



## JOINT STATEMENT

### The Third Retreat of the African Union SRCCs/PRs and United Nations SRSGs/SESGs

### “Strengthening Collaboration in Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa”

Aswan, Egypt, 20 October 2025

1. On 20 October 2025, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) held the Third Retreat of the AU Special Representatives and Permanent Representatives of the Chairperson of the Commission (SRCCs and PRs) and the Special Representatives, Special Envoys and Personal Envoys of the Secretary-General (SRSGs, SESGs and PESGs) of the United Nations, in Aswan, Egypt, under the theme: ***“Strengthening Collaboration in Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.”***
2. The retreat took place under the auspices of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, and was co-convened by the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of UNOAU, Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga. In this regard, participants ***expressed*** appreciation for the initiative which enabled them to engage and reflect on Africa’s most pressing peace and security challenges and measures to address them, as well as the continent’s immense potential and opportunities and how to harness them. The UN Special Representatives and Envoys expressed appreciation to the leadership of the African Union for the invitation to attend the 16th High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa convened in Aswan, Egypt, on 21-22 October 2025.
3. The retreat ***recalled*** the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security signed on 19 April 2017, which expresses a commitment to strive to reach a common understanding and maximum convergence in addressing threats to peace and security through consultative decision-making. The retreat ***also recalled*** the Joint Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, signed on 27 January 2018, which recognizes the peace, security, and development nexus. The retreat ***further recalled*** the Joint Framework on Human Rights, signed on 28 November 2023, which reaffirms the shared objectives and longstanding commitment of the two organizations towards enhancing respect, promotion and protection of human and peoples’ rights. The retreat ***reaffirmed*** that the AU-UN partnership is anchored on the shared values and principles of the two organizations, as outlined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitutive



Act of the African Union, as well as in the three joint frameworks. The retreat reiterated the imperative to reinforce the joint partnership based on mutual respect, solidarity, and trust.

4. The retreat **also recalled** the UNGA80 high-level week at which world leaders expressed their renewed commitment to multilateral cooperation and called for strengthening solidarity in tackling complex and inter-connected global issues. The retreat **noted** that the joint partnership remains one of the pillars of the global multilateral system and stressed the need for both organizations to “deliver as one” wherever possible.
5. The retreat **further recalled** the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security held in New York on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025, at which the two organizations welcomed the considerable progress made in strengthening the joint partnership in peace and security, including in close collaboration of the REC/RMs, which are the building blocks of the African peace and security architecture and the African Governance Architecture, and international partners. These achievements included sustained collaboration in support of African Union Peace Support Operations, strengthening early warning systems, prevention initiatives, mediation and Good Offices, and coordinated support to national authorities for the conduct of timely, peaceful, and inclusive elections, as well as for the promotion and protection of human rights.
6. The retreat **exchanged** views on the peace and security challenges on the continent, including, *inter alia*, governance issues, terrorism, violent extremism and organized crime, climate-induced peace and security threats, and external interference in Africa, and **emphasized** the imperative for sustained interaction and engagement in the quest for durable solutions. The retreat **stressed** the imperative for inclusive approaches in addressing these challenges, involving women and the youth, and tailored to specific contexts. In this regard, the retreat **resolved** to work more closely together towards comprehensively addressing the structural root causes and drivers of violent conflicts on the continent.
7. The retreat **underscored** the importance of African agency, ownership and leadership in responding to peace and security threats on the continent. The retreat **also underscored** the importance of fostering coherence, credibility, and collaboration between the two organizations by leveraging their respective comparative advantage, and underpinned by the principle of complementarity. Moreover, the retreat stressed the need for all diplomatic initiatives involving international partners to be well-coordinated, mutually reinforcing and harmonized with those of the African Union. The retreat also recognized the urgent need for transformative approaches in mediation.



8. The retreat **welcomed** the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (UNSCR 1325) and noted that the meaningful participation and leadership of women – including young women – in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, peacebuilding, and recovery is an essential element of sustaining peace. The retreat **welcomed** efforts of the African Union in this regard, including over 50% inclusion of women in Electoral Observation Missions and other initiatives. The retreat **acknowledged** that the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary presents a key opportunity for renewed focus on the aspirations and objectives of the WPS agenda on international peace and security, reflect on the progress, share knowledge and highlight stories of the champions who are advancing the agenda throughout the continent, often in challenging circumstances.
9. The retreat **recognized** the nexus between peace, security and development and their implications for the attainment of the Africa's Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The retreat underscored the importance of giving due consideration to the nexus in supporting state authorities consolidate peace through effective conflict management.
10. The retreat **recognized** the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, as outlined in Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations. The retreat **further recognized** the role of regional arrangements in addressing threats to international peace and security, as outlined in Chapter VIII of the Charter. In this connection, the retreat **emphasized** that the adoption of Security Council resolution 2719 (2023) represents a significant milestone towards ensuring adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for Security Council-authorized and African Union-led peace support operations. The retreat therefore **called for** the expeditious implementation of the joint AU-UN roadmap on the operationalization of resolution 2719, which was endorsed by the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 21 October 2024.
11. The retreat welcomed joint UN-AU initiatives such as the African Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions, which provides integrated programmatic support to countries in Africa undergoing complex political transitions, and aims to mitigate risks and reinforcing governance structures to bring countries back on the track of democratic governance.
12. The retreat **emphasized** the need to hold regular exchanges between the African Union and United Nations, including through joint visits, assessments and analysis, joint statements, and common messaging, as well as sharing of best practices and lessons learnt in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict in Africa. The retreat also called for continued strategic advocacy by the two institutions on critical priorities for Africa, including on the long overdue



reforms of the global governance architecture, including the Security Council and the Breton Woods institutions.

13. The retreat welcomed the institutionalization of its annual meeting and stressed the necessity for continued strategic coherence to strengthen the partnership. The retreat *expressed* appreciation to the African Union Commission and United Nations Office to the African Union for convening the Third Joint Retreat, and to the people and Government of Egypt for hosting the retreat and looked forward to convening the next retreat in 2026 on a date and venue to be mutually agreed.

*Done at Aswan, Egypt  
20 October 2025*