

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
1 August 2022

Original: English

Letter dated 1 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of August 2022, China will convene a Security Council open debate on the theme “Peace and security in Africa: capacity-building for sustaining peace”, to be held on 8 August 2022.

In order to guide the discussions on the topic, China has prepared a concept note for the reference of Member States wishing to participate in the open debate (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic
of China to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 1 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme “Peace and security in Africa: capacity-building for sustaining peace”, to be held on 8 August 2022****Objective**

While the African continent has witnessed overall stability and development over the years, some countries and regions are still confronted with multiple security threats. To deliver sustained peace and security in Africa, capacity-building and institution-building, as well as resilient governance, are among the essential efforts needed to avert conflict relapse. The Security Council open debate provides an opportunity to identify the challenges faced by some African countries in securing durable peace and to explore ways to support Africa in enhancing capacities through a comprehensive approach.

Background

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has reversed many gains made towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated socioeconomic challenges and existing tensions in Africa. Unemployment, poverty and weak governance and security institutions are among the factors that have provided breeding grounds for violence and conflict.

Global geopolitical tensions are fuelling greater uncertainty and affecting commodity prices, especially food and energy prices. In the *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2022*, it is indicated that donors continue to fail to meet their commitment to providing 0.7 per cent of gross national income to official development assistance (ODA). Less development assistance from donors and fiscal constraints have undermined African countries' efforts to sustain peace through sustainable development. When development gaps are not properly addressed, they become potential flashpoints for fuelling and, in some contexts, perpetuating violence and even conflicts.

Peace and sustainable development are inextricably linked. Sustaining peace requires greater efforts to address the root causes of conflict; ensure national ownership, social cohesion and reconciliation; and move towards reconstruction and development. Insufficient governance capacity, inadequate resources and limited means of risk management are among the major challenges facing some African countries. The absence of policy freedom on fundamental national questions, including the security sector, external interference and coercive measures, also undermine national capacity. As the Secretary-General has previously noted, enhancing African capacities is essential both in the context of our collective response to international peace and security challenges and for the African continent's self-reliance.

Strengthening national institutions, building resilient governance and promoting sustainable development through capacity-building are effective ways to secure durable peace in Africa. The international community should make every effort to support capacity-building in Africa, including through supporting the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, as a means of enhancing Africa's ownership of its peacebuilding agenda. Given the complexity of capacity-building, comprehensive consideration needs to be given to the specific needs of each

African country, and the sovereignty and ownership of each country must be fully respected.

To strengthen national institutions and enhance the capacity of Governments, it is critical for governance systems to respond to the needs of all people, balance different interests and follow a people-centred approach to deliver sustainable economic growth. Development and peace dividends must be enjoyed by everyone. Inclusivity in public service delivery is one of the key components of institution-building. Effective security sector reform and successful transition, including through demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, are also indispensable to the consolidation of peace.

Threats of terrorism and violent extremism from groups affiliated with Al-Qaida, Da'esh and Boko Haram, as well as the proliferation of illicit arms, pose grave challenges to African peace and security. Targeted support and assistance to Africa in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through enhanced capacity is also needed. Emerging challenges such as cybersecurity and biosecurity and their potential threats to peace and security in Africa deserve greater attention.

Regional actors play an irreplaceable role in sustaining peace and responding to insecurity. The African Union and subregional organizations are uniquely positioned to support and lead the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa. Strengthened cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations will help the African Union to acquire the appropriate tools and resources to assist African countries in enhancing their own national peace infrastructure and capacity-building. The United Nations could play a critical role in realizing the principles and objectives of the African Peace and Security Architecture. An African Union-United Nations strategic partnership rooted in the needs and priorities of the African continent in the fields of prevention, management and resolution of crises and conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction and development is needed.

Sustaining peace is a shared task and a common responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by Governments and all stakeholders with adequate resources. The international community's additional input into certain conflict situations must not undermine or interfere with national development efforts or come at the expense of ODA flows of international finance or ODA to African countries.

The Security Council has long recognized the interlinked nature of sustaining peace, committed itself to greater investment in capacity-building in Africa and highlighted a comprehensive approach that connects security, humanitarian and development dimensions. To increase support for Africa's peace and security capacity-building, the Council could explore more effective ways to strengthen its cooperation and coordination with the African Union and other regional organizations to promote peace infrastructure and risk management.

Guiding questions

Participants are encouraged to consider the following questions:

(a) What are the key capacities for sustaining peace? Are there any best practices and lessons learned from the setting in motion of a virtuous cycle of development and peace in Africa? How could Governments strengthen capacity to promote social inclusiveness and cohesion by bringing the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals to life for all people?

(b) How can it be ensured that the United Nations development system can provide sustainable development assistance to Africa and mobilize more resources to

support the continent's development agenda based on priorities in Agenda 2063 of the African Union?

(c) How can United Nations support for African capacity-building be deepened? How can the Security Council further strengthen cooperation with the African Union and subregional organizations so as to leverage their unique advantages in preventing conflicts and sustaining peace? How could the United Nations increase support for African countries and help them to improve their counter-terrorism capabilities?

(d) How can challenges in sustaining peace be addressed through partnerships between Governments, the United Nations and other stakeholders, including international financial institutions, regional development banks, civil society organizations, women's groups and youth organizations?

Briefers and format

The open debate will be chaired by the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, Zhang Jun. The following speakers will give briefings to the Security Council:

- The Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, Bankole Adeoye
- The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

Member States wishing to participate in person should add their names to the list of speakers through the e-deleGATE system. A letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, duly signed by the Permanent Representative or the Chargé d'affaires a.i., containing a request to participate in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure must be uploaded to the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE. Delegations are kindly requested to limit their statements to five minutes. Registration for the said meeting will open on 3 August 2022, at 9.30 a.m.
