

Guiding principles for the Mechanism A3 Plus (A3+)

Guided by the shared commitment of promoting African common positions and elevating Africa's voice within the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Also Guided by the AU Constitutive Act (2000), the United Nations Charter, AU Assembly Decisions.

Reaffirming PSC Communiqués, particularly the Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.1056(2021) that endorsed the conclusions of the 8th session of the High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa (Oran Process)ⁱ and the PSC Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(CMLXXXIII) adopted at its 983rd session held on March 4th 2021.

Recalling the importance of strengthening the cooperation between the A3 and partners within the UNSC among the elected members (E10) on the basis of shared vision, objectives and principles.

Further recalling the proposed modalities for the operationalization of the coordinating mechanism between the African non-permanent Members of the Security Council (A3) and the African Union Peace and Security Council

The A3+ coordination mechanism within the UNSC shall be guided by the following:

1. The objectives and principles of the AU Constitutive Act as well as the African Common positions on different Peace and Security issues, as articulated in AU fundamental instruments, Assembly and PSC decisions, shall form the basis of the reference for the A3+ members in defining and formulating their joint positions during their mandate within the UNSC;
2. The close coordination and consultations between African and Caribbean members within the UNSC represent an important positive experience to be maintained and to build on for the future of the A3+.
3. The A3+ members agree, on a monthly basis and through consultations, on an allocation of joint statements to be delivered during UNSC meetings on African and non-African files.
4. In the situation where the positions of A3+ members regarding an agenda item of the UNSC is marked by divergence, the statements on the concerned agenda item will be delivered individually in a national capacity.
5. If the position of the "+" member within the A3+ appears to be different from the one adopted by the A3, the latter shall deliver a statement as A3 only, while the "+" member will deliver its statement in its national capacity.
6. The coordination of the A3+ is agreed through consultation among the A3+ members to define the order of coordination sessions on a quarterly basis. The Coordinator chairs the A3+ coordination meetings and interacts with partners wishing to meet the A3+ particularly from Au on African topics with the facilitation and support of the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN.

7. The A3+ should agree on shared commitments and working methods of the A3+ presidencies of the UNSC with the objective of strengthening the implementation of Note S/507/2017 and subsequent Notes (S/2019/990, S/2019/991, S/2019/992, S/2019/993, S/2019/994, S/2019/995, S/2019/996, S/2019/997), by outlining concrete ways to implement working methods guidelines and good practices.
8. The A3+ will work towards taking the lead on files that represent an important interest for the A3+ on the UNSC Agenda, particularly African files, by exploring all ways and means of ensuring both penholdership and co-penholdership to promote AU decisions and positions within the Council.
9. The A3+ will, therefore, refer to the AU decisions and positions, and seek the views of States particularly on African files on UNSC Agenda, ahead the holding of related meetings and encourage them to participate in the open meetings as much as possible.
10. The A3+ will promote the efforts deployed by the African Union on different peace and security files, by reflecting the AU decisions and positions on UNSC's products and votes when it possible to have a common position; and promoting AU Commission Officials participation in UNSC meetings to provide also briefings and guidance to the A3+ on peace and security issues in the African continent.
11. The A3+ will further strengthen its relations with the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other relevant configurations particularly those in the UN Security Council among the elected members (E10) with the facilitation of the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN.
12. In pursuit of enriching its institutional memory and visibility, the A3+ mechanism is supported by the AU Permanent Observer mission to the UN as a secretariat and through the establishment of a repository of statements, votes, records, and historical data related to the activities, decisions, and initiatives of the A3+ mechanism.
13. The A3+ members commit to share information, as deemed appropriate and necessary, on UN Security Council activities in an effective and timely manner, including with the AU Permanent Observer mission, the AUPCS and the African Group in New York, in order to strengthen the coherence of positions and the continued coordination particularly between PSC and the A3+.
14. The A3+ members will seek to maintain a close coordination with the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC). In this regard, the A3+ will endeavour to maintain regular consultation with the Troika of the PSC with a view to promoting PSC's positions and decisions at the level of the UNSC.

ⁱ Adopted by the AU Assembly Decision 815