



Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRS) to the African Union and Head of UNOAU, Hanna Tetteh

## SRS's monthly message

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the United Nations (UN), [marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the founding Charter](#). The Charter was signed in San Francisco on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1945 and came into force on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1945.

In the Preamble, Member States commit to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war; reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small; to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained; and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

Towards these ends, Member States agreed to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours; to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security; to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest; and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

Seventy-five years later, these common purposes and principles remain as important as ever. As the Secretary-General has noted, the Organisation, and its ethos of international cooperation, have yielded great and wide-ranging benefits to humankind, lifting millions out of poverty, upholding human rights and helping to forge peace in troubled lands. In today's rapidly changing world, our enduring and Charter-driven duty is to build on those achievements and ensure that all people can enjoy safety, prosperity and dignity.

In our specific context at UNOAU, Chapter Eight of the Charter is of particular significance as it recognizes the role of regional arrangements, and cooperation with such organisations, towards attainment of the purposes and principles outlined in the Charter. Our 'Charter-driven duty' at UNOAU is to build on the achievements made so far in strengthening the United Nations – African Union partnership within the spirit of the Charter. Strengthening our partnership is in recognition that the most acute challenges of our time, including inter and intra-state conflicts, violent extremism, poverty and climate change, to name a few, are collective challenges, requiring common and multilateral, rather than unilateral approaches.

## Strengthening UN-AU Partnership in Peace and Security

At UNOAU, we recognize that the African Union has played and will continue to play a central role in resolving conflicts on the continent. The African Union's proximity to conflicts in Africa, as well as its unique knowledge and perspectives are only some of the reasons why close AU-UN cooperation and coordination remains critical. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres has stressed repeatedly, the UN's relationship with the AU has over the years become one of the most strategically important ones of our times.

With the signing of the Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security in April 2017, AU-UN engagements have become more structured, more frequent, constructive and systematic. There are annual meetings at the level of the Secretary-General- Chairperson of the Commission, at the Under-Secretary-General/AU Commissioner- level, and at the working-level, all aimed at deepening collaboration and fostering a common understanding in addressing peace and security challenges. As the Secretary-General noted in his address to the AU Assembly in 2019, there has been a 'quantum leap' in the strategic cooperation between the two organizations, with both now recognising that the partnership is a necessity and not an option.

Enhanced collaboration has become essential within the context of more complex challenges to peace and security, more intractable conflicts and the imperative to comprehensively address the root causes of violence and conflict, preventing and mediating conflict and sustaining peace, and responding to conflict. Within this context, the AU and the UN continue to work closely together on several initiatives that have arguably yielded considerable dividends over the years.

Allow me to very briefly focus on three areas that highlight some of the very concrete achievements that have been made as a result of the partnership. First, recognising their respective comparative advantages, the AU and the UN have endeavoured to undertake **joint mediation and Good Offices missions** across the continent, as well as **joint briefings** by senior officials to the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. Both organisations have registered positive developments arising from such joint missions, including in the implementation of the CAR Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed in February 2019 and the Sudan Political Agreement and the Constitutional Document signed in August 2019. The UN and AU also undertook a Solidarity Mission, led by the UN Deputy Secretary-General and AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security to the Horn of Africa in October 2019. The mission highlighted the role of women in peace, security and development in Africa and stressed the need for increased participation and representation of women at all levels of decision-making. The Solidarity Mission, which was the third of its kind, also helped enhance a common understanding of conflict situations by the two organisations and provided opportunities to deliver joint messages. I undertook a Good Offices mission to Malawi, on behalf of the Secretary-General, in early February of 2020 to engage political stakeholders including senior political leaders in the government and the opposition, as well as the diplomatic corps to defuse growing tensions and enable the conduct of peaceful elections. Throughout my engagements, I kept my counterparts at the African Union abreast of developments.

