



# UNOAU Bulletin

A publication from the United Nations Office to the African Union  
January 2018

## The UN Secretary - General participates in the 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly



UN Secretary-General Guterres joins African Heads of State and Government and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, in a group photo just before the Opening Ceremony of the 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly

*“I strongly believe Africa is one of the greatest forces for good in our world.”*

*Special Edition*

# UNOAU Mandate

## Background on the establishment of UNOAU

Since the transformation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU) in 2002 and particularly since the 2004 launching of the AU peace and security architecture, there has been strong support among the UN and its Member States for closer UN cooperation with the AU. In 2005, the World Summit underscored the need to devote attention to the special needs of Africa. In follow-up to the World Summit, Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in the 2006 Addis Ababa Declaration “Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union”, pledged UN support for the development and strengthening of the AU Commission, focusing “with priority, on conflict prevention, mediation and good offices, peacekeeping and peace building”. In 2007, the General Assembly adopted GA Resolution 61/296 on cooperation between the UN and the AU and requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat to meet the special needs of Africa.

The United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) was established on 1 July 2010 by UN General Assembly Resolution 64/288. The Office integrated three existing offices: Department of Political Affairs (DPA) Liaison Office, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) AU Peace Support Team and the Department of Field Support (DFS) Planning Team for Somalia to support the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as well as the support component of the United Nations and African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Joint Support Coordination Mechanism (JCM) office in Addis Ababa.

In 2016, the AUPSC Members adopted the 628th Communiqué on the partnership between the UN and the AU on issues of peace and security in Africa. Later the UN Security Council (SC) adopted resolution 2320 (2016) on partnership between the UN and Regional Organizations, in particular with the African Union. Afterwards, the UN Secretary-General report was presented on a new level of partnership. This was further strengthened by the new UN Secretary-General, through his expressed vision and priorities in which he stressed the fact that UN and AU must continue to keep a strong strategic partnership in the area of peace and security, through the implementation of both organizations programmes namely Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 19 April 2017, at the first UN-AU Annual Conference held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the UN Secretary-General, H.E. António Guterres and the AU Commission (AUC) Chairperson H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat endorsed a Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security as a basis for collaboration through joint mechanisms and regular consultations. In a Joint UN-AU Communiqué SG/2239 of 19 April 2017, the Secretary-General and the Chairperson reiterated their strong commitment to working hand in hand towards achieving the continent’s development goals.

## The mandate of UNOAU is to:

- enhance the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security;
- provide coordinated and consistent United Nations advice to the African Union on long-term capacity-building and short-term operational support matters;
- streamline the United Nations presence in Addis Ababa to make it cost-effective and efficient in delivering UN assistance to the AU

**About the UNOAU Bulletin:** UNOAU Bulletin aims to increase visibility and awareness on the UNOAU’s mandate as it relates to UN’s partnership with the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms in the area of Peace and Security on the continent. The Bulletin illustrates the political role that the United Nations is playing with the AU and other stakeholders on conflict prevention and management, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

# The 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly opened at the African Union Headquarters

The 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) opened on 28 January 2018 at the Headquarters of the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the participation of the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG), Antonio Guterres. The Session was held under the theme '**Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation.**'

In his opening remarks, the Chairperson of the AUC, Moussa Faki Mahamat, underscored that:

*"We are meeting at a time when multilateralism is in serious decline, even though its principles seemed to be built on solid foundations. The past months have witnessed a number of developments attesting to the seriousness of the risks we face. This is evidenced by the multiplication of unilateral measures that have the potential to dangerously weaken the capacity of the international community to respond effectively to the complex challenges it faces, the rise of national selfishness, the trivialization of xenophobia and the rejection of the other. So many signals indicative of a decline in the values of equality, solidarity and justice. We must express our concern about these developments and reiterate our commitment to the values of solidarity, tolerance and mutual respect. The survival of humanity is at stake."*



UN Secretary-General Guterres addresses the 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly

In his address to the Assembly,

UN Secretary-General Guterres reiterated his commitment to seek opportunities to deepen the strategic partnership, between the UN and AU stating that:

*"In just one year, we have entered a new era of partnership with Africa. We held the first United Nations-African Union Annual Conference at Summit level. Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat and I signed the UN-AU Framework on Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. Yesterday, we signed a second framework, on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Our solid partnership is also grounded on sound principles of human rights and good governance."*

*We are working together successfully across the continent. With Africa firmly in the lead, we can and will do more. I stand here on behalf of the United Nations system and reaffirm our strong commitment to the member states and the people of Africa. I strongly believe Africa is one of the greatest forces for good in our world."*

UN Secretary-General Guterres highlighted some priority areas for strengthening UN-AU Partnership in the year ahead in his address.

