AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UMOJA WA AFRIKA

UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

UNIÓN AFRICANA

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

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1372ND MEETING

9 OCTOBER 2026
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1372 (2026)

COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUÉ

Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1372nd meeting held on 9 October 2026, on Information Integrity, Peace and Security in Africa.

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling all relevant AU Decisions on the popularization of AU initiatives and programmes, notably, Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.588 (XXVI)], which calls for the continuous popularization and awareness raising of AU Agenda 2063, including through available Media platforms ; [Assembly/AU/Dec. 866-902(XXXVII)] (2024) on Silencing the Guns Roadmap, which recognizes Hate Speech, Incitement and Misinformation as root causes of conflicts in Africa; [Assembly AU/Dec.269(XIV)] on democratic governance and Unconstitutional Changes of Government, which highlights the need to promote responsible political discourse and prevent inflammatory rhetoric during electoral processes;

Also recalling all its previous decisions on Media, Peace and Security, particularly Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1311 (2025)] of 14 November 2025; Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1214 (2024)] of 13 June 2024 on Artificial Intelligence and its Impact on Peace and Security in Africa; and Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1097.1 (2022)] on the impact of emerging technologies and new media on Democratic Governance, Peace and Security in Africa; as well as Press Statement [PSC/PR/PS.1230 (2024)] of 2 September 2024 on the safety of journalists and other media professionals in situations of armed conflicts in Africa;

Further recalling other Peace and Security Council Communiqués on Hate Speech and Incitement to conflict dynamics, notably those of the 866th Meeting (2019) on Hate Speech and Xenophobia; the 953rd Meeting (2020) on the role of Hate Speech, Misinformation and Incitement in exacerbating conflicts in Africa; and the 1173rd Meeting (2023) on Genocide Ideology, Hate Speech and Incitement to Violence;

Referring to Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on freedom of expression and measures to address Hate Speech and its Resolutions 362(2016) condemning online hate speech that incites discrimination; Resolution 522 (2022) on gender-based hate speech and digital violence; Resolution 630 (2025) on the role of technology companies to uphold information integrity; and Resolution 631 (2025) on Guidelines and Policy Framework for Universal Access to Public Service Content I in Africa;

Also referring to the OHCHR Rabat Plan of Action on the Prohibition of Advocacy of National, Racial or Religious Hatred that Constitutes Incitement to Discrimination, Hostility or Violence adopted in October 2012; the Action 14 (1) of the Pact for the Future adopted in 2024, on the need to respect and protect journalists, media professionals and associated personnel working in situations of armed conflicts; and the Johannesburg Declaration on the Media and Information Integrity of 3 September 2025 by the G20's M20 Group;

Acknowledging the importance of information integrity as an integral component for the effective promotion of peace, security and stability in the Continent and beyond; ***while deeply concerned*** by the adverse impact of disinformation, misinformation and fake news on peace, security and stability of the African Continent;

Taking note of the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for October 2026; and ***also taking*** note of the statements by Ms Ourveena Geeresha Topsy-Sonoo, Special

SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA
www.peaceau.org

Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHR); Dr. Rita Bissoonauth, Director, UNESCO Liaison Office to the AU and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); Ms. Charlotte Scaddan, Senior Adviser on Information Integrity Office of the UN Under-Secretary General for Global Communications; Mr. Ibrahima Tounkara, Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) Delegation to the AU; Dr. Solomon A. Dersso, Executive Director of the Amani Africa Media Research in Addis Ababa and by Mr. Omar Faruk Osman, President of the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ); and

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:

1. ***Reaffirms the AU commitment*** to information integrity, media sovereignty, the safety and protection of media practitioners, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other digital tools to counter digital threats, in line with human rights and democratic governance principles; ***while promoting*** the AU Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030) with a view to supporting Agenda 2063's aspirations for good governance, democracy, peace and security;

2. ***Calls*** for the integration of real-time digital threat analysis and fact-checking networks and media monitoring into the AU Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and preventive diplomacy; ***as well as*** for the establishment of an AU Rapid Information Integrity Response Mechanism and investment in advanced digital expertise in cyber surveillance capable of detecting and neutralizing information disorders to strengthen the resilience of national information ecosystems and media sovereignty;

3. ***Notes with deep concern*** the continued vulnerability of AU Member States to foreign and domestic misinformation and disinformation campaigns, election interference, and extremist propaganda and calls for an AU Strategy in response to Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference, (FIMI);

4. ***Stresses the importance*** of promoting greater public trust in state institutions through transparent and credible public and private media that are professional and ethical in their reporting, as well as the responsible use of media technologies and artificial intelligence (AI); and ***underscores*** the importance of strengthening African capabilities to shape and communicate the Continent's own narratives, reflecting its diverse experiences, achievements, socioeconomic and cultural realities, and development priorities;