Similarly, Senior AU Commission and UN Secretariat officials continue to conduct joint briefings to the AUPSC and the UNSC to inform policy-making processes of both organisations. UNOAU also continues to engage the AUPSC, the PRC, AUC actively. The UN also participates in AUPSC meetings and annually deliver dozens of briefings and statements to the AUPSC, enabling the AUPSC to take account of UN perspectives in its deliberations.

The AUPSC Secretariat and UNOAU continue to facilitate monthly meetings in Addis Ababa between the incoming Chairperson/Presidency of the AUPSC and UNSC with a view to strengthening coordination and information-sharing between the Councils.

Both organisations also work together towards **strengthening AU Women mediation capacities for engagement in peace processes** under the AU FemWise-Africa programme. A pool of 190 women mediators from across Africa had by end November 2019 been inducted onto the FemWise-Africa roster of African Women Mediators, for deployment under Track I, II and III mediation processes. The members are also expected to promote women's rights, particularly in conflict situations, recognising women's specific needs and vulnerabilities in such situations and their potentials for promoting sustainable peace. A number of FemWise-Africa women mediators were deployed to the High-Level Meeting held at the AUC in March on the implementation CAR Political Agreement, with additional deployments to AU Liaison Offices (LOs), following a needs-based assessment of the AU LOs with respect to gender mainstreaming, security and civil society outreach.

The UN supported the African Women Leaders Network inter-generational dialogue meeting which led to the development strategic priorities, including on communications. Finally, on the margins of the thirty-third ordinary session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, UNOAU and the African Union Commission launched the joint publication 'She Stands for Peace. 20 Years, 20 Journeys,' which features the stories of twenty African women and women's organisations that have made outstanding contributions to peace and security on the continent. The publication, which commemorates the twentieth anniversary of the landmark Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), serves as a platform for women to share their journeys, elevate their voices and underlines the need for the full implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

One area where UNOAU and the African Union Commission have worked together closely is on **capacity enhancement**. It is arguably an area that has not got much press due to the often-technical nature of this cooperation. Yet, much of the UN's political engagement relies on it. For instance, UNOAU supported Joint Mission Reviews of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) which informed the concept of operations review; MNJTF and G5 Sahel reviews and meetings on the regional coordination mechanism for the Stabilisation Plan for the Lake Chad Basin. The UN also supported the AUC in developing and designing several strategies, including a synchronized Logistics implementation Strategy to the AMISOM CONOPS 2018 - 2021 in line with the Somalia Transitional Programme as mandated by the UNSCR 2472, and supported the AU in the operationalisation of the AU Peace Fund.

These examples show that cooperation and collaboration are essential. The UN-AU partnership has produced concrete outcomes, with real impact on the effectiveness of our two organizations to deliver on their respective mandates which are ultimately to benefit We The People. This is what it is all about!!! So, as we commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, let us reflect on the purposes and principles of our organization and the need for greater global cooperation to address the numerous challenges of our time, including through regional arrangements like the African Union.

**Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the AU (SRSG) and Head of UNOAU,  
Hanna S. Tetteh**

## UNOAU and Norway sign new agreement to support the UN-AU partnership in peace and security

Norway signed an agreement with the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for support to the implementation of the UN-AU partnership in peace and security. The agreement will be implemented from July 2020 to December 2022 at a cost of 12 million Norwegian Kroner (approx. US\$ 1.3 million). The agreement is in support of the objectives outlined in the [Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security](#).



SRSO and Head of UNOAU, Hanna Tetteh (left) exchanges signed agreement with Ambassador Morten Aasland (right), Permanent Representative of Norway to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the AU (SRSO) and Head of UNOAU, Ms. Hanna Tetteh, said “I would like to thank the Kingdom of Norway and the Norwegian delegation to the AU in Addis Ababa for supporting UNOAU’s work in the past, and for continuing to support our work in the implementation of the Joint UN-AU Framework, and especially to strengthen the peace and security architecture. This is the second agreement with Norway. The first agreement covered the period June 2017-2020”.