## UN Secretary-General's remarks at the 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session African Union Assembly

*Your Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda and Chairperson of the African Union,*

*Your Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,*

*Excellencies,*

It is an honour to be here in Addis Ababa again.

I commend President Alpha Condé for his leadership over the past 12 months.

And I congratulate incoming chairperson President Paul Kagame.

In just one year, we have entered a new era of partnership with the African Union.

We held the first United Nations–African Union Annual Conference at summit level. Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat and I signed the UN-AU Framework on Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.

Yesterday, we signed a second framework, on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Our solid partnership is also grounded on sound principles of human rights and good governance.

We are working together successfully across the continent.

With Africa firmly in the lead, we can and will do more.

*Excellencies,*

As we move forward together, I see five areas for strengthened partnership.

Our first shared obligation is to confront the root causes of conflict by strengthening prevention through diplomacy and mediation.

We also have an obligation to do much more to end conflicts and forge peace.

The United Nations–African Union partnership on peace and security is fundamental to building a safer world for all.

It is rooted in solutions that are Africa-owned, Africa-driven and Africa-led.

*Excellencies,*

As I just told the Security Council, the United Nations needs a more strategic approach to peace operations.

Peacekeeping operations must be stronger and safer, better led, trained and equipped, more mobile, flexible and agile, with better intelligence and better connections to the local population.

Let me begin by thanking African governments for leading the way in contributing troops and police to help save lives and keep the peace around the world.

We will never forget the service and sacrifice of all those who have given their lives for peace.

Women and young people must lead the development agenda.

Women's full participation makes economies stronger and peace processes more successful.

Africa has the largest concentration of young people in the world.

*(Find the full speech on UN website: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2018-01-28/high-level-event-new-way-working-remarks>)*

# UN Secretary-General's second High Level Breakfast with African Leaders



UN Secretary-General Guterres speaks to Heads of State at the high level breakfast on gender equality reiterating his commitment to ensure gender parity, particularly in decision making positions in the United Nations

On 28 January 2018, on the margins of the 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU), the UN Secretary-General attended the High-Level Breakfast on Equal Access of African Women in High Level Positions at the African Union and in the United Nations system. The event was chaired by President Alpha Condé, in his then capacity as Chairperson of the African Union (AU). In his opening remarks, President Alpha Condé noted the pledge he had made to place the promotion of the women at the forefront of his tenure as the Chair of the Union as well as During his presidency. He recognized the efforts of African leaders to promote women in decision-making bodies at the continental, regional and national levels. He commended the UN Secretary-General's commitment to promote women in the UN system, and discussions that highlighted achievements and challenges associated with African women's participation and representation in senior level positions in the UN and AU. UN Secretary-General Guterres referred to efforts to appoint African women at the helm of the UN, and pledged to achieve gender parity in leadership positions within the UN Secretariat by the end of his tenure.

Furthermore, he reported on efforts to address concerns raised by African Heads of State and Government, particularly on African representation in global governance and peacekeeping. He had agreed with the President of the Assembly to develop a paper with recommendations for the UN Security Council reform.

The Chairperson of the AU Commission also reported on efforts to Achieve gender parity, stressing that the Commission is the only organization of its kind to have gender quotas for senior positions, although staffing parity remains a goal.

In the discussion, the then Chair of the Union, President Condé, spoke about challenges within Member States as well as the Union's institutions. The AU Champion for gender equality, the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo underscored the importance of gender equality in the private sector, not just within state structures. Other speakers - the Presidents of South Africa and Chad, the Vice-President of Zambia, the Prime Ministers of Morocco and Lesotho, and the Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), all highlighted the importance of fostering gender equality in leadership positions.

# UN Secretary-General's consultations with IGAD Leaders



UN Secretary-General Guterres at the IGAD High Level forum on South Sudan with AUC Chairperson and Prime Minister of Ethiopia

The IGAD High Level Forum on South Sudan, strongly condemned the recent violations of the 21 December 2017 Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access and demanded that the perpetrators be held accountable. All participants were unanimous in their stance that systematic violations of agreements by the South Sudanese parties cannot be allowed to continue.



