



STATEMENT

BY

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DURING THE

UN SECURITY COUNCIL HIGH-LEVEL DEBATE ON
“COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND
REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS – THE
AFRICAN UNION”

*Theme: “Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the African Union,
building a constructive multipolar world”*

ON

TUESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER 2022

Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank the UN Secretary-General, **Mr. Antonio Guterres** for his briefing. And I look forward to that of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency **Moussa Faki Mahamat**. Secretary General, we appreciate your efforts to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two organisations.

Our cooperation is happening in the context of a dangerous global crisis in Europe that is causing serious harm to Africa's food security, and, as a result, its political stability. Even as we celebrate the growing collaboration these last few years, we must pay greater attention to ways in which this framework can be a plus for international peace and security.

The Constitutive Act faces the world as much as it primarily focuses on challenges, opportunities and obligations within Africa. In the coming months and years, its outward-facing dimensions will need to be crafted into a platform of engagement that responds to the profound and growing risks to Africa from Europe's broken security order.

In this regard, we commend the efforts of the AU Chairperson and the Commission's Chair to encourage dialogue and humanitarian responsiveness in the context of the war in Ukraine. Their efforts reflect Africa's global responsibilities and linkages, and also assist African countries in this moment of great need. We urge them to maintain these efforts to reach out, and to continue doing so while strongly supporting the principles underlying the UN Charter and the AU's Constitutive Act.

As we rightly focus on Ukraine, it may be time for more collaborative attention to be paid to Haiti which is facing a profound crisis. Haiti is part of the AU's Sixth Region. There is room for us to explore, alongside and in response to the people of Haiti, how we can do more together.

Mr President

A major part of stabilising the global security order requires reform. It is by now clear that the current structure of the Council is not effective in protecting international peace and security.

We can continue to make every effort to make the collaboration between the UN and the AU more effective, but it will only achieve real and sustainable results when the Council is more balanced by permanent African membership. I welcome the openness expressed by delegations this morning for this reform. Let us now move to the concrete actions that will deliver the change.

Before this welcome watershed moment is reached, we can do more to make the Council more inclusive and responsive to Africa through reforms to its methods of work. Pen-holdership, for instance, needs to change in response to African responsibility, knowledge and ownership; it would bring extra life to the Chapter VIII linkage to the African Union.

Mr President,

This debate, happening on the eve of the 7th Informal Joint Seminar and the 16th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, provides a great opportunity for us to figure out the realisation of a strategic partnership that focuses on the delivery of peace, security and development sorely needed in Africa.

The Security Council must assume the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security in Africa in line with the UN Charter. Crises in Africa deserve equal attention and priority as situations in other parts of the world.

It is inconceivable, for instance, that AU-led Peace Support Missions should perennially be pleading for adequate, predictable and sustainable financing. And yet these operations are essentially being undertaken on behalf of the International Community and the United Nations. This Council should adequately and sustainably facilitate such Missions through assessed contributions to ensure they are fit for purpose.

In addition, the Security Council should reconsider how it does peacekeeping in Africa. We suggest deeper cooperation with the African Union in a way that would incorporate more African countries to contribute troops since they understand the operating environments better and for Africa to own such missions.

We also call on the Security Council and the UN in general to scale-up efforts to place Africa's sub-regional organizations at the center of its peace efforts. They have a greater stake in the peace and stability of their regions and are known for timely and decisive interventions on emerging situations.

Currently, the East African Community, on the invitation of the DRC Government, is leading an effort to seek a peaceful resolution of the security situation in the eastern part of that country. It is critical for such efforts to be supported by international partners, including through the provision of the necessary resources, as well as technical and logistical capacities.

Mr President, the UN-AU partnership must also appreciate the transboundary-nature and geo-political dimensions of crises and conflicts. In some cases, African countries are grappling with a confluence of extra-regional actors and interests which are increasingly complicating peace efforts and even aggravating insecurity.

Regional and neighbouring countries should be consulted to ensure the containment of the conflicts particularly when insurgent and terrorist organizations are involved. The Security Council should also be bold enough to address external clashing geopolitical interests so that they do not undermine the search for sustainable peace in Africa.

In conclusion, I reaffirm Kenya's commitment to all efforts to build more ambitious collaboration between the UN, regional and sub-regional organisations, in the pursuit of peace, security and prosperity for Africa and its peoples. **I thank you for your kind attention.**