“We are very appreciative of the doubling of the financial support provided to our office and the critical projects that we will be able to execute with these resources, and grateful for your support of the UN/AU partnership, which is a strategic priority of the UN Secretary-General”.

Ms. Tetteh also congratulated Norway on being elected to serve as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2021-2022. She acknowledged the Norwegian Permanent Representative to the African Union, Ambassador Morten Aasland’s commitment to supporting the UN-AU partnership and thanked him as his tour of duty comes to an end.

In his remarks at the signing ceremony, Ambassador Aasland said, “Norway has been and remains an important partner for the UN-AU partnership in peace and security, and our partnership is strong. We view a further strengthening of UN-AU relations as essential, for peace and security, and sustainable development on the continent. We are honoured to support the UN-AU relationship on conflict prevention, mediation support, women, peace and security and various other issues. With the new agreement, we have laid the basis for continued strong cooperation. We are proud of what we have achieved together, working closely with the UNOAU and the AU”. [Read more](#)

## **UN Security Council welcomes five new non-permanent members for the period 2021-2022**

The UN General Assembly held elections between 17 and 18 June which resulted in the election of India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway as new non-permanent members of the Security Council for the years 2021 and 2022.

The five countries outlined their priorities as non-permanent members of the Security Council in a [feature on the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs \(DPPA\)'s publication, Politically Speaking](#). Similarly, UNOAU engaged with respective country representative missions based in Addis Ababa to obtain respective reflections on their election into the Security Council. In this edition of UNOAU monthly, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway share perspectives

### **Ireland's election to the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for 2021-2022**



The members of the United Nations have honoured Ireland by placing their trust in us to take a seat on the UN Security Council. Ireland – along with other newly elected countries Kenya, India, Mexico and Norway - will start its two-year tenure on the Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 – the fourth time we will have served on the Council.

Our campaign centred on the themes of Partnership, Empathy and Independence – attributes that Ireland has always brought to its engagement with the UN; attributes which will drive our work on the Security Council.

As a small island country multilateralism is a cornerstone of Ireland's foreign policy. We see the UN as a crucial and irreplaceable forum for dialogue on, and coordinated effort to address, the global challenges we face. Since joining the UN 65 years ago we have worked to build and sustain peace and security; to promote and protect human rights and the rule of law; and in particular, to give equal voice to people around the world. Ireland's peacekeepers have served continuously with the UN in some of the most difficult and complex conflicts since the 1950's.

Our own troubled history gives us insights into the complexities of conflict. We have learned that tackling the root causes of conflict is required to build and sustain peace. We understand the importance of ensuring that the voices of all community members are heard. We know that peace-building takes time and must be carefully nourished. And importantly we believe that women, girls and youth more generally all have a special role to play in building peace; and need to be supported to play their part.

Building on our own experience and the lessons we have learned, Ireland will apply itself in an open and honest way to the work of the Security Council. We pledge to work with all Member States, giving a voice to those not on the Council. It is our natural way of doing business. We have a saying in Irish '*Ní neart go cur le chéile*' – there is no strength without unity. Working together is needed more so today than at any time in modern history as we face the additional global threat posed by and the consequences of the current coronavirus pandemic.

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## Strengthening UN-AU Partnership in Peace and Security

I am proud to be appointed Ireland's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Ireland's representative to the African Union. I look forward to working in partnership with the African Union and its member states; with the UN Office to the AU and with other members of the Security Council present in Addis Ababa, as we come together to further the objectives of peace, conflict resolution and security on the continent of Africa.

Central to this work will be the need for a shared analysis of the challenges we face, a deep understanding of varying perspectives on different agenda items, and regular dialogue and coordination to bring our collective knowledge and innovation to addressing some of the most complex and pressing challenges. I strongly believe that working together we will make a difference, strengthened by our unity of purpose: *'Ní heart go cur le chéile'*.