The UN Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan (second from left), Nicholas Haysom, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Haile Menkerios at the IGAD High Level Forum

The IGAD Special Envoy, H.E. Mr. Ismail Wais, thanked the AU Commission and the UN for the continued support IGAD has received in launching the High-Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF). H.E Mr. Festus Mogae, Chairperson of Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) noted that the launching of the HLRF was a step forward in resumption of inclusive talks since 2015. He added that the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM) is investigating violations of the 21 December 2017 Agreement and urged on all parties to cooperate and provide support. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia also welcomed the launch of the first phase of the HLRF which took place in 2017, further adding that there is need for a “new paradigm to address the crisis in South Sudan”.

On the other hand, H.E. Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré, the African Union High Representative for South Sudan underscored that the forthcoming second phase of the HLRF should lead to a clear political transition. The High Representative asked that the ongoing peace initiatives should factor in the National Dialogue initiated by the “South Sudanese themselves”. The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres while welcoming the concerted efforts of IGAD in launching the HLRF, said that there was a need to go beyond the alignment of the AU, UN and IGAD as organizations, and move towards an alignment of the countries of the IGAD region, towards the shared goal of supporting implementation of the peace agreement in South Sudan. In the end, the AU Commission Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat, emphasized that IGAD, AU, and the UN need to act collectively and quickly, to bring about accountability vis-à-vis agreement violations and extended full support to IGAD as it prepares to launch the second phase of the HLRF in 2018.

# Ending hunger in Africa



UN Secretary-General Guterres and the outgoing AU Chair, Alpha Condé, inaugurated the meeting on ending hunger in Africa

UN Secretary-General Guterres participated in a high-level event entitled “Renewed Partnership to end hunger in Africa by 2025 – Five years later” aimed at taking stock of progress achieved within the framework of the renewed partnership to end hunger in Africa by 2025. UN Secretary-General Guterres noted the criticality of “sustainable and inclusive agricultural growth” to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs), particularly, SDG1 and SDG2 . He also reflected on climate shocks and other factors such as conflict which hinder sustainable agricultural production, leading to hunger and poverty. He called on governments to ensure “improved governance” in order to “deliver equitable services”.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



### PROGRESS OF GOAL 1 in 2017

Despite the fact that the global poverty rate has been halved since 2000, intensified efforts are required to boost the incomes, alleviate the suffering and build the resilience of those individuals still living in extreme poverty, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa. Social protection systems need to be expanded and risks need to be mitigated for disaster-prone countries, which also tend to be the most impoverished.

- In 2013, an estimated 767 million people lived below the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day — down from 1.7 billion people in 1999. That figure reflects a decrease in the global poverty rate from 28 per cent in 1999 to 11 per cent in 2013. The most significant progress was seen in Eastern and South Eastern Asia, where the rate declined from 35 per cent in 1999 to 3 per cent in 2013. In contrast, 42 per cent of people in sub-Saharan Africa continued to subsist in conditions of extreme poverty in 2013.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



### PROGRESS OF GOAL 2 in 2017

Efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition have advanced significantly since 2000. Ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition for all, however, will require continued and focused efforts, especially in Asia and Africa. More investments in agriculture, including government spending and aid, are needed to increase capacity for agricultural productivity.

- The proportion of undernourished people worldwide declined from 15 per cent in 2000-2002 to 11 per cent in 2014-2016. About 793 million people are undernourished globally, down from 930 million people during the same period.

(Read more at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>)

# UN Secretary-General attends the AU Peace and Security Council Session on Combating terrorism



President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt opened the Peace and Security Council session during the Summit

terrorism, noting that the attacks had reached unprecedented levels and were becoming increasingly complex, with links to organized criminal networks. He stressed that no single country can combat terrorism on its own. He reiterated the UN's commitment to the joint partnership with the AU in addressing the peace and security challenges.



UN Secretary-General Guterres delivers a statement, emphasizing the need to work together to fight terrorism

continent, and requested the AU Commission and partners to continue to assist Member States to build and further strengthen their national capacities to deal more effectively with this threat. The AU PSC also focused attention on scourge of illicit financial flows, and emphasized the importance of cutting the links between terrorist organizations and organized crime, including trafficking and smuggling. The AU PSC also focused on illicit financial flows, and emphasized the importance of discontinuing linkages between terrorist organizations and organized crime networks, which result in trafficking, smuggling and illicit trade.