5. ***Calls*** for enhanced early detection of incitement of violence and social tensions, including through systematic digital monitoring and the establishment of National Multi-Agency Platforms on Countering Hate Speech and Disinformation in the various AU Member States;

6. ***Encourages*** sustained institutional cooperation and enhanced coordination in the effective implementation of continental commitments on governance, peace and security, information integrity, as well as media sovereignty and public diplomacy;

7. ***Appeals*** for enhanced protection of the media by addressing threats against journalists, fighting impunity, evaluating compliance with Access to Information (ATI) Laws, championing gender-responsive policies and institutionalizing the Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists, (GOF);

8. ***Underscores the importance*** of promoting formal and informal media literacy by addressing critical skills gaps required to navigate online information safely and effectively, particularly among the youths, women and other groups, notably through local language contents. ***In this connection, support***s the AU's Youth for Peace (YAP) in Africa's ''No Room for Hate Speech'' campaign;

9. ***Emphasizes the need*** to address the misuse of AI and harmful information by strengthening factchecking, promoting responsible online platform governance as well as research, risk assessment and response mechanisms to counter information disorders;

10. ***Encourages*** Member States to pursue a human rights-based approach to information integrity to safeguard electoral processes from misinformation, propaganda and fake news in line with the Principles and Guidelines for the Use of Digital and social media in Elections in Africa adopted by the Association of African Election Authorities (AAEA) in February 2024 as well as the Yaoundé Declaration on Electoral Disinformation adopted by CIPESA in August 2024;

11. ***Underlines the need*** for deepening institutional synergies by reinforcing collaboration among the PSC, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), UNESCO and UN entities, National Press Regulatory Bodies, Media Associations and Unions, Academia, Think Tanks, Civil Society Organizations, and Technology Companies to promote democratic governance, peace, security and stability across the Continent;

12. ***Welcomes*** the UNESCO-GIZ Regional Conference on Information Integrity in West Africa and the Sahel of 3-5 September 2025 in Praia, Capo Verde, as well as its Joint Strategy, Model Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Information Integrity; and ***recommends*** the organization of similar conferences in all the regions of the AU, with a view to formulating a Common African Position on Information Integrity by 2027;

13. ***Commends*** the Committee of African Intelligence and Security Services (CISSA) and the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for the successful organization of the regional workshop held from 19 to 22 April 2025 in Algiers, under the theme "Disinformation and Fake News and Their Implications for the Stability and Security of States";

14. ***Advocates*** the strengthening of institutional intergovernmental cooperation in promoting information integrity, in this regard, ***mandates*** the AU Commission to initiate or expedite the establishment of the:

a. Continental Framework on Information Integrity, Digital, Media and Information launched in August 2025;

b. Draft Guidelines on Information Integrity and Obligations of Technology Companies and Continental Standards for Social Media Companies Operating in Africa adopted by the ACHPR in March 2025;

c. AU Continental Advocacy Platform on Countering Hate Speech in Africa to be launched by the end of 2026;

d. Common African Strategy, Model Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Information Integrity in line with that of Praia of September 2025 for the West Africa and the Sahel;

e. Continental Media Regulatory Framework and Observatory, AU Continental Media House, AU Broadcasting Union, (AUB) and AU Artificial Intelligence Observatory, including through the development of appropriate implementation mechanisms and report to the PSC during the first half of 2027; and

f. Guidelines to counter disinformation and misinformation that threaten national security, including the systematic integration on clauses prohibiting the use of inflammatory

language and incitement to violence in ceasefire agreements and during peace negotiations;

g. Develop continental standards for social media and other relevant technology companies operating in Africa to provide a mechanism for compliance with accountable content moderation, and multilingual moderation that reflects the linguistic diversity of the Continent, while safeguarding freedom of expression and access to information;

15. ***Encourages*** Member States to fight against disinformation and misinformation through media and information literacy strategies, including the strengthening of their national legislations on cyberspace, including the penalization of intentional dissemination of disinformation and harmful content. ***Also*** Encourages the implementation of social media for peace programmes as well as the institution of the AU Communication, Peace and Security and the Democracy, Media and Socialisation nexuses as annual statutory thematic issues for regular updates and briefings within the AU Peace and Security Council;

16. ***Calls for*** continued engagement and support on information integrity in forthcoming events such as the 89th Assembly of the ACHPR of 12-18 October 2026 in Dakar; the 6th STC-CIC in Libreville of 29-30 October 2026; the UNESCO MIL Week of October 2026 in Nairobi; the launch of the Continental Platform to Counter Hate Speech in Nairobi in November 2026; and the COP-32 in Addis Ababa***;***

17. ***Looks forward*** to the successful organization and outcomes of a Pan-African Conference on Information integrity in early 2027; and

18. ***Decides*** to remain actively seized of the matter.