*Nicola Brennan-Brugha, Ireland's Ambassador (Designate) to Ethiopia, and Ireland's Representative to the African Union*

### **Kenya: At the service of humanity in the United Nations Security Council**



Kenya's election on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to serve as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2021-2022 was a culmination of a process that started in November 2017 when Kenya formally submitted its candidature to the African Union (AU) for endorsement.

The other key milestone in the process was on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019 when Kenya was formally endorsed as the AU candidate for the seat. The AU endorsement provided a clear foundation for Kenya's successful campaign for election.

However, the campaign towards this historic feat was unlike any other. It was a diplomatic roller-coaster that started with a formal launch of the campaign in Addis Ababa on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 that was to be followed by another launch in New York on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019. With the campaign officially launched, Kenya then went out to solicit support from all the Members of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Kenya's success in the election is attributable to the fact that it ran an agenda based campaign based on its ten-point agenda that encapsulates Kenya's commitment to the UN fraternity, namely: agenda 1) Building Bridges, agenda 2) Regional Peace & Security, agenda 3) Peace Keeping and Support Operations, agenda 4) Countering Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism, agenda 5) Humanitarian Action, Agenda 6) Justice, Human Rights and Democracy, agenda 7) Women in Peace & Security, agenda 8) Youth Empowerment, agenda 9) Environment & Climate Change Agenda, and agenda 10) Sustainable Development Goals.

The 10-point Agenda that Kenya promises to champion in the Security Council is largely premised on the SDGs. The process leading to the adoption of the SDG's was multilateral diplomacy at its best demonstrated by building of bridges between diametrically opposing opinions resulting in some of the most profound commitments ever by Member States in the history of the United Nations. Kenya was at the very centre of this process.

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Kenya is persuaded that global challenges are only surmountable if the world's rules based multilateral system is deployed in a manner that attracts consensus not only in the appreciation of the challenges, but also in the evolution of practical response strategies. Kenya is a safe pair of hands and will be a steadfast partner at the Security Council, leveraging on its wealth of experiences and work towards delivering peace for sustainable development with all the United Nations Member States.

We will work closely with the whole of the African continent to adopt the region's aspirations towards delivering at the United Nations Security Council in line with the above 10-point Agenda, key being fostering: regional peace and security, countering terrorism and building multilateral bridges. As a member of the UNSC, Kenya will have an opportunity to shape the global agenda and remain focused on bringing African issues to the table.

We are enthusiastic to engage in a robust, regular interaction especially with three rotating African participants on the Security Council (A3, that is Niger, Tunisia and Kenya) +1 (St. Vincent and Grenadines representing the Caribbean) to pursue the Peace and Security agenda of Africa and enhance the UNCS and AUPSC relations. The role of the A3 +1 at this time is critical to shape UNSC debates, break geo-political deadlocks, and guide the council's collective action and in the spirit of African unity.

Kenya's skills in multilateral diplomacy will be exemplified in the Security Council in at least three ways: First, Kenya will bring on board **consensus building capabilities**, more so within the context of unprecedented challenges occasioned by the global COVID-19 pandemic and other existential threats. Second, the Council will benefit from Kenya's **objectivity and trustworthiness** which is necessary particularly in helping countries in conflict to arrive at common understanding of various issues. Third, Kenya's **consistency** will bring in an element of certainty particularly on any Kenya-led agenda. These three qualities are crucial for building peace and security in our world.

*Catherine Mwangi is Kenya's Ambassador Extra-Ordinary and Plenipotentiary Ethiopia, the Republic of Djibouti and Permanent Representative to the African Union (AU), Inter-Government Authority on Development (IGAD) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)*

### **Mexico's priorities at the United Nations Security Council, 2021-2022**



On 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the United Nations General Assembly elected Mexico as a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2021-2022. This election is a recognition of Mexico's diplomatic tradition and its contributions to the international peace and security agenda.