To this end, the AU PSC underscored the need for continued enhancement of cooperation between national security and intelligence agencies of Member States, particularly financial intelligence units, in order to enable them to more effectively combat all forms of financial crime, such as money laundering and the payment of ransom to terrorist groups. The meeting also highlighted the need to counter the use of information technologies by terrorist groups in their fundraising, awareness raising, and recruitment activities; and encouraged Member States to collaborate in developing and implementing effective counter-terrorism strategies.

UN Secretary-General Guterres attended the meeting at summit level on the theme "Combating Terrorism" at AU Peace and Security Council (AU PSC), alongside African Heads of State and Government. In his opening remarks, President el-Sisi of Egypt, noted that African countries must jointly address the common threat of terrorism.

President Condé of Guinea, in his capacity as outgoing Chairman of the African Union, called on African countries to learn from Egypt's lengthy experience in tackling terrorism. He commended the AU PSC for having maintained terrorism as priority during his tenure as Chairman. Addressing the AU PSC, Secretary-General Guterres underscored the imperative to decisively and collectively fight

In its Communiqué, the AU PSC emphasized that terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization cannot be exclusively associated with one single religion, ethnicity, sect or tribe, and encouraged Member States to develop comprehensive national counter terrorism strategies focusing on prevention, and timely and swift responses to threats.

The meeting stressed the importance of coordination and complementarity of efforts among Member States and all relevant regional and international actors. The AU PSC further expressed deep concern about the threat posed by the return of foreign terrorist fighters from conflict zones to the African

# UN Secretary-General's remarks at the African Union Peace and Security Council

Thank you, Mr. President.

It is an honor to take part in this meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council.

I welcome your focus on a comprehensive approach to combating the transnational threat of terrorism in Africa.

Let me begin with three overarching points.

**First**, we know nothing justifies terrorism. No cause or grievance can ever excuse the indiscriminate targeting of civilians, the destruction of lives and livelihoods, and the creation of panic for its own sake.

**Second**, we know that terrorism has unfortunately been with us in different forms across ages and continents. But modern terrorism is being waged on an entirely different scale. It has become an unprecedented threat to international peace, security and development.

**Third**, we know modern terrorism is not only different in degree, but also different in nature – having grown more complex, and with new modus operandi. And the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime are growing every day.

The world should never forget that the vast majority of terrorist attacks take place in developing countries. The communities, victims and survivors of terrorism are very much in our hearts.

No single nation, institution, or organization can defeat terrorism in Africa or anywhere else.

The African Union is a vital partner in confronting the global challenge posed by terrorist groups.

*Excellencies,*

Looking ahead, I believe a comprehensive approach to combatting the transnational threat of terrorism in Africa can be developed around four key priorities.

First, by addressing the deficit in international counter-terrorism cooperation at the global, regional and national levels.

In June, I will convene the first-ever UN Summit of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies to build on Member States' priorities and our discussion today. Our goal is to enhance cooperation and the exchange of information, and develop new and innovative ways to tackle terrorism.

*(Find the full speech on UN website: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-01-27/secretary-generals-remarks-meeting-african-union- peace-and-security>)*



*African Heads of State and Government and Representatives share views during the AU PSC session*

## UN Secretary-General engages with African Leaders on Peace and Security issues

UN Secretary-General Guterres met with African leaders to engage on political issues on the continent and specific countries. In this regard, he held bilateral meetings with:



*The African Union Commission Chairperson,  
Moussa Faki Mahamat*



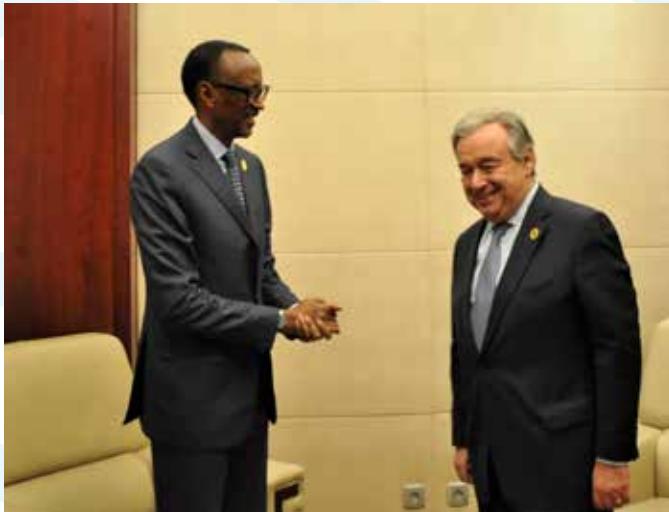
*The Foreign Minister of Libya,  
Mohamed Taha Siala*



