



**An Integrated, Prosperous  
and Peaceful Africa**

**Retreat of the African Member States Plus in the United Nations Security Council (A3 Plus)**

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***Enhancing the A3 Plus: An innovative tool for sustained advocacy within the UN Security Council***

**Convened by the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to United Nations (AUPOM)**

**Date: 13 April 2024**

**Venue: The Westin, Jersey City – New Port, New Jersey**

**Draft Concept Note**

**Background**

The African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations (AUPOM) will convene the 3rd edition of its biennial Retreat on 13 April 2024 as part of its mission and efforts to support the African Member States of the UN Security Council (A3). The Retreat of the A3 Plus serves as another opportunity to deepen discussions and facilitate exchange of ideas among previous and current African members of the UN Security Council to ensure continuity of the A3 Plus mechanism. Furthermore, it serves as a platform for reflection on emerging issues and in setting up the appropriate ecosystem for an inclusive approach for effective coordination and engagement among the A3 Plus on critical issues on the UN Security Council's agenda, including Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security.

This retreat also represents a framework to maintain the momentum of the Annual High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa, referred to as the Oran Process, particularly following the conclusions and recommendations of the 10<sup>th</sup> session held in Oran Algeria in December 2023.

The adoption, on November 2023, of the A3 Plus Guiding Principles, serves as a step to institutionalize this innovative mechanism for coordination among African Member States within the UN Security Council, with the objective to also strengthen close coordination and consultations with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States within the UN Security Council. The mechanism also represents an important block that will enable further collaboration with other interested Member States in the UN Security Council that will consider aligning with the A3 Plus on specific situations to achieve broader consensus on issues of critical importance.

## **Objectives**

The retreat aims to provide a platform for interaction between the previous and current A3 Plus members and relevant stakeholders regarding progress made on coordination as well as in strengthening Africa's voice in the UN Security Council and on critical issues on the Council's agenda. It further aims to enhance coordination and cohesion among A3 members, as well as reinforce the "Plus mechanism" going forward.

Specifically, the Retreat is aimed at exploring ways to strengthen this innovative mechanism in articulating and defending common African positions and reflecting the decisions of the AU Peace and Security Council as well as the Assembly of the Union within the UN Security Council. The retreat will also:

- Take stock of progress achieved by the A3 Plus mechanism and highlight achievement and impact during 2022-2023 as well as reflect on challenges encountered;
- Consider the A3 Plus Mechanism Guiding Principles which aim to enhance coordination among the members;
- Discuss the coordination between the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and the African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3 Plus);
- Reflect on strategies for the strengthening of Africa's voice and representation in the UN Security Council through the A3 Plus mechanism, including engagements of the A3 Plus within the E-10 as well as progress regarding coordination with the P5, with progress in achieving Penholdership and Co-Penholdership;
- Discuss A3 Plus priorities, including strengthening AUPSC-UNSC political and strategic partnership, in preparation of the next session of the Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the two Councils; and
- Discuss the way forward for the implementation of the UNSCR 2719 and UNGA Resolution 78/257, in light of the dynamics within the UNSC and preparations for the Summit of the Future.

## **Format**

The program is designed as a two-day retreat, comprising briefings, panel discussions and interactive questions and answers sessions. The sessions will feature previous and current representatives from African Member States in the UN Security Council, Chair of the African Group, the AU Commission, the UN Secretariat, and independent experts.

## **Participants**

The Retreat will be attended by the Permanent Representatives, Political Coordinators, and one expert from the current A3 Plus members, as well as the Permanent Representatives from the previous A3 Plus members, relevant staff of the AU Permanent Observer Mission, and other Invitees/facilitators from the United Nations and Think Tanks.