Mexico will fully abide by its foreign policy constitutional principles and its adherence to international law. It will also promote dialogue and cooperation schemes that seek to prevent conflicts and find peaceful, lasting and balanced solutions to security challenges.

Even when the issues under consideration of the UN Security Council are largely predetermined, Mexico will promote some cross-cutting priorities. Let me highlight three of them.

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## Strengthening UN-AU Partnership in Peace and Security

First, Mexico will promote a gender perspective in the decisions of the Council, in accordance with its feminist foreign policy. In that sense, it will support measures that empower and promote the substantive participation of women and girls in the prevention of conflicts, peacekeeping and peace-building at the local, community, national, regional and international levels, including the planning and development of mandates for Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions.

Secondly, Mexico will prevent and combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. It will encourage the Council's commitment towards preventing and addressing the repercussions of the illicit trafficking of small arms in armed conflict and post-conflict situations. In addition, the Embassy of Mexico is willing to join efforts in line with the African Union's initiative for Silencing the Guns in Africa.

Thirdly, Mexico will uphold the rule of law. It will contribute to the design of norms in international peace and security, particularly in those issues where Mexico has a broad experience such as the peaceful settlement of disputes, mediation processes and respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

During its upcoming membership, Mexico – through its Embassy in Ethiopia – is willing to work along with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union, the AU Commission and all member states of the AU, not only towards the above-mentioned priorities but in all issues that are relevant to hemispheric peace and security.

*Víctor M. Treviño, Ambassador of Mexico to Ethiopia and the African Union*



Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the UN General Assembly conducted elections for non-permanent members (2021-2022) under UN social distancing guidelines. Ambassador Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the General Assembly is seen in this picture on the right during the elections.



## Norway's priorities at the United Nations Security Council in 2021-2022



Norway was earlier this summer elected to the United Nations Security Council for the two year period, 2021-2022.

- We are most grateful to have been given this vote of confidence from the member states of the United Nations, says Norway's ambassador to the African Union and the ECA in Addis Abeba, Morten Aasland. We also congratulate India, Ireland, Kenya and Mexico on being elected for the same period.

The ambassador says Norway is looking forward to cooperating with all permanent and elected members of the Council, and to contributing on behalf of all UN Member States to the work of the Security Council, from January 1, 2021.

Norway has over the last years worked closely with the UN Office to the African Union, and has just recently signed a new three year agreement, providing for continued funding inter alia of the UN Office to the AU, to the AU Mission in New York and various activities in support of the UN-AU relationship.

- We view the UN-AU relationship as essential, on peace and security and on sustainable development and the SDGs. The UN needs the AU, and the AU needs the UN.

- Significant strides have been made over the last few years. We see UN Secretary General Guterres and AU Commission Chair Moussa Faki pushing the relationship further, and that this is reflected at other levels. The need to deal with the major consequences of the pandemic, for economic and social development and peace and conflict, is a further reason for building an even more effective UN-AU working agenda.

The ambassador says Norway will be looking forward to working with the three elected African members of the Security Council, Kenya, Niger and Tunisia, as well as staying in touch with the AU on peace and security issues on the Council agenda.

- Norway and the other four Nordic countries have a strong tradition for working with African countries and with Africa. The Nordics were at the forefront in its time, providing international support for decolonization and the struggle against apartheid. Africa and the Nordics stand together today, for the peaceful resolution of conflict, for sustainable development, and in defense of multilateralism. This will shape our work at the Security Council in New York.

Below are some of the views and positions Norway will be pursuing at the UN Security Council:

The world needs more international cooperation, and we are convinced that a well-functioning multilateral system with the UN at its core gives us the best chance of finding common solutions to our present and future global challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic and the huge impact it has on economic and social development, government funding as well as public health and well-being, fully illustrates the need to pull together and work in solidarity as a global community. The pandemic knows no borders. It has been said that those who have not seen the value of multilateral cooperation before, surely must recognize it with this pandemic.

