

Official launch of the Group of Friends of the UN-AU Partnership



Friday 7th February 3pm-4pm

UNHQ Conference Room 11

Egypt, Norway, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Germany, Japan, Kenya, México Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Korea and Sweden, launched in May 2019 an open-ended Group of Friends of the UN-AU Partnership in Addis Abeba. The Group of Friends in Addis Abeba is an informal forum, supplementing the established meeting architecture and other cooperative arrangements existing between the UN and the AU with the key purpose to generate increased understanding, support and backing of member states to the UN Secretariat and the AU Commission in their efforts to deepen and widen the partnership.

Given the importance of the Partnership between the UN and AU also in New York, the above mentioned countries have decided to establish a Group of Friends of the UN-AU Partnership in New York.

The Group of Friends of the UN-AU Partnership aims to strengthen the collaborative approach of the UN and the AU, in accordance with the “Joint United Nations- African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security”, signed in April 2017 and the “African Union- United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, signed in January 2018.

A Steering Committee, consisting of maximum 14 countries, will lead the work of the Group. The Steering Committee is composed of African- countries and non-African states. Egypt and Norway as co-chairs lead the Steering Committee.

The Group is open-ended, accepting membership of member states and observers of the UN. The group will work closely with the AU Observer Mission and the UN Secretariat.

The Group of Friends will, on the initiative of one or more of the members of its Steering Committee, arrange meetings approximately 3-4 times a year. The group may decide to make use of incoming visits of AU representatives to organize meetings.

The meetings may be, inter alia, in the format of i) seminars and events to discuss and increase knowledge of the practical implementation of the partnership at all levels, including meetings at the political level ii) an informal setting to discuss any aspect of the partnership, progress

made and where further efforts are needed, and iii) a forum for coordinating political and financial support to the partnership and implementation of the two partnership frameworks.

The Group will address any issue considered a priority for enhancing the UN- AU Partnership. Particular attention should be given to essential themes identified in the two frameworks for enhanced partnership.