*The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Desalegn*



*The Foreign Minister of Angola, Manuel Domingos Augusto*



*The President of Rwanda and Chair of the African Union, Paul Kagame*



*The President of Somalia, Mohammed Abdullahi Mohammed*



*The President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta*



*The President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma*



*The President of Liberia, George Weah*



*The President of Guinea and outgoing Chair of the African Union, Alpha Condé*

*... and others.*

## Enhancing Strategic Partnership

*UN Secretary-General and AU Commission Chairperson, signed the AU-UN Framework for Implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*



UN Secretary-General Guterres and AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki signing the Framework for Implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

On the margins of the African Union Summit, on 27 January, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, together with the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat, signed the African Union–United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The AU-UN Development Framework complements progress achieved with the signing of the UN-AU Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security in April 2017 in New York. Both Frameworks aim at strengthening the partnership between the two Organizations, which seek to collectively address challenges facing African countries in the broader context of the nexus between development, peace and security, and human rights.

The UN Secretary-General asserted, that “***For the United Nations, the most important partnership is the partnership with the African Union***”, while emphasizing that Africa should be at the fore front of managing conflicts and ensuring peace and security.



UN Secretary-General and AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki briefing media

# The African Union Summit Concludes With Adoption of Decision and Appointments

The Assembly elected President Paul Kagame of Rwanda as the Chairperson of the Union for 2018, while President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt as his successor in 2019. Presidents Kagame (Rwanda), el-Sisi (Egypt) and Alpha Condé (Guinea) will constitute the AU Troika in 2018.

In his speech, President Kagame referred to the pre-Summit discussion on reform as “conclusive and positive” and described the Summit as a “precious moment” in the year, stressing the importance of focusing on strategic issues for Africa’s integration. He called on the Union to work more closely with partner organizations on environmental conservation to capitalize on continental resources, including the agricultural and tourism sectors, and to mitigate climate change.

In addition, the Assembly elected the Bureau of the Union, which includes the President of Libya, the President of South Africa and the President of the Republic of Congo as Vice Chairs; and the President of Guinea as Rapporteur.

The Assembly appointed ten members of the AU Peace and Security Council (AU PSC), to serve for a two-year term from April 2018 to March 2020. They include: Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (Central Region), Djibouti and Rwanda (Eastern Region), Morocco (Northern Region), Angola and Zimbabwe (Southern Region), Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo (Western Region). The Assembly welcomed the appointment of former Algerian Foreign Minister and former AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ramtane Lamamra, as the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns by 2020.

Nigeria’s President, Muhammadu Buhari was named the AU Champion for the theme for 2018, and will report back to the Assembly during the June/July 2018 Summit, on efforts to raise awareness and steps to be taken at the member state levels to fight corruption. Particularly, on the domestication of existing continental decisions, the strengthening of judicial arrangements for tackling corruption, and raising awareness-on the vice amongst the youth.

Some key highlights from the Summit deliberations were: the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Assembly Decision AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) on Institutional Reform of the African Union; the report on Silencing the Guns initiative; the election of the ten members of the AU Peace and Security Council; the implementation of the Assembly Decisions on Financing of the Union and the report of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions. There were also thematic sessions including the AU Peace and Security Council Session on Counter-terrorism, the AU High Level Committee on Libya, the IGAD consultative process on South Sudan, and the AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries meeting.

The Assembly Session concluded on 29 January 2018, with the adoption of key decisions, following lengthy deliberations on several reports. Key decisions included the adoption of the Decision on the Establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM); the adoption of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to Free Movement of Persons, Rights of Residence and Right of Establishment and its Draft Implementation Roadmap; and the decision on holding an extraordinary Summit in March in Kigali, Rwanda, to sign the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), which are significant milestones for African integration. It was agreed that the next Session of the Assembly takes place on **28<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2018 in Nouakchott, Mauritania**.



