

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Media Advisory

Date: 13 September 2026

Venue: Bujumbura, Burundi

MEDIA ADVISORY

African Union to Convene 18th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security

INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

The African Union (AU) will convene the 18th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi, from 15 to 18 September 2026.

The four-day session will be held at three levels:

- 1) **15-16 September 2026:** Meeting of Experts of the 18th Ordinary Session of the STCDSS.
- 2) **17 September 2026:** 21st Ordinary Meeting of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Safety and Security Services (ACDS).
- 3) **18 September 2026:** 18th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) at Ministerial level.

EVENT DETAILS

- What:** 18th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS).
- When:** Opening ceremonies of the Meeting of Experts on 15 September 2026 and the Ministerial Session on 18 September 2026.
- Where:** Agateka Hall, Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi
- Why:** The STCDSS provides a framework for AU Member States to consider matters relating to defence, safety and security within the mandate of the African Union, including relevant reports, policies, frameworks and recommendations, and to provide guidance on their implementation.
- Who:** The session will bring together representatives of AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), including experts, Chiefs of Defence Staff, Heads of Safety and Security Services, Ministers of Defence, Internal Affairs and Safety and Security, and Heads of relevant national institutions.

Representatives of the Media are invited to cover the opening ceremonies of the Meeting of Experts on 15 September 2026 and the Ministerial Session on 18 September 2026.

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