



STATEMENTS AND REMARKS

ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 27, 2019

**STATEMENT DELIVERED
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GHANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Mr. President,

Ghana joins previous speakers in thanking the Equatorial Guinea Presidency of the Security Council for convening this open debate on 'Silencing the Guns in Africa', a theme that underscores the shared agenda of both the African Union and the United Nations of building a peaceful, secure and stable Africa. We also thank Ms. Rosemary Di Carlo, H.E. Mr. Ramtane Lamamra and Mr. Vasu Gounden for their briefing and useful insights into this important subject.

Ghana associates itself with the statement delivered by Benin on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

The 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted by African Heads of State in May 2013, spelt out the framework for achieving Africa's vision of an integrated, stable, peaceful and prosperous continent. The fourth aspiration of Agenda 2063 on "Silencing the Guns" pledged to end all wars in Africa by 2020, reaffirming peace and security as critical enablers for sustainable development and socio-economic transformation.

My delegation is pleased to note that the African Union has, through consistent and collaborative efforts with the UN, and in keeping with its Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns



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in Africa by Year 2020, made progress in ridding the continent of a significant number of conflicts, and in the management of others.

While we applaud these achievements, we recognize that much more needs to be done to put Africa firmly on the path to achieving its targets in peace and security. Africa continues to grapple with existential threats including extreme poverty, debilitating effects of climate change, violent extremism and the growing menace of terrorism, the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, transnational organized crime, poor governance, inequality and marginalization, human rights violations and poor justice institutions. These must be tackled if we are to consolidate the gains made so far.

The illicit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) is, perhaps, one of the biggest threats to peace and security in Africa. Addressing this challenge, will require commitment to multilateral instruments, good practices, codes of conduct and standard operating procedures on illicit small arms and light weapons. We require new funding mechanisms and synergies in the implementation of the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) and its International Tracing Instrument (ITI), the Firearms Protocol, Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and regional instruments such as the ECOWAS Convention on SALW in order to effectively address the illicit transfer, diversion, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunitions.

Mr. President,

Strategic and operational partnerships between the UN and the AU remain crucial to dealing effectively with the multi-dimensional nature of conflicts and threats to peace and security. We welcome in this regard, the Joint Frameworks on Peace and Security; Sustainable Development and the Joint Declaration on cooperation in peace support operations. The convening of annual Conferences, joint field visits by senior officials, regular consultations and coordinated action are welcome and must be further enhanced.

Ghana calls for support for ongoing efforts of the African Union and sub-regional organizations, within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) to strengthen capacity for peace support operations on the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the African Standby Force and its Rapid Deployment Capability.



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The lack of predictable, sustainable and flexible financing for AU-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council remains a concern. Adequate resourcing of the peacebuilding components of the relevant UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions is critical for continuity of peacebuilding activities and the sustenance of peace in countries coming out of active conflict.

Mr. President,

We wish to re-affirm the role of women in conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. The impact of the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) and Fem-Wise Africa in these efforts is being increasingly recognized and must be supported as one of the concrete areas of collaboration and joint action between the United Nations and the African Union. The positive contribution of the youth in Africa to peace and security must be given due currency in conflict prevention and conflict resolution through capacity-building and participation in peacebuilding.

Mr. President,

The centrality of the rule of law, good governance and functional democracy as a preventive tool and in addressing the root causes of conflict cannot be over-emphasized. Ghana is of the firm belief that measures to strengthen the rule of law, democracy and good governance, building accountable institutions, access to justice and respect for and protection of human rights should be at the core of our efforts.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I wish to reiterate the commitment of the Government of Ghana to peace and security within its borders and to playing a key role in sub-regional, regional and international efforts in mediation, peaceful resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding. We see this as an important prerequisite for socio-economic transformation of Africa and to enable the continent realize its potential and take its rightful place in global affairs.

I thank you Mr. President.

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