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## Strengthening UN-AU Partnership in Peace and Security

We will prepare for the UN Security Council assignment knowing that being a member of the Council is one of the most challenging tasks in international affairs. We will collaborate closely with all members of the Council and do our part in making Council deliberations as constructive as possible.

Norway is looking forward to a close dialogue with the three elected African members in New York, Niger, Tunisia and Kenya. We also wish to deepen our dialogue with the African Union on the numerous issues on the Security Council's agenda that affect African states and the continent as a whole. In addressing situations on the Council's agenda, Norway will focus in particular on four thematic areas:

**Peace diplomacy:** Over the course of many years, Norway has built unique experience and extensive networks of contacts in the area of peace diplomacy. We will use the knowledge we have gained from our engagement in peace processes to strengthen the Council's conflict prevention and resolution efforts.

**Inclusion of women:** Norway has worked systematically over many years to promote the participation of women in peace processes. We will make use of our knowledge of the women, peace and security agenda and integrate it into all of the Council's work. By doing so, we will ensure that women's participation and rights are safeguarded and further promoted in UN peace and security efforts. This is also an area in which the Norwegian Mission in Addis Ababa will continue to collaborate closely with the UNOAU.

**Protection of civilians:** Norway will work to strengthen the protection of civilians, including children, and we will use international humanitarian and human rights law as the basis for these efforts. Norway is a major humanitarian actor, provides significant funding to humanitarian urgencies all over the world, and has gained wide-ranging knowledge and experience in humanitarian assistance, also from cooperating with civil society organizations. We will bring this experience to the Security Council. Norway will give special priority to efforts towards preventing and combating sexual violence in conflict.

**Climate change and security:** Climate change is increasingly affecting peace and security. Norway will work to ensure that the Security Council discusses climate-related security threats and that it assesses, on a continual basis, the possible impact of climate change on other issues that are on the Council's agenda. This is one of many areas where we have seen the value of harmonizing UN and AU assessments and efforts.

*Ambassador Morten Aasland, former Permanent Representative of Norway to the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa*

## World Refugee Day marked across Africa as global displacement hits record high

World Refugee Day (WRD) is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the world. It falls on June 20<sup>th</sup> each year and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their habitual places of residence across national boundaries, to escape conflict or persecution. WRD shines a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees, helping to mobilise political will and resources so refugees can not only survive but also thrive.

The first WRD was held globally on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees. It was originally known as Africa Refugee Day, before the United Nations General Assembly officially designated it as an international day in December 2000.

Each year, WRD is marked by a [variety of events across Africa](#) and around the globe in support of refugees. These activities are led by or involve refugees themselves, government officials, host communities, companies, celebrities, school children and the general public, among others.



On WRD, the [UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his message](#) expressed grave concern that nearly 80 million women, children, and men around the world have been forced from their homes as refugees, out of which ten million fled in the past year alone. SG Guterres also said, "[w]e pledge to do everything in our power to end the conflict and persecution that drive these appalling numbers. Refugees and displaced people are also prominent among those who are stepping up to make a difference on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response. We thank them for their resourcefulness and determination to rebuild their own lives, and to improve the lives of those around them".

The AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Minata Samate [delivered a statement](#) on behalf of the AUC Chairperson to mark WRD. The African Union called for "an integrated approach to support refugees, internally displaced persons, with particular attention to women and girls" during this period of COVID-19.

The UN [SG's Policy Brief on COVID-19 and People on the Move](#) highlights the additional vulnerability the COVID-19 pandemic poses to forcibly displaced persons including refugees who are among the most vulnerable segment of populations in need of assistance protection and calls on governments to ensure that refugees and internally displaced people are included in all response and recovery efforts.