President Kagame of Rwanda, the newly elected Chairperson of the Union from 2018-2019

# Interview with Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson of the UN Secretary-General

by Edda Zekarias, UNOAU Strategic Communication Officer



***What made you become a spokesperson/what passion drove you to become a spokesperson?***

Being able to do this work, and to serve three different Secretary-Generals is an immense privilege and one that I never forget every day at work; and the fact that I get to serve, explain and defend this organization.

I can say that I wanted to be a UN Spokesperson since I was twelve years old. I have benefitted from being in the right place at the right time. I started my career as a journalist at ABC News where I covered a number of crises in the 1990s in Somalia, the Congo, Yugoslavia and so forth. During that time, I met UN staff whose work I found to be interesting.

While still working at ABC News, I was told of a job opening at the UN by a colleague. Even though I was not necessarily looking for another job, I applied for the post which gave me the opportunity to work with Frederic Eckhard, the spokesman of the UN Secretary-General at the time, Kofi Annan.

I worked with Mr. Eckhard for five years as an associate spokesperson. From him, I learned a lot about integrity, honesty, transparency and how to do the job as a spokesman. As Mr. Eckhard retired in 2005, at a difficult time during Mr. Annan's tenure, when lots of things were going on, Mr. Kofi Annan decided to give me the job. I served the last two years of his tenure after which I worked for Mr. Ban Ki-moon in a different capacity as the Deputy Communications Director in his cabinet. I then moved to the United Nations Development Programme and after to the UN Department of Public Information. In 2014 the then spokesperson, Mr. Martin Nesirky left the UN. My boss at the time, the Under-Secretary-General for Communications, Peter Launsky-Tifenthal, asked me to make a recommendation for a replacement. I spoke to my wife, and she suggested I put my name forward since I was already familiar with the job. After expressing my interest in the job, the Chef de Cabinet and the Secretary-General agreed to hire me. In this way, I went back to my old job – seven years later which was fortunate. I was able to work with former Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon during the last three years of his term.

When Mr. Antonio Guterres became the Secretary-General, I was asked to carry on even though I was expecting to do something different. Again, the word that comes to my mind is privilege – not only to be able to serve the UN but to travel with the Secretary-General and to meet my colleagues on the ground who do the real work on the front-line in the field whether it is serving refugees in Uganda or working on development issues in Latin America; or in peacekeeping in the Central African Republic. I get such inspiration and, in a way, traveling to the field gives me greater strength in defending the organization because I channel colleagues' difficulties and challenges working for the UN every day. I am at Headquarters but when I answer tough questions from the press, for instance, the colleagues I meet on the ground are who I think about

***“Be honest and focus not so much on what the UN is doing, but how the organization is helping people – focus on results.”***

**Please describe in brief how your office works with field offices and what advice would you give to staff (in the field)?**

The daily briefing the UN produces is intended for the press. It provides information about the Secretary-General's activities and is, therefore, an amplification platform for what colleagues do in the field.

We rely on them to send us timely information on humanitarian, development, peacekeeping activities because they often work in what we call 'the forgotten crises' where there is very little press coverage; where nobody pays attention. This information helps colleagues reach a much broader media audience through the captive international media present in the UN building. We want concrete examples on what the UN does every day and this a very important part of our daily briefing.

***Your job seems to be very demanding, how do you manage?***

I think it is great to have a job that fits one's personality. I get motivated at work because every day I have a deadline. Everything is fast paced, and this is how I enjoy working. I like news, I like the adrenalin and it is what keeps me going. I was in broadcasting when I worked as a journalist where we had a daily news deadline. An hour before the briefing to me is a lifetime. We all have different ways of working and different approaches.

***On telling the story, what is your advice?***

Be honest and focus not so much on what the UN is doing, but how the organization is helping people – focus on results.



UN Spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric takes a picture of UN Secretary-General Guterres during a press conference with local and international media after the official opening ceremony of the 30<sup>th</sup> AU Summit

## UN Secretary-General meets representatives of UN entities operating in Ethiopia High level meeting on the New Way of Working



*UN Secretary-General Guterres was a member of a high level panel discussing the New Way of Working*

On 28 January 2018, the UN Secretary-General participated in the High-Level Forum on the 'New Way of Working', in the presence of the UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner.

### UN Secretary-General's Remarks at the High-Level Event on the New Way of Working

I am pleased to join you to discuss a new way of working that will usher in stronger partnerships and better results in our collective interventions in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance, peace and security.

It has been almost two years since the World Humanitarian Summit, when the international community outlined the changes that are needed to alleviate suffering, reduce risk and lessen vulnerability.

