



African Union

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Promoting Continental Response to Coups and Democratic Backsliding

The African Union,

Alarmed by the recent trend of undemocratic coups taking place on the African continent,

Keeping in mind that the Sahel region is strongly affected by the matter at hand,

Deeply concerned about the increasing politicisation of the military,

Recognising that coups can further jeopardise the stability of the African continent and risk repercussions on a wider regional scale,

Affirming Articles 3 and 4 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which highlight the significance of good governance, popular participation, the rule of law and human rights,

Pointing out the importance of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) as well as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in order to underline the significance of African-led peace building strategies,

Emphasising the urgent need to tackle the root causes of coups and democratic backsliding, notably unresolved socio-economic issues, unsustainable development, revolts against the rule of law and good governance that have already existed prior to the occurrence of a coup,

Declaring its condemnation and rejection of unconstitutional changes of government,

Guided by our common vision of a united and strong Africa and by the need to build partnerships between governments and civil society, in order to strengthen solidarity and democracy among our people,

Desiring to take all necessary measures to strengthen our common institutions and provide them with the necessary powers and resources to address undemocratic backsliding while still respecting the sovereignty of all member states,

1. **Condemns** the unconstitutional removal of government or unconstitutional retention of power, unless matters of national security are regarded, such as:
 - (a) military coups,
 - (b) rebel takeovers,
 - (c) mercenary interventions,
 - (d) refusal to hand over power to oppositional parties after fair, free and transparent elections,
 - (e) illegally removing presidential term limits except when legal and non-violent circumstances are in place;

2. **Strongly urges** all African nations to focus on professional military education (PME) through actions including, but not limited to:
 - (a) educating military personnel and ensure awareness of:
 - (i) their commitment to the public service values,
 - (ii) their allegiance to the constitution,
 - (iii) their political neutrality,
 - (iv) their respect for human rights and the rule of law,
 - (v) their respect for civilian authority,
 - (b) halting armed forces from intervening in politics,
 - (c) ensuring that military remains under stable civilian surveillance,
 - (d) promoting African-led development training programmes tailored to national needs,
 - (e) ensuring parliamentary and governmental supervision of military budgets and expenditures;
3. **Calls upon** all stakeholders to engage in peaceful mediation through institutions including, but not limited to:
 - (a) the Peace and Security Council (PSC),
 - (b) the Regional Economic Communities (REC),
 - (c) the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD),
 - (d) other AU or UN bodies;
4. **Urges** a better organization of the African Union bodies like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to develop satisfactory outcomes while replacing the previously imposed, but ineffective, sanctions on problematic nations such as Mali, Guinea, Niger, and Burkina Faso by:
 - (a) finding compromises when discussing actions and plans in Western areas against the deconstruction of democratic governments and exponential private military power to ensure a unified Africa,
 - (b) spreading awareness to the African populations of the actions taken by the certain African Union bodies and educate on how these benefit the people in short and long-term ways,
 - (c) lessening the more aggressive approach to all matters, and specifically when handling coups and democratic backsliding in member nations by excessive governmental military actions, in order to:
 - (i) rebuild public trust in the African Union bodies such as ECOWAS,
 - (ii) ensure the stability and unity of the African Union organisations,
 - (iii) encourage other nations to join or stay in the Communities;
5. **Further condemns** any crimes committed by military actors against humanity such as direct attacks against the civilian population, infrastructure, medical facilities as well as acts of sexual violence;
6. **Affirms** Agenda 2063, in order to eradicate root causes of coups and democratic backsliding with the financial support of the AU Peace Fund, focusing on:
 - (a) poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth to reduce grievances arising from economic exclusion,
 - (b) infrastructure development that improves access to essential services and strengthens state legitimacy,
 - (c) gender equality and the meaningful participation of women in political decision-making and peace building processes,
 - (d) youth empowerment through publicly accessible educational developments, employment opportunities and increased civic engagement to reduce vulnerability to political manipulation and recruitment by anti-democratic actors,
 - (e) the strengthening of national and continental institutions, including electoral bodies, judicial systems, trade unions and oversight mechanisms to enhance democratic governance and constitutional order,

