



**KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

Intervention of Philippe Kridelka,  
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN

at

Ambassadorial-level meeting of the Group of Friends of the United  
Nations/African Union Partnership

New York, 14/02/2024, 15h00

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Thank you Cochairs,

(H.E. Ms. Merete Brattested, PR of Norway)

(H.E. Mr. Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalek Mahmoud, PR of Egypt)

I fully support the intervention from the European Union.

I would like to come back on three points. In the interest of time, I will not touch upon concrete successes such as the very important AU-EU-UN Partnership Project for the Enhancement of the Compliance & Accountability framework for African Union Peace Support Operations. Instead, I will focus on the financing questions.

**First of all**, regarding assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund. My dear friend Osama, *chère ami*, I would like to salute your leadership. When I chaired the Fifth Committee in 2022-2023, Belgium actively facilitated this debate. Unfortunately, a compromise could not be found despite everyone's efforts. We had to wait for your Chairmanship to convince the States who were hesitant to grant this fair, reasonable and urgent request. Congratulations on this success.

**Secondly**, I congratulate the African Group and Ghana, Mozambique and Gabon in particular, on securing the green light of the Security Council for partial assessed contributions for African Union led for **Peace Support Operations**. The unanimous adoption on December 21 of Resolution 2719 is **a historic success**. That decision empowers one of the United Nations' most important partner organizations, the African Union. We Europeans do understand very well the importance of regional organizations in the multilateral world. Communities of any region are best placed to help develop and implement sustainable solutions for conflicts in their neighborhoods. And when regional organizations are willing to act, the Security Council should empower them.

Of course, the Security Council solved only 75% of the financing problem. **We look forward to the guidance from African Heads of State, who will meet this weekend, on how the AU will tackle the remaining funding gap.** (AU Summit on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>)

Co-Chairs, and this is my **last point**,

Assessed Contributions, whether for Peacebuilding or Peacekeeping, are not only a perennial and sustainable form of financing. **They also represent a fair form of financing, guaranteeing that all actors objectively chip in according to their capacity to pay**, while accounting for the special responsibility of the P5 for international peace and security.

Collectively, the **27 Member States of the EU roughly account for 24%** of the budget for UN peacekeeping operations globally. We come second only to the USA but far “out-contribute” other States, including Permanent Members of the Security Council. That is our fair assessed share.

But the EU and its Member States go beyond that. On a strictly voluntary basis, the EU and its Member States have been the principal financial supporter of the African Union and its Peace Agenda. Through the European Peace Facility alone, the EU has earmarked general support to the African Union to the tune of **787 million USD** from 2021 to 2024. Those funds have been used, for example, to pay troop allowances for ATMIS TCCs, or to enhance the operational effectiveness of the Multi National Joint Task Force against Boko Haram and other terrorist groups - to the tune of 107 million USD.

In addition to its financial support to the African Union, the European Peace Facility has also allocated 297 M USD bilateral support to the armed forces of ten African States.

Co-chairs, when it comes to partnering with the African Union and its Member states, the **European Union and its Member States put their money where their mouth is**. In the critical interest of international peace and security, we call on everyone to play and pay their part too.

I thank you.