



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Intervention of Ludovic Bol, First Secretary,

Mission of Belgium to the UN

at

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

New York, 21/12/2022, 15h00

Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like to make three points.

First, on the adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing of the **Peacebuilding Fund**. As Fifth Committee Chair, Belgium is actively facilitating the 5C discussion around PBF financing, in the hopes of achieving a consensus outcome.

In our national capacity, we support the 50 million per year European Union compromise proposal currently on the table. This proposal is supported by the African group and the likeminded. It is an example of how we can work together.

Secondly, I would like to address the financing of AU led-operations. This topic has been on the agenda for years. We are still in search of a positive outcome. This is not just a priority for African countries. It is also a priority for the European Union, which is by far the African Union's main partner, including for its peace operations.

Belgium, like its European partners, wishes to continue to fulfil its role as a major partner of the African Union in resolving its different crises.

The way out of this question of financing cannot be improvised. Strong signals like the recent signing of the "AU-EU-UN Partnership Project for the Enhancement of the

Compliance & Accountability framework for African Union Peace Support Operations” are necessary and important.

Events such as the next African Union Summit in February or the publication of the SG's report on the financing of AU Peace Support Operations will allow the various partners to reflect together on common positions and proposals.

Let me stress that Belgium will continue to support predictable and sustainable funding for African Union peace operations and will “play its part” on the basis of concrete proposals by our African friends and partners to make progress on this funding.

M. le Président,

Mon troisième et dernier point concerne les efforts bilatéraux de mon pays, la Belgique.

Ces dernières années, nos partenaires africains et leurs organisations régionales ont pris plusieurs initiatives en matière de maintien de la paix. Il est important d’insister sur ce point. Il est essentiel que la collaboration en matière de renforcement des capacités soit pilotée par et pour les Africains. En parallèle, il est de notre devoir de les soutenir à cet égard. La Belgique, en tant que partenaire engagé en faveur du développement de l’Afrique, joint l’acte à la parole.

Par exemple, au Sahel, la Belgique apporte son soutien à la formation de l’armée du Niger. En République Démocratique du Congo aussi, notre collaboration à Kindu avec les Forces Armées de la RDC contribue à l’objectif final d’une paix durable dans l’Est du pays. Dans les deux cas ces initiatives se font à la demande des autorités locales et en bonne coordination avec celles-ci.

Je vous remercie.