- (f) anti-corruption measures aimed at improving transparency, accountability and public trust in government institutions,
 - (g) strengthening independent media, through measures, such as:
 - (i) protecting journalists and media organisations from political intimidation,
 - (ii) supporting independent radio, television and media outlets,
 - (iii) expanding affordable and reliable internet access,
 - (iv) promoting media literacy programmes to counter misinformation and political manipulation,
 - (h) fair political participation of all ethnics, religious and regional communities;
7. **Encourages** member states to treat climate security as a core pillar of coup prevention by allocating local resources toward sustainable land restoration and community water management;
8. **Further requests** member states of the AU to welcome structural reforms of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), that would help to secure peace and security, while still ensuring countries' sovereignty, with measures, including but not limited to:
- (a) strengthening early warning systems that report every half year to the Assembly of the Union about early signs of democratic backsliding within its member states, and therefore enable the AU to respond and react as fast as possible to democratic backsliding,
 - (b) increasing mediation funding,
 - (c) expanding election monitoring missions through national-, international- and non-governmental organisations,
 - (d) increasing political participation of member states,
 - (e) ensuring swift cooperation between the AU and regional organisations;
9. **Proposes** the establishment of a "Democratic Resilience Mentorship Program" within the AU, where historically stable democracies would be able to share best practices regarding judicial independence, anti-corruption frameworks and transparent election management with states undergoing political transitions while fully respecting the principle of equality among all AU Member States;
10. **Further proposes** that the tasks of the "Democratic Resilience Mentorship Program" should consist of tasks, such as, but not limited to:
- (a) proper rehabilitation of criminals,
 - (b) sustainability awareness on proper execution of sustainable practices,
 - (c) drafting democratic laws and how to enforce them;
11. **Recommends** the establishment of AU-led conflict prevention programmes aimed at identifying early signs of unconstitutional changes of government, in order to allow the AU to react as soon as possible, through policies such as, but not limited to:
- (a) mediation teams,
 - (b) fact-finding missions,
 - (c) cooperation with Regional Economic Communities,
 - (d) civil society consultations,
 - (e) establishment of African rapid response Team;
12. **Urges** all member states to combat corruption through measures such as, but not limited to:
- (a) increase of governmental transparency through neutral observatory AU bodies, such as the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC), which monitors and helps to address corrupt practices, while still respecting state sovereignty,

- (b) judicial accountability for the following groups of people, without excluding other possibilities of corrupt state officials:
 - (i) corrupt leaders,
 - (ii) corrupt state officials,
 - (iii) corrupt military,
 - (iv) corrupt judges;
 - (c) independent anti-corruption courts, monitored by the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC),
 - (d) transparent judicial appointment procedures, overseen by the AUABC,
 - (e) increased financial oversights, through the Pan-African Parliament, which reviews budgets and promotes transparency, while handling budgets;
13. **Calls upon** Member States, in direct coordination with the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), to develop and integrate a data-driven, non-automatic early warning mechanisms wherein:
- (a) the Continental Early Warning Systems (CEWS), in collaboration with local civil society and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), shall collect information regarding escalating social, economic and political tensions,
 - (b) the PSC shall utilize this data to conduct extraordinary consultative sessions with the state in question, offering preventative diplomatic mediation before tensions escalate into military actions,
 - (c) targeted preventive diplomacy and non-military advisory support shall serve as the primary concrete steps once an institutional risk is officially identified;
14. **Further requests** that the aforementioned African Union Election Observation Mission's (AUEOMs) operate under strict guidelines ensuring that:
- (a) AUEOMs shall not be permitted to make executive or legislative decisions within the host country under observation, thereby preserving national sovereignty,
 - (b) AUEOMs shall focus exclusively on authoring neutral, objective, and transparent reports regarding the electoral process to be submitted directly to the African Union Commission;
15. **Calls** upon all member states to focus on measures that encourage reintegration after an unconstitutional change of government through:
- (a) immediate mediation,
 - (b) communicating openly what kind of sanctions will be enacted against coup leaders in response to lack of cooperation,
 - (c) coordinating sanctions imposed by the AU and the respective REC,
 - (d) establishing clear conditions for the lifting of suspensions and sanctions,
 - (e) regular assessments of progress towards reintegration;
16. **Condemns** unilateral military interventions and the protracted military occupation of territories as politically and socially invasive, further disapproves of the construction of military barriers or berms that restrict the free movement and democratic expression of populations, and rather seeks diplomatic mediation to resolve existing issues and prevent further regional instability cordially;
17. **Encourages** member states to ratify and domesticate the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance without further delay, and to submit timely reports to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as a measure of their commitment to accountable governance;
18. **Affirms** the importance of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States while ensuring accountability for unconstitutional actions;

19. **Calls upon** all member states to participate in the AU's African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM);
20. **Calls upon** all Regional Economic Communities, such as ECOWAS, to create a united committee, while still remaining separate communities, which shall:
- (a) address underlying socioeconomic issues, such as poverty, that lead to a loss of trust in democracy,
 - (b) operate in accordance with the goals and values of Agenda 2063, with the aim of transforming Africa into a strong global player,
 - (c) be called the "Futuristic Unified and Comprehensive Keeper of Making Africa Great Again";
21. **Requests** the African Union Peace and Security Council, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the Assembly, on a case-by-case basis, to immediately consider the deployment, within 72 hours of an unconstitutional takeover, of an AU Civilian Protection Observer Mission composed of police and civilian personnel, and explicitly excluding military personnel, drawn from the African Standby Force, to the affected AU Member State, with a mandate to:
- (a) secure humanitarian corridors for the safe passage of vulnerable civilians, especially infants and kids,
 - (b) document and publicly report on human rights abuses and violence executed by the unconstitutional regime,
 - (c) protect targeted journalists and democratically elected officials facing political persecution in order to preserve an orderly government.

Vote result	Adopted
	<i>In favour:</i> 24
	<i>Against:</i> 16
	<i>Abstentions:</i> 9
Date of vote	19 June 2026
Final editor	Presidents of the African Union