

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 24 February 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique 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 March 2023, Mozambique will convene a Security Council open debate on the theme “Peace and security in Africa: the impact of development policies in the implementation of the Silencing the Guns initiative”, to be held on 30 March 2023, at 10 a.m.

In order to guide the discussions on the topic, Mozambique has prepared the attached concept note (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pedro Comissário Afonso
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 24 February 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique 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: the impact of development policies in the implementation of the Silencing the Guns initiative”

I. Introduction

During its presidency of the Security Council in March 2023, Mozambique will hold an open debate on the topic of “Peace and security in Africa: the impact of development policies in the implementation of the Silencing the Guns initiative”.

The aim of the meeting is to facilitate a deeper understanding of the contribution of socioeconomic factors in promoting social cohesion, peace and stability, or conversely, triggering conflict.

In that regard, the intention of the meeting is to create a space for Security Council members and other Member States to exchange innovative ways of preventing conflict, promoting conflict resolution and ensuring long-term peace and security through inclusive, transparent and effective development policies.

II. Background

The Security Council, in its resolution [2457 \(2019\)](#), welcomed the Silencing the Guns by 2030 initiative and the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020; recognized, *inter alia*, the need for a strong focus on combating poverty, deprivation and inequality; and called upon African Union member States to enhance good governance and redouble their efforts in economic development and the promotion of the well-being of their people, with a view to addressing the root causes of conflicts and laying a solid foundation for durable peace and stability.

The Master Road Map was adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council on the understanding that the achievement of sustainable peace and socioeconomic development in Africa required the simultaneous implementation of complementary steps in all areas of action.

The Master Road Map underscores the need to take into consideration the political history of the continent, in particular the impact of three major tragedies: slavery, colonization and the unpaid-for extraction and exploitation of natural resources.

Indeed, those three tragedies have impacted the configuration of African States, with the consequences still visible today. For example, external competition for natural resources led to the design of artificial borders that did not consider peoples, societies or pre-existing States. Furthermore, institutional and physical infrastructures were not developed to provide services to the population, but to serve geostrategic goals linked to the exploitation and control of resources. As a result, public investment and institutions have been concentrated in a few urban centres, leaving vast expanses of territory without State presence.

Achieving durable peace and security in Africa requires addressing these structural flaws, as they continue to hamper African countries’ capacity to

successfully overcome emerging challenges. In most situations, conflicts arise because inclusive development has not been achieved.

The increase in sociopolitical tensions following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak demonstrates the impact that the effective and inclusive provision of services has on peace and stability. The increase in emergency expenditure to respond to the short-term impact of the pandemic has reduced the capacity of African countries to deliver medium- and long-term development effectively across their territories.

As noted in the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa ([A/77/644-S/2022/959](#)), non-inclusive and non-participatory systems that are not grounded in human rights are less resilient to face the impact of exogenous socioeconomic shocks, which might trigger political crises. Consequently, building back better requires the strengthening of socioeconomic structures and political governance mechanisms, in line with the provisions of the Master Road Map.

Against this background, Sustainable Development Goal 16 has become the cornerstone for achieving sustainability, stability and resilience. To make advances in the implementation of Goal 16 in Africa, it is indispensable to address the underlying factors that have been undermining the capacity of African countries to achieve inclusive and equitable sustainable development, in particular:

- The limited presence of State institutions and governance structures at the local level, which has been exploited by terrorist and non-State armed actors to expand their influence
- The limited role of African traditional leadership in reinforcing sociopolitical structures
- The weak focus on the establishment of solid institutions and policy frameworks across all development areas as a precondition for the implementation of development programmes and investment plans
- The need to prioritize specific policies and programmes in view of the limited resources available

III. Guiding questions

1. What is the impact of the limited presence of State institutions across the territory of a State on social cohesion and nation-building? What is the most effective way to build a sense of community? What is the best way to ensure complementarity between development and security policies?
2. What strategies can be put in place to leverage social diversity as an asset for peace and stability? What tools, such as decentralization and devolution, can be developed to embrace diversity and empower communities?
3. What is the role that religious and traditional leadership can play to reinforce African democracies? What good examples exist of religious and traditional leadership structures facilitating local resource management and informal conflict resolution?
4. What impact can strong national systems have in ensuring efficiency, transparency, inclusivity and equality? What are the risks of project-focused approaches? How can resilience be achieved in conflict and emergency scenarios?
5. What guiding principles can facilitate the prioritization of resource allocation in conflict situations? What strategies can be applied from a conflict prevention

perspective? What should be the role of the international community in supporting this prioritization?

IV. Format and briefers

The meeting will be held in an open debate format and will be chaired by the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations, Pedro Comissário Afonso. The following speakers are invited to brief the Council:

- The Deputy Secretary-General (to be confirmed)
- The Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, Mr. Bankole Adeoye (to be confirmed)
- A civil society representative (to be confirmed)

Member States wishing to participate in person should inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE. 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. Inscription for said meeting will open on 27 March 2023, at 9.30 a.m.

In order to guarantee the participation of as many Member States as possible, statements should not exceed three minutes.
