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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1373RD MEETING

13 OCTOBER 2026
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1373 (2026)

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1373rd meeting held on 13 October 2026 on the Annual Briefing by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on its Activities in Africa; and the Briefing by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on its Activities in Africa.

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling Declaration [Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.(XV)] adopted by the 15th Extraordinary African Union Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference, held on 27 May 2022, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea; and all of its previous decisions and pronouncements on Humanitarian situation and Humanitarian Action in Africa, particularly, Communique [PSC/PR/COMM.1307 (2025)] adopted by Council at its 1307th meeting held on 24 October 2025; Communique [PSC/PR/COMM.1286 (2025)] adopted by Council at its 1286th meeting held on 1 July 2025; and Communique [PSC/PR/COMM.1239 (2024)] adopted by Council at its 1239th meeting held on 29 October 2024;

Also recalling the relevant provisions of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, including Articles 6 (f) and 7(1p), as well as Article 15, which mandate the Council to support and facilitate humanitarian action in situations of armed conflict or natural disasters;

Acknowledging the interconnections among humanitarian action, development, peace, and security; ***while recognizing*** national humanitarian capacity as a strategic pillar and an integral component for strengthening national resilience, peace, and security;

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 briefings by Madame Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and by Mr. Charles Businge, Africa Regional Director of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on their activities in Africa; and

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

1. ***Commends*** the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for their humanitarian action in Africa;

2. ***Expresses deep concern*** over the worsening humanitarian crises in parts of the Continent resulting from a combination of factors, including armed conflicts, natural disasters, climate change-related phenomena and disease outbreaks, noting the increasing frequency and severity of climate-related emergencies, including floods, droughts, cyclones, and heatwaves;

3. ***Underscores*** that climate resilience has become an essential humanitarian, peace, and security priority requiring coordinated regional and international action;

4. ***Also expresses deep concern*** over the growing cases of forced displacement, violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL), conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, as well as restrictions on humanitarian access and attacks against humanitarian personnel; and, in this regard, ***strongly urges*** all parties to armed conflicts to guarantee civilian protection and protection of civilian infrastructure, including water

systems, health and education facilities, energy and communications infrastructure, whose disruption can have far reaching humanitarian consequences; as well as to ensure safe, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access to all populations in need, and to uphold and fully comply with their obligations under IHL and IHRL;

5. ***Encourages*** Member States and all parties to armed conflicts to renew their collective commitment to upholding humanity and alleviating human suffering in situations of armed conflict, natural disasters and complex emergencies; and ***calls for*** the scaling up of resource mobilisation, including predictable, timely and adequate humanitarian financing, to strengthen responses to humanitarian crises and disasters;

6. ***Also encourages*** Member States to promote accountability and to fight impunity, including by putting in place appropriate legal frameworks, to strengthen their national judicial systems, as well as to facilitate effective investigations and prosecution of all violations committed in conflict, emergencies and normal situations and by adopting and enforcing legislation criminalizing grave violations of IHL in accordance with international obligations;

7. ***Calls for*** the expeditious and effective operationalisation of the African Union Humanitarian Agency (AfHA) and ***requests*** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to intensify efforts to mobilise the requisite financial, human and technical resources to enable the Agency to effectively discharge its mandate, in line with Decision 1324 adopted by the 48th Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council held on 12 February 2026, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

8. ***Emphasises the need*** to translate humanitarian commitments into concrete actions and to ensure that humanitarian responses in Africa are nationally and regionally owned, while respecting the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence; and, in this regard, ***underscores the importance*** of ensuring that humanitarian actors operate in accordance with applicable international law and the laws, rules and regulations of the countries in which they operate;

9. ***Encourages*** the AU Commission (AUC) to integrate concrete humanitarian commitments into its mediation and facilitation efforts, peace processes, ceasefire arrangements and peace agreements, including provisions relating to the protection of civilians, humanitarian access and the protection of essential civilian infrastructure;

10. ***Further emphasizes the importance*** of integrating humanitarian considerations into conflict prevention, mediation and peace processes, particularly through confidence-building measures, using approaches that respect the principles of international law and are context-specific and locally-based, involving local actors, civil society organisations and affected communities, and ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the youth;

11. ***Encourages*** Member States and all parties to armed conflicts, where appropriate, to make use of the services of neutral, impartial and independent intermediaries such as the International Committee of the Red Cross to facilitate the implementation of humanitarian commitments and other confidence-building measures, such as the conclusion of special agreements, as stipulated by International Humanitarian Law, release and transfer persons deprived of their liberty, search for missing persons, and return human remains;

12. ***Also encourages*** Member States to, in compliance with the principles of international law, develop practical, time-bound plans to support safe, voluntary, and dignified return, local integration or resettlement, as appropriate; ***and emphasizes*** the importance of ensuring that these plans involve host communities and prioritise housing, documentation, education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities;

13. ***Commends*** all Member States currently hosting victims of forced displacements such as refugees and ***appeals*** for international support, including in terms of humanitarian financing towards enhancing the capacity of Member States hosting large numbers of refugees and those with large numbers of internally displaced persons;

14. ***Also commends*** all Member States that have already joined the Global International Humanitarian Law Initiative and, in line with the relevant decisions of Council, including Communiqué "Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.1307 (2025) of 24 October 2025, and ***encourages*** those that have not yet done so to also urgently consider doing the same;

15. ***Also encourages*** all Member States to persuade their Heads of State and Government to participate in the upcoming High-Level Conference on Humanity in War to be held in Jordan, on 7 December 2026, as an opportunity to reaffirm political commitment to the protection of humanity in armed conflict and also the commitment to advancing respect for international humanitarian law.

16. ***Emphasizes the importance*** of prioritizing community-centred preparedness and anticipatory action, further strengthening local, national and regional, as well as continental early warning, resilience and disaster risk preparedness capacity and, in this regard, calls on the AU Commission, working with Member States and Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), to link conflict and climate early warning systems to pre-agreed response plans, contingency financing and the pre-positioning of essential relief supplies;

17. ***Stresses the need*** to move beyond emergency assistance by investing in livelihoods, resilience-building, and sustainable solutions for affected populations and host communities;

18. ***Highlights*** the importance of strengthening health security through resilient health systems, community engagement, and enhanced cross-border collaboration in epidemic preparedness and response;

19. ***Also emphasizes the need*** for investing in national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, including by supporting digitally connected local branches as trusted partners to governments and, more specifically, as part of national public health and emergency management systems;

20. ***Encourages*** Member States to further strengthen inter-state and regional humanitarian collaboration, as well as enhanced regional and international cooperation on disaster preparedness, epidemic response, population movements, and climate-related complex emergencies;

21. ***Stresses the need*** for reinforcing commitments to the protection of humanitarian, medical and associated personnel, including Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers, their premises and assets, particularly in armed conflicts, in compliance with international law;

22. ***Calls for*** the promotion of safe, inclusive, and unhindered humanitarian access to populations affected by conflict and disasters; as well as for enhanced information sharing, early warning systems, and joint contingency planning;

23. ***Requests*** the AU Commission to develop a practical matrix identifying priority actions, responsible actors, indicative timelines and measurable indicators, with periodic reporting to Council on progress and implementation gaps;

24. ***Requests*** the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, in collaboration with the ICRC and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to strengthen efforts to address

conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict and humanitarian crises, in accordance with the respective mandates of the institutions concerned; and

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