

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11)
5519 321

Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

**Remarks by Ambassador Smail Chergui,
Commissioner for Peace and Security**

**At the Official Launch of the African Union
Peace Fund**

**17 November 2018
Addis Ababa**

**Excellency President Paul Kagame, Chairperson of the African Union,
Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,
Excellencies Heads of State and Government and other Heads of Delegation,
Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities, the Organs of the Union,
Representatives of partner institutions and countries,
Ladies and gentlemen**

It gives me great pleasure to make some remarks at the official launch of the African Union Peace Fund. It has been a long, but certainly fulfilling journey to this point where the Peace Fund is becoming revitalized.

The timing of this launch is significant as it is taking place during the Extraordinary Summit dedicated to the institutional reforms of the Union. Indeed, the Peace Fund is integral to the on-going reforms that aim to make the Union self-financing. Member States' commitment to the Peace Fund, as evidenced by the level of contributions thus far, is a clear indication that Africa remains resolute in shaping her destiny.

With regard to peace and security, let me highlight briefly three important elements:

First, the Peace Fund restores dignity in Africa and the African people. The launch and sustainability of the Fund

signifies the ability of the continent to take charge of issues that concern its people

Secondly, with the revitalized Peace Fund, we expect to witness increased involvement and ownership of Member States, as well as strengthening our peace-making efforts. This will not only promote judicious and efficient use of the funds but also ensure accountability. It will also assist in enhancing the capacities of Member States as first responders to impending conflicts and crises.

Third, the Peace Fund will support some of the Commission's conflict prevention efforts and mediation initiatives spanning preventive diplomacy, participation of women and youth, promotion of cross-border cooperation and stabilization efforts. While these are conflict prevention and post conflict initiatives at the Commission level, they are strategically designed to improve the ability of Member States to effectively respond to conflict, and build resilience to better mitigate their structural vulnerabilities.

In this context, and within Window One of the Peace Fund, some of the initiatives that will be expected to draw from the Peace Fund include the Commission and Panel

of the Wise peace-making missions, women in conflict prevention and mediation project anchored on FemWise, the Youth for Peace Africa Initiative, African Union Border initiatives, the Continental Conflict Prevention Framework, as well as post conflict reconstruction and development endeavors.

Furthermore, the areas of support under Window Three, which covers AU Peace Support Operations, will be guided by the AU Common Costs Document. The Document was developed by the Commission as part of its efforts towards efficient and effective utilization of the Peace Fund. The Document was approved by the 10th Meeting of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security on 9 January 2018.

This Document is essential as it will guide the Commission in facilitating planning, rapid deployment and sustenance of AU Peace Support Operations. It will also guide the Commission in discussing options and categories of support that will be required from the UN in the event that the UN Security Council authorizes the use of UN Assessed Contributions for AU led Peace Support Operations.

The AU will provide support through reimbursement, in-kind support or in cash as per the MoUs signed with Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs).

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Ultimately, the Peace Fund will make a significant contribution to AU's effectiveness and credibility in the area of peace and security in Africa.

Indeed, the decision to merge the Peace and Security Department and the Political Affairs Department will contribute to enhancing synergy and cohesion of efforts in the promotion of peace, stability and good governance in Africa.

I thank you for your kind attention.