



Security Council Briefing on Peace and Security in Africa Predictable, sustainable, and flexible resources of AU PSOs

25 May 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt
Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President, and I also thank USG Di Carlo, AU Commissioner Bankole and Ms. Tadasse for their insightful briefings.

Today, on International Day of Peacekeepers we pay tribute to all those who have served and continue to serve, working resolutely towards the maintenance of peace and the protection of civilians. We also congratulate our African colleagues on Africa Day.

The latest Secretary-General's report on the financing of African Union Peace Support Operations, the recent adoption of an African position on this topic, as well as our experience as a member of the European Union in partnering with the African continent on its path towards peace and security, represent key references towards our constructive engagement on this important topic.

Malta is committed towards adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding for AU Peace Support Operations. We firmly believe in the value and feasibility of this longstanding request from our African partners, from both a political and operational perspective.



It is crucial that responsibility and ownership for the African Union to lead on its Peace Operations is met by equal commitment from this chamber in adequately supporting these calls.

President

We should use the enhanced relationship between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council to build on and improve concrete cooperation on addressing crises on the African continent. We view this exercise as a complementary one, jointly strengthening our approaches to common challenges and interests. The AU Peace Support Operations offer us with this critical opportunity to implement such joint approaches.

Properly financed AU Peace Support Operations would allow us to perform in a broad peacekeeping space, possibly with more than one operational model. We look forward in better defining the operationalisation of AU Peace Support Operations through the upcoming discussions.

With this in mind, we commend the AU for the progress achieved in the critical areas of human rights, conduct and discipline compliance frameworks, the operationalisation of the Peace Fund and financial accountability arrangements.

We also acknowledge that genuine engagement in solving pending matters, such as the burden-sharing of these operations, is still required.



The EU is committed to continue its cooperation with the AU, including through its ongoing engagement in the tripartite UN-AU-EU project for enhancing and operationalising the AU Human Rights Compliance Framework to put into practice AU policies in human rights and due diligence.

As the EU has provided 600 million euros for 2022-2024 to support the military aspects of African-led PSOs, we further encourage additional funding from a diversified donor base to truly ensure the sustainability of these peace operations.

President

To conclude, Malta stands ready to engage ahead and during the upcoming negotiations on this important topic. We firmly believe that cooperation with regional and subregional organisations in maintaining peace and security, consistent with Chapter 8 (VIII) of the UN Charter can improve collective security. Now is the time to translate these principles into reality.

I thank you.