The call for a 'New Way of Working' to bridge the humanitarian-development divide will take time and a diverse range of actors, including those outside the UN system.

Let us be quite clear that this is not about shifting funding from development to humanitarian programs or vice versa. It is about recognizing common goals and optimizing existing resources and capabilities to help all people in situations of risk, vulnerability and crisis. It is about working better together to reduce humanitarian needs over the medium to long-term.

We must recommit to a focus on results and holding ourselves accountable by fully articulating collective outcomes.

We have a moral obligation to do better and we have the tools and knowledge to deliver on that obligation. We must break down the silos that have existed for too long between humanitarian and development actors.

Experience from countries like Ethiopia, Uganda, Yemen and Somalia, where the new approach is working, offers us four valuable lessons.

*(Find the full speech on UN website: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2018-01-28/high-level-event-new-way-working-remarks> )*

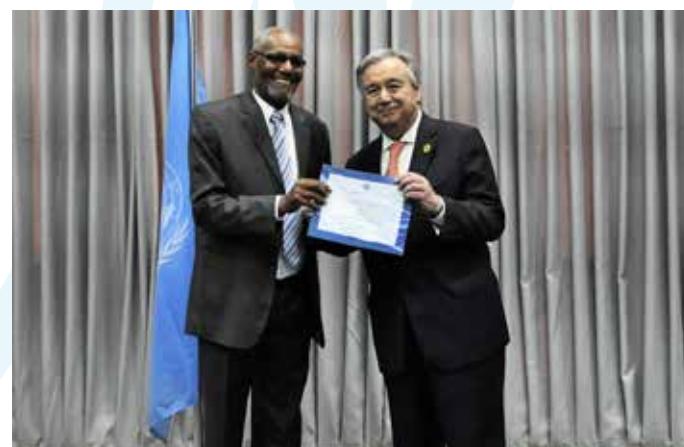
## The UN Economic Commission for Africa Executive Secretary takes Oath of Office



The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Vera Songwe, was officially sworn in by the UN Secretary-General in a ceremony held at the UNECA on 28 January.

### ***UN Secretary-General Guterres recognizes UN retirees for their service***

At the end of their long, four UN staff from various UN agencies in Ethiopia received certificates of recognition of their dedicated work for the UN from the UN Secretary-General.



# UN Staff in Action during the Summit



A team of UNECA, UNOAU and UN Headquarters Staff working to Support the UN Secretary-General during the Summit



UNOAU Chief of Staff, Nathalie Ndongo-Seh (center-left) with members of the UN Secretary-General's delegation, Stéphane Dujarric (UN Spokesperson), Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative (center-right), Khassim Diagne, Director in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General/EOSG (extreme left) and Aguinaldo Baptista, Political Affairs Officer in the EOSG (extreme right)



UNOAU Political Affairs Officer, Yume Sato (center), compiles information from discussions held at the annual high-level breakfast on gender equality



UNOAU Strategic Communications and Public Information Officer, Edda Zekarias interviews the UN Spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric



UNOAU Chief of staff, Nathalie Ndongo-Seh, (left) working with the Deputy Head of UNHQ Protocol, Nicole Bresson, on the UN Secretary-General's schedule during the 30<sup>th</sup> AU Summit



UNOAU Political Affairs Officer, Diana Baker, converses with senior women leaders at the African Union Commission during the high level breakfast on gender parity



Under Secretary-General, Jean-Pierre Lacroix and Nathalie Ndongo-Seh at the official opening ceremony of the 30<sup>th</sup> AU Summit



Khassim Diagne, Director in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General with Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, Ethiopian Permanent Representative to the UN in New York (right)



Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa exchanges ideas with Nathalie Ndongo-Seh, UNOAU Chief of Staff ahead of briefing the UN Secretary-General



UN Secretary-General Guterres in a discussion with some members of his delegation including Under Secretary-General Jeffrey Feltman (second from left), the Special Representative to the African Union, Mr. Jean-Marie Géhenno and Under Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix (right) in between bilateral meetings with African Heads of State and Government



*More of the UN Secretary-General's support team during the Summit*



*Joseph Birungi, Political Affairs Officer at UNOAU, is seen here following up on global affairs*



*The UN Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan Mr. Nicholas Haysom (left) discussing with Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, UN Special Envoy on the future Running of AMISOM*



