



Security Council briefing on 'Cooperation between the United Nations and regional & subregional organisations – African Union', 2 October 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

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Thank you, President, and I also thank SRSG Onanga-Anyanga, Ambassador Mohammed, and ASG Pobee for their briefings.

As we reconvene after last week's Summit of the Future, we find ourselves at the right juncture to collectively commit to deepening strategic and institutional cooperation between the UN and the African Union.

Advancing peace in Africa requires a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach, underpinned by the intrinsic link between peace and security, development, and human rights. The Joint UN-AU Framework underscores these shared objectives.

Malta welcomes recent efforts in accelerating this partnership, including through the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security, and more recently, the Joint Framework on Human Rights.



We commend the provision of technical and advisory support by the UN Office to the African Union on advancing women's role in peace processes and decision-making. This support is most notable to the AU's high-level mission to the DRC, to FemWise and the Panel of the Wise's activities in Senegal, and for the participation of Sudanese women. We are encouraged that such initiatives to advance Resolution 1325 are reinforced and broadened to other context-specific situations.

During Malta's Presidency last April, we complemented these efforts by shedding light on the exceptional work carried out by women mediators in the Great Lakes region, in collaboration with the AU. Our discussions highlighted women's role as foremost promoters of peace and reconciliation despite the barriers they continue to face.

We also welcome the increased UN-AU partnership on advancing the protection of children in armed conflict. This includes technical support from the UN to the AU on mainstreaming child protection in early warning and mediation, as well as developing a youth-led continental outreach campaign on the misuse of social media and other related risks for conflict-affected children.



In the same vein, we acknowledge the AU's efforts in ensuring the meaningful participation of young persons in peace and security efforts. This includes through the adoption of the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace, and Security. The Security Council can also help empower African youth by mainstreaming youth considerations in peacekeeping mandates.

Malta reiterates the importance of addressing climate-related peace and security risks, especially in Africa. As a 'threat multiplier', climate change displays itself in many forms: from increasing competition over natural resources to deepening food, water, and energy insecurities, as well as other socio-economic vulnerabilities.

The development of the Common African Position on climate, peace and security is an effective tool in enhancing a shared understanding of this phenomenon. In parallel, it ensures that adaptation, mitigation, and resilience take on a conflict-sensitive dimension. Malta strongly supports these initiatives.



President

We greatly value the continuous engagement between the UNOAU and the AU, and regional economic mechanisms, such as ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD and SADC. We also welcome the trilateral cooperation that exists with the EU to discuss issues of common interest and concern. These regional engagements foster greater coherence, particularly on shared challenges.

Such coordination is evident in Somalia, as the UN system and longstanding partners, such as the EU, have been providing support to ATMIS and the Somali security forces for the broader security transition.

We also welcome Personal Envoy Lamamra's close engagement with the joint AU-IGAD High-Level Panel on Sudan, and other partners, to ensure that his good offices with the warring parties is closely coordinated.



Additionally, we look forward to receiving the Joint Roadmap that will outline the way forward for the implementation of Resolution 2719.

To conclude, President, the upcoming Joint UNSC-AUPSC Consultative Meeting should serve as an opportunity to forge further momentum and convergence. The complementarity of regional configurations to peace and security in Africa warrants our continued and steadfast attention, in the interest of present and future generations.

I thank you.