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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
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United Nations-African Union Cooperation: Chapter VIII application and the future of the African Peace and Security Architecture

**Statement by H.E. Ms Caitlin Wilson
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
of Australia to the United Nations**

(As delivered)

Thank you, Mr President.

The scale, nature and compounding impact of today's global peace and security challenges are immense, and seriously straining the resources and capacity of the United Nations to respond.

These issues have been felt most acutely by a number of African countries, caught in cycles of violence, crisis and relapse. More than half of the world's armed conflicts are taking place in Africa, causing significant suffering and displacement. The majority of UN peacekeeping missions are deployed in Africa and conflicts there dominate this Council's agenda.

While the UN is rightly at the centre of global efforts to maintain international peace and security, it cannot – and should not – do it alone.

Strategic and operational partnerships between the UN and regional and sub-regional organisations, in line with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, are essential – to prevent crises, strengthen international responses, increase coherence and complementarity of efforts, and achieve sustainable peace.

Indeed, the need for closer strategic cooperation and partnership between the UN and regional and sub-regional organisations was a consistent finding across the recent reviews on UN Peace Operations, Peacebuilding Architecture, and Security Council resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security, with the role of the African Union particularly emphasised.

The outcome of the Peacebuilding review built further on these findings, specifically encouraging regular exchanges, joint initiatives and information sharing between the UN and African Union. Australia strongly supports these efforts.

Mr President, the UN has long understood that addressing the root causes of conflict is fundamental to finding durable solutions.

Local and regional actors, including organisations like the African Union and its sub-regional economic communities, are often well placed to sound the early warning siren to the international community of emerging threats to peace. It is critical to make the most of the comparative advantages between the UN and regional and sub-regional organisations – further strengthening the partnership

between the AU and the UN is one of the most important opportunities to do that.

Mr President, great strides have been made over recent years to enhance UN-AU cooperation. Australia welcomes growing African leadership in maintaining peace and security in the region. But more can be done. Australia calls for all parties to continue to work together in these efforts, particularly to:

- Formalise early engagement to enhance communication and information sharing;
- Undertake joint analysis and coordinated threat assessments, and joint early warning assessment missions to ensure common understanding;
- Strengthen operational and policy coherence between the organisations;
- Improve links between the Security Council and AU Peace and Security Council; and
- Better facilitate transitions between regional and UN peace support operations, when required.

Thank you, Mr President.