## UNOAU arrangement for no-cost flight for AU Observers Mission in the Central African Republic



Loading equipment on to a UN aircraft destined for AU Observers Mission in the Central African Republic (CAR)

At the request of the African Union Commission (AUC), UNOAU coordinated air transportation of critical electronic equipment for the AU Military Observers recently deployed to Bangui city in the Central African Republic (CAR). The equipment was being held in Douala, Cameroon at the AU Continental Logistics Base but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were limited flight options available with high freight costs. UNOAU's Mission Support Planning Section (MSPS) coordinated efforts to facilitate air transportation from Douala to Bangui at no-cost to the AU. This was the first time the [MoU between the UN and AU Missions in CAR](#) signed on May 8 was enacted. [Read more](#)

### Thought Corner

## The Women, Peace and Security Agenda - Why partnerships matter

*By Elizabeth Eilor, Gender Adviser, UNOAU and the Office of the Special Envoy Horn of Africa*

As we approach the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000), it is natural to reflect on the history and the journey that culminated into the adoption of this landmark resolution, that was founded on the [Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations](#) (adopted in Windhoek in May 2000). UNSCR 1325 contains **four pillars**: participation, prevention, protection, and resolution and recovery.



On October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000, UNSCR 1325 was adopted unanimously. This was the first time that the UN Security Council devoted a resolution for women during peace and conflict. Despite UNSCR 1325 being an essential first step towards reaching equality between women and men, more should have happened since its signing.

In Africa too, there is a growing realisation among women's organisations and development circles that the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 is not a celebration nor a stock-taking exercise, but a time to roll up our sleeves and work on the unfinished business with an urgent need to address the most serious problems. [Read more](#)



## **UNOAU and AUPSC Secretariat convene monthly coordination meeting in June between representatives of AUPSC Chair and UNSC President**



Ambassador Elhamdi Salah, Ambassador of Algeria to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to AU and UNECA. AU PSC Chair for the month of June



Mr. Frédéric Bontems, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ethiopia, Representative to the AU. France took over UNSC Presidency in the month of June

UNOAU and the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) Secretariat jointly organised the monthly coordination meeting between the incoming Chairperson of the AUPSC, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and President of the UN Security Council, the French Republic, for the month of June. The meetings aim to strengthen information-sharing and coordination between the two Councils, explore opportunities for alignment, and enhance the UN-AU partnership in peace and security more broadly.

During the month of July UNOAU shared information on the UN Security Council's programme of work and priorities as part of its weekly Information Circular, which is sent to all AU Peace and Security Council members. During the German Presidency of the UN Security Council, emphasis was placed on the impact of COVID-19 on peace and security, climate and security as well as human rights and the fight against sexual violence in conflict. A meeting on youth, peace and security was also held.

With regard to country situations, the Security Council addressed the current crises in Syria, Yemen and Libya, and also held a meeting on the situation in West Africa and the Sahel region. Meanwhile, under the Chairpersonship of Burundi, the African Union Peace and Security Council, received a briefing on elections in Africa in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, considered the situation in the Central African Republic and discussed the security situation in the Sahel and the draft strategic concept note on planning guidance for the deployment of 3000 troops.

**Now online - 'Elle Se Bat Pour La Paix: 20 Ans, 20 Parcours', French version of the Joint African Union and UNOAU publication on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa - [click here](#)**



## UN Policy Briefs

- **COVID-19 in an Urban World** [Available here](#)
- **The World of Work and COVID-19** [Available here](#)
- **Education during COVID-19 and Beyond** [Available here](#)
- **The Impact of COVID-19 on South-East Asia** [Available here](#)
- **COVID-19 and Conflict: Advancing Women's Meaningful Participation in Ceasefires and Peace Processes** [Available here](#)
- **COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism** [Available here](#)

## Upcoming Events

UNOAU reaches landmark 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary  
Fourth African Union-United Nations Annual Conference

United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)  
Menelik II Avenue  
UNECA Compound  
Zambezi Building, Floor 5 & 6  
P.O. Box 1357  
Fax: +251 15511652

Get in touch/ subscribe:

**[unoau-public-information@un.org](mailto:unoau-public-information@un.org)**

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