

## Talking Points of Don Deya<sup>1</sup>

### Inaugural Annual Consultative Meeting between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU-PSC) and African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): Engagement on the Implementation of Accra the Declaration and the Malabo Decisions/Declaration

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022, on Zoom

Dear Excellency, Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU-PSC) for the month of September 2022

Dear Excellencies, Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU-PSC)

Dear Excellencies, Members of the Permanent Representatives Committee of the African Union (AU-PRC)

Dear Excellency, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union (AUC-PAPS) and all your colleagues

Heads of Organs and Institutions of the African Union (AU) and of its Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Organisations (ROs)

African Citizens and Representatives of African Civil Society joining us today from all six regions of Africa

Members of the Media present

Friends of Africa present

Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. We thank the leadership and members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU-PSC) for convening this inaugural edition of an annual consultative meeting between the PSC and African citizens and civil society.
2. We acknowledge that the Constitutive Act of the African Union, its Protocol relating to the Peace and Security Council and several other legal and policy instruments of the African Union (AU) envisage a very robust, consistent and comprehensive engagement between the organs and institutions of the AU and African citizens and civil society organisations (CSOs), and in this case between the AU-PSC and African citizens and CSOs.
3. We appreciate that, today, we are not meeting with representatives of the 55 African States as such; we are meeting with an important organ of the AU.
4. We are grateful for the work done to date in fulfilling the requirements of Article 20 of the PSC Protocol, and the decisions and milestones set by both the Livingstone Formula and the Maseru Conclusions.
5. We are conscious of the fact that **neither** the duty bearers (the various organs and institutions of the AU and the Member States) **nor** we, the representatives of the rights holders (African civil society) have done enough to implement the very progressive and comprehensive targets of the Livingstone Formula or the Maseru Conclusions, **but** we also appreciate that we have started the journey and have attained important milestones on that journey, including: -

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- a. What we are starting today: the annual consultative forum
  - b. Building on the Open Forums that the AU-PSC has been holding
  - c. The Retreat that AUC-PAPS convened with CSOs, in February 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya
  - d. The Retreat that you convened in March 2022 in Accra, Ghana and the Accra Declaration
  - e. The Extraordinary Summit convened in May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea and the Declaration and Decisions thereon
  - f. The Citizens Forum convened in July 2022 in Lusaka, Zambia and the Outcome Statement thereon
6. We acknowledge the work done by the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC-AU) to get us to this point, **part of which has been highlighted by comrade Nana Kyeretwie Osei**. We appreciate that, in the last three years, ECOSOCC-AU has continued to institutionalise itself in Lusaka, Zambia and to strengthen its outreach and its work with African citizens and civil society from all six regions of Africa.
  7. We acknowledge also the members of civil society that walk very closely and consistently with the AU-PSC including Amani Africa, Institute of Security Studies (ISS), the Institute of Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), and others. We especially highlight that one of the most consequential platforms for dialogue on peace, security and stability issues in Africa is actually convened by civil society, and this is the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa, convened under the auspices of IPSS.
  8. We acknowledge also that African citizens and CSOs engage in peace and security issues, not only with the AU-PSC, but also with other key organs and institutions of the AU, including the: -
    - a. Citizens' Continental Conferences (CCC), that we used to convene in advance of the January/ February AU Summit, **and we commit** to get back to convening these meetings.
    - b. African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, including through its Article 58 procedures
    - c. Pan African Parliament (PAP), where our engagement with them continues to strengthen
    - d. African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, which, in the recent past, is providing **Advisory Opinions** that have general application across the continent
  9. We call for even more comprehensive alignment and engagement between these various AU Organs and Institutions, so that this work is consolidated, and the input of citizens and CSOs from various angles are fed into the apex of the AU.
  10. We recommend that: -
    - a. We institutionalise this annual consultation in plenary.
    - b. We agree on a time for it, so that it is well diarised and planned for, and so that it is able to accommodate not just our colleagues who are based in Addis Ababa, but draw from all six regions of Africa.
    - c. We formulate ways of working so that we are not limited to this annual consultation in plenary.
    - d. In particular, the AU-PSC, its leadership and its Secretariat, embark on ways of incorporating CSOs into the various work streams of the AU-PSC, such as in: -
      - i. Conflict prevention, including discussing elections in Africa

- ii. Mediation processes, including on receiving feedback on how to improve, strengthen or change mediation processes
- iii. Field Missions of the AU-PSC, and how best to draw on the input of CSOs during such field missions

**e. We are conscious that only in working within the existing structures and work streams of the AU-PSC will we add value without increasing the burden for the AU-PSC and its members.**

11. We also recommend, as we did in Accra and Malabo, that the AU operationalises the African Court of Justice (ACJ), whose Protocol has come into force, and which can help the entire AU in breathing life into the entire laws, policies and strategies of the AU, including Agenda 2063 and the various Declarations and Decisions of the Assembly (Summit) and Executive Council. *This is the only organ established by the Constitutive Act that is yet to be operationalised, yet its Protocol has come into force. In terms of minimising expenditure, this Court can share premises, and share a registry, with the existing African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, here in Arusha, Tanzania.*

**12. I look forward to the interactive dialogue.**