



**An Integrated, Prosperous
and Peaceful Africa**

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

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) ANNOTATED AGENDA

09:00 am Departure from the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to United Nations, New York.

09:30 - 10:00 Arrival at Westin, New Jersey and light breakfast

10:00 - 10:15 OPENING SESSION

Welcome Remarks:

H.E Amb. Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Representative of the AU to the UN

Opening Remarks:

- H.E Amb. Imran Kanu, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN (Coordinator of the A3 Plus)
- H.E. Amb. Francisco José da Cruz, Permanent Representative of Angola to the UN (Chair of the African Group for the Month of April 2024)
- H.E. Amb. Sidi Mohamed Laghdaf, Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the UN (Chair of the AU for 2024)



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10:15 - 11:45 SESSION 1: The A3 Plus - An innovative mechanism, lessons and beyond

Moderator: H.E Amb. Imran Kanu, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN

Speakers: Previous A3 Plus members

- H.E. Amb. Michel Xavier Biang, Permanent Representative of Gabon to the UN
- H.E. Amb. Harold Adlai Agyeman, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the UN
- H.E. Amb. Martin Kimani, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN
- H.E. Amb. Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of SVG to the UN
- H.E. Amb. Tarek Ladeb, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the UN

Respondents: Current A3 Plus members

- H.E. Amb. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the UN
- H.E. Amb. Pedro Comissário Afonso, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the UN
- H.E. Amb. Nacim Gaouaoui, Deputy Permanent Representative of Algeria to the UN
- H.E. Amb. Amara Sheikh Mohammed Sowa, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN

In recent years, the A3 mechanism has transformed from a general coordination framework for African members in the UN Security Council platform into a pioneering model for collaboration and consultation on African affairs at the UNSC. This session aims to retrospectively examine the journey, drawing insights from previous A3 members, exchanging on valuable lessons learned, and assessing the mechanism's evolution alongside notable achievements.

Moreover, since the inclusion of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) into the A3 in 2020 and the subsequent development of the 'Plus' mechanism, the recent addition of Guyana into the fold demonstrates the expanding scope and reach of the A3 Plus initiative. This development not only signifies the growing recognition of the mechanism's efficacy but also highlights its increasing relevance in addressing contemporary and critical African and other issues on the UNSC Agenda.

During this session, participants will also have the opportunity to offer their insights on the A3 Plus Guiding Principles and propose recommendations to further bolster ongoing coordination and collaborative efforts. Additionally, the session will provide a platform to discuss strategies for strengthening the institutional memory of A3 Plus, particularly in view of the key role played by the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN. Expectations of A3 Plus members for the foreseeable future will also be outlined and deliberated upon.



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Guiding questions:

- What were the highlights of your experience during your time in the UNSC working within the A3 Plus mechanism, what are some key lessons learned, and how can they inform future joint efforts?
- Elaborate on the "plus aspects" of the A3 Mechanism and how it has so far contributed to its success. What challenges do you anticipate the A3 Plus Mechanism may encounter in the future, with recommendations on how to address them?
- Discuss the role of synergy and cohesion within the A3 Plus Mechanism and highlight some of the actionable recommendations to enhance coordination within the A3 and the future of the Plus framework, including how these elements contribute to its effectiveness in achieving common goals?
- How do past and current A3 Plus representatives perceive the relevance and significance of the A3 Plus Guiding Principles?
- What steps are proposed to ensure continued collaboration and collective action?

Discussions

11:45 - 12:00 Coffee Break and Arrival of Invited Guests

11:45 - 13:45 SESSION 2: *Strengthening Africa's voice and representation in the UN Security Council through strategic partnerships*

Moderator: H.E. Amb. Pedro Comissário Afonso, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the UN

Speakers:

- H.E. Amb. Martha Pobe Assistant Secretary-General for Africa (DPPA-DPO) (tbc)

Respondents:

- International Peace Institute (tbc)
- Security Council Report (tbc)

This session aims to discuss efforts of the A3 Plus in strengthening Africa's voice, representation, and priorities, in driving substantive policy discussions that resonate with the continent's diverse needs and perspectives in the UN Security Council through strategic partnerships. The session will also highlight how coordination is done by the A3 Plus within the E-10 as well as with the P5 and across the UN Security Council. It will further highlight the A3 Plus efforts in increasing its



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role as Penholder and Co-Penholder to further advance Africa's voice and interest on African and other critical files.

Guiding questions:

- How can the A3 Plus further advance Africa's voice and strengthen its representation within the United Nations Security Council, particularly through strategic partnerships within and beyond the council?
- What specific strategies can be employed by the A3 Plus to further enhance coordination within the E-10 and engagement with the P5 members as well as balance its advocacy for Africa's interests with the broader objectives of maintaining international peace and security?
- What are some key challenges faced by the A3 Plus in navigating the dynamics across the UN Security Council as well as the broader implications of Africa's increased representation and influence within the UN Security Council and how can these obstacles be addressed?
- What are some examples of initiatives undertaken by the A3 Plus to champion Africa's priorities and drive substantive policy discussions within the UN Security Council and how can the A3 Plus enhance its role as a Penholder and Co-Penholder particularly on African files and those of interest to Africa within the Council?
- How can the A3 Plus collaborate better with other African member states and regional blocs to strengthen Africa's collective position within the UN Security Council?

Discussions

13:45 - 14:00 Group Photo

14:00 - 15:00 Lunch

15:00 - 17:30 SESSION 3: A3 Plus - priorities ahead

Moderator: H.E. Amb. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the UN

Speakers:

- H.E. Amb. Adeoye Bankole, AU Commissioner Political Affairs Peace and Security
- H.E. Amb. Martha Pobee Assistant Secretary-General for Africa (DPPA-DPO)
- Mr. Olubukola Arowobusoye, Chief Peacebuilding Commission Support Branch, Peacebuilding Support Office, DPPA



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Respondents:

- H.E. Amb. Osama M. Abdelkhalek Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN
- H.E. Amb. Harold Adlai Agyeman Permanent Representative of Ghana to the UN

The objective of this session is to identify and deliberate upon critical matters that require the attention of the A3 Plus to advance the strategic collaboration between the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), with a particular emphasis on the upcoming Summit of the Future. Additionally, the session will focus on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 regarding the financing of AU-led Peace Support Operations (PSOs), as well as UN General Assembly Resolution 78/257 concerning peacebuilding funding through UN Assessed Contributions, beginning in 2025. Furthermore, the session will explore potential synergies between these resolutions and opportunities for capacity-building among Member States to enhance their effectiveness in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts.

Guiding questions:

- What are some of the efforts required to advance the strategic partnership between the AUPSC and UNSC, how can collaboration be strengthened and what specific steps can the A3 Plus take in this regard?
- What are the anticipated outcomes or milestones for the Summit of the Future, and how can the A3 Plus contribute to achieving these objectives?
- What are the options and next steps for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 on financing AU-led PSOs and what is required for its operationalization?
- What are the potential areas of complementarity between Resolution 2719 and Resolution 78/257, and how can they be leveraged to maximize the impact of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts in Africa?
- What are some of the mechanisms that can be established to monitor and evaluate the progress of Resolution 2719 and Resolution 78/257 implementation, and how can the A3 Plus play a role in this process?

Discussions

17:30 – 18:00: WRAP UP AND CLOSING SESSION

- H.E. Amb. Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Representative of the AU to the UN
- H.E. Amb. Imran Kanu, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN (Coordinator of A3 Plus)

18:15: DEPARTURE