and took place two years since the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) on 22 February 2020.

The Mission enabled the PSC to gather first-hand information regarding the overall situation on the ground, particularly the status of progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, since the last PSC field mission undertaken in March 2021, and the challenges to be addressed so as to better inform the next steps that the AU will have to take as the transition enters its end-phase. The PSC also seized the opportunity to follow up on the implementation of the tasks in its Communique adopted following its 1060th meeting held on 25 January 2022 on the situation in South Sudan.

The presence of the Council Members on the ground reaffirmed the AU solidarity with the Government and the people of South Sudan, as well as to the continued commitment of the AU to support South Sudan in efforts aimed at ensuring a successful transition. The PSC will consider the report of the field mission during the month of March 2022, which will be adopted by a communiqué.

ENVISAGED ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH 2022

On 14 February 2022, the PSC adopted its Provisional Programme of Work for March 2022. The PSC, in March 2022, is expected to hold five meetings at ambassadorial level, focusing on Youth Peace and Security in Africa;

¹ The PSC undertook its first field mission to South Sudan from 28– 31 October 2016, followed by the second mission from 15 -19 April 2018; the third mission from 5 to 8 March 2019; the fourth from 18-20 February 2020, and the fifth field mission, from 24 to 26 March 2021.

considering the outcome of the 1st joint retreat of the PSC and the APRM (eThekweni conclusions); the operationalization of African Standby Force (ASF); the policies on child protection in AU PSOs and mainstreaming child protection in APSA; and the implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty.

Following its communiqué adopted at its 1061st meeting, held on 27 January 2022, the AU Commission will organize a Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Ghana, in which the PSC Members will participate.

Taking into consideration that the newly elected Members of the PSC will take their seats in the Council from 1 April 2022, the AU Commission will organize an Induction/Orientation programme for the newly elected, re-elected and outgoing members of the PSC in Maseru, Lesotho. The PSC is expected to undertake an induction to

newly elected members of PSC at Committee of Expert level and at Ambassadorial level.

The newly elected Members of the PSC will start attending the PSC meetings from the beginning of March 2022 as observers.

MESSAGE: COMMISSIONER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PEACE AND SECURITY

On behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye congratulated the outgoing Chairperson, Ambassador Jean Kamau of the Republic of Kenya, for her commendable chairship of the Council for the month of February 2022, and welcomed Ambassador Mafa Sejanamane of the Kingdom of Lesotho on the assumption of his chairship for the month of March 2022. He assured the Kingdom of Lesotho of the Commission's readiness to provide all required support throughout the month and beyond.

Key Speakers/Invited Guests – February 2022

S/N	Meeting/Field Mission	Key Speakers	Outcome
1.	1063 rd meeting on 8 February 2022 Discussion on Urbanization, Women, Peace and Security	H.E. Ambassador Raychelle Omamo, (SC, EGH), Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya and PSC Chairperson for the month of February 2022 H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security H.E. Madam Bineta Diop, AU Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security H.E. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) H.E. Mr. Mobingue Ngom, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director and Director of the UNFPA Representation Office to AU and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	Communiqué PSC/MIN/COMM.1063 (2022) -
2.	1064 th meeting on 10 February 2022 Update on the situation in Guinea.	H.E. Ambassador Jean Kamau, Chairperson of the PSC for the month of February 2022 H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Representative of Ghana as Chair of the Economic	Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.1064(2022)

		Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Authority of Heads of State and Government	
	Update situation in the horn of Africa	H.E. Ambassador Jean Kamau, Chairperson of the PSC for the month of February 2022 H.E. President Olusegun Obasanjo, AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security	Press Release of 10 February 2022 by the High Representative
	1065 th meeting on 14 February 2022 Consideration and adoption of the PSC Provisional Programme of Work for March 2022	H.E. Ambassador Mafa Sejamane, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho and PSC Chairperson for March 2022	Adoption of the PSC Provisional Programme of Work for March 2022
3.	1066 th meeting on 15 February 2022 Status of consultations on the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) post-2021	H.E. Ambassador Jean Kamau, Chairperson of the PSC for the month of February 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 (SRCC) for Somalia and Head of the AMISOM H.E. Ambassador Abdullahi Ahmed Jama, Permanent Representative of Somalia to the AU Dr. Alhadji Sarjoh Bah, Director of the Conflict Management Directorate	Summary Record
4.	Field Mission to South Sudan, 22 to 25 February 2022	H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit Vice President, H.E. Dr. Riek Machar Cabinet Members of the Reconstituted Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) The National Transitional Committee [NTC] The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (R-JMEC) and the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism (CTSAMVM)	Field Mission Report

		Diplomatic Community – IGAD, ADC, Troika, EU The state and national authorities, and regional and UN field teams Pibor and Bor Civil Society Organisations (leaders of faith-based organisations, women, youth, and the business community)	