



Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana  
to the United Nations, New York

**Annual A3 Plus Retreat**  
***Enhancing and sustaining the authoritative voice of the A3 Plus at the UN Security Council***

**Convened by the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to United Nations (AUPOM)**

**Date: 25-28 February 2025**  
**Venue: Georgetown, Guyana**

**(Draft) Concept Note**

**A. Introduction**

1. The annual retreat of the African members on the United Nations (UN) Security Council Plus (A3 Plus), convened by the African Union (AU) Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations (AUPOM) represents a key platform for stocktaking on achievements and the impact of A3 Plus engagements. The retreat enables reflections and exchange of ideas among current and previous members to further enhance effective coordination and engagement of the A3 Plus on African issues and those of interest to Africa that are on the agenda of the United Nations (UN) Security Council.
2. Discussions at the retreat will center on A3 Plus modalities and priorities, as well as strategies for the strengthening of Africa's voice and representation within the UN Security Council. This includes A3 Plus coordination of joint statements, undertaking joint negotiations and increasing its role as penholder and co-penholder to ensure the continent's collective interests and perspectives are represented and integrated in the decision-making and outcomes of the Council in a consistent manner. Within this context, the retreat will constitute a platform to discuss the necessity to align the efforts of the A3 Plus members with the guidance provided by the AU Assembly and the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), including the recommendations of the Annual High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa, referred to as the Oran Process is critical.
3. In line with its objectives, the retreat will explore ways to further strengthen this innovative mechanism (the A3 Plus) in articulating, promoting and defending common and unified continental positions for Africa's collective interests and perspectives to be integrated into the outcomes of the UN Security Council in a consistent manner.



## **B. Objectives**

4. The retreat aims to strengthen modalities for internal coordination as well as strategic engagements to enhance and sustain the authoritative voice of the A3 Plus in promoting Africa's interests at the UN Security Council.

## **C. Retreat Focus:**

5. The retreat will be centered on the following strategic issues:
  - a. Lessons learned and strategizing for the future: Taking stock of the progress achieved by the A3 Plus mechanism
  - b. Highlighting the 'Plus': Contributions of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Guyana to the mechanism; strengthening cooperation with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the region's priority files and issues within the UN Security Council.
  - c. Enhancing synergy, coordination, and synchronization between A3 Plus and AUPSC in aligning PSC decisions and initiatives with UNSC actions.
  - d. Internal and external strategic engagements by the A3 Plus to foster the group's ability to deliver jointly and strengthen collaboration and coordination with different partners, including CARICOM as well as exploring the "friends of the A3 Plus" concept and modalities.
  - e. Strengthening the working methods of the A3 Plus for enhancing the group's voice: including but not limited to the guiding principles.
  - f. Considering the opportunity to enhance the group's footprint in the Council's activities and products through Joint statements, joint negotiations, joint organization of Arria-Formula meetings, joint media stakeouts, penholdership and co-penholdership.
  - g. Strengthening the role of the AU Office's and operationalizing a framework for institutional memory to document A3 Plus engagements and experiences to ensure continuity and sustained A3 Plus achievements, as well as smooth transitions for incoming A3 Plus members.



**D. Date and Venue:**

6. The retreat will be held in Georgetown, Guyana. All delegates will arrive in Georgetown on Monday 25 February 2025 and depart on Friday 28 February 2025.

**E. Participants:**

7. The Retreat will be attended by Current A3 Plus (PR+1), previous A3 Plus representatives, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, the AU PSC Chair of the month of February 2025, and the Permanent Observer of the AUPOM.

**F. Conclusion:**

8. A summary of the Retreat Conclusions will be drafted by AUPOM and circulated to all attendees subsequently.