*Khassim Diagne, Director in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General (left) prepares to brief UN Secretary-General Guterres prior to bilateral meetings with African Heads of State*

*"In times of insecurity, when people feel uncertain about their future, when anxieties and fears are promoted and exploited by political populists, old-fashioned nationalists or religious fundamentalists, the success of the UN and the international community lies in our **common commitment to our common values**. The UN must be proud of its **diversity**. A diversity that only enriches the strength of the expression of our **common humanity**."*

*UN Secretary-General's vision statement for the United Nations*

*(Read full statement at <http://www.antonioaguterres.gov.pt/vision-statement/>)*



*UN Secretary-General Guterres with the support team after the Opening Ceremony of the 30<sup>th</sup> AU Summit*

# The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security



*Under Secretary-General for the Department of Peacekeeping Operation, Lacroix addressing African Union counterparts at the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UN-AU Joint Task Force on Peace and Security*

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force Peace and Security took place at the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 30 January. The meeting was attended by AU Commissioners Smaïl Chergui (Peace and Security), Minata Samaté-Cessouma (Political Affairs), the UN Under Secretaries-General Jeffrey Feltman (Political Affairs), Jean-Pierre Lacroix (Peacekeeping Operations) and Haile Menkerios (Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union). Also present were, AU Permanent Observer to the United Nations in New York, Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom and other Special Representatives of the AUC Chairperson to regional offices on the Africa continent.



*The African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security speaking at the meeting*

The meeting aimed at reviewing the status of the partnership between the two Organizations and discussing cooperation on electoral assistance. The Joint Task Force noted the considerable progress achieved in the UN-AU partnership, and welcomed the signing on 27 January 2018 of the AU-UN Joint Framework for the Implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063, and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the AU Commission.

Participants underlined the importance of a coordinated implementation of the two joint frameworks to enhance coherence and promote a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development and peace. The meeting stressed the need to maintain momentum for furthering joint action.

# UN Under Secretaries-General for Peacekeeping Operations and Political Affairs meet with Staff



*The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Halie Menkerios briefing USG Feltman at UNOAU*

Under Secretary-General (USG) for Political Affairs, Jeffery Feltman and Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Laroix met with UNOAU, the African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and the Office of the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan (OSESS) staff. USG Feltman thanked the staff for the work that they undertake to promote peace and security in Africa. USG Lacroix briefed the staff on UN reforms in the Peace and Security pillar.



*UN Under Secretaries Generals Jeffrey Feltman (Political Affairs) and Jean-Pierre Lacroix (Peacekeeping Operations) thanked staff for their work in support of the UN-AU Partnership colleagues for their work*



*UNOAU, UNAMID, OSESS and UNHQ team with Under Secretary-General (USG) for peacekeeping Operations Political Affairs, Jeffery Feltman*

# Upcoming Events

## AUPSC activities (Chair of the month: Kenya)

**15 February:** AU PSC briefing on the political stabilization process in Somalia and update on AMISOM activities and exit strategy.

**20 February:** AUPSC briefing on the situation in Darfur and activities of UNAMID

**26-27 February:** Workshop on the fifth anniversary of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region

**28 Feb -01 Mar:** Visit of the President of the UN General Assembly

## UNOAU Bulletin

**Published by:** The United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)

**Editor in Chief:** Nathalie Ndongo-Seh - *Chief of Staff (CoS)*

**Editorial Board:** Nicholas Shalita - *Head of Political Affairs Section (PAS)*

Azeez Nurudeen - *Head of Operational Planning and Advisory Section (OPAS)*

Bababunmi Aboyade-Cole - *Police Planning Officer*

Edward Kimosop - *Military Planning Officer*

Oana Topala - *Information analyst*

**Contributors:** Joseph Birungi - *Political Affairs Officer*

Yume Sato - *Political Affairs Officer*

Oana Topala - *Information Analyst (UNOAU)*

**Public Information Unit:** Seraphine Toe - *Senior Strategic Communications and Public Information Officer*  
Edda Zekarias - *National Strategic Communications and Public Information Officer*

**Photos:** UNOAU, AU, UN

Address: UNOAU Menelik II Avenue; UNECA compound Zambezi building; 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> floors;

Tel: +251 11 544 2275; Fax: +251 11 551 1652; P. O. Box: 1357; Addis Ababa-Ethiopia

[https://twitter.com/UNOAU\\_](https://twitter.com/UNOAU_), <https://www.facebook.com/UNOAU>