

**DECISION ON THE YEAR OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA**  
**Doc. Assembly/AU/5(XIV)**

**The Assembly,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Year of Peace and Security in Africa;
2. **RECALLS** the Tripoli Declaration on the Elimination of Conflicts in Africa and the Promotion of Sustainable Peace [SP/Assembly/PS/Decl.(I)], adopted by the Special Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, held in Tripoli, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 31 August 2009, in particular paragraph 23 of the Declaration in which the Heads of State and Government decided to proclaim 2010 as the Year of Peace and Security in Africa;
3. **FURTHER RECALLS** that, while notable gains have been made and the number of violent conflicts on the Continent has been reduced significantly in recent years, nevertheless far too many African countries remain trapped in a vicious cycle of conflict with devastating consequences;
4. **UNDERLINES** the need for the full operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, in order to enhance the capacity of the Continent to successfully address the challenges of peace and security;
5. **STRESSES** that the Year of Peace and Security will be an opportunity for African peoples and leaders, as well as African institutions, in partnership with the international community, to review current efforts towards peace on the Continent, with a view to strengthening them and, where appropriate, launching new initiatives, in particular by:
  - (i) giving added momentum to peace and security efforts on the Continent;
  - (ii) giving greater visibility to past and ongoing efforts by the African Union (AU) on the ground;
  - (iii) speeding up the implementation of commitments made by Member States in various AU instruments relating to peace and security;
  - (iv) making synergies between official efforts to promote peace and security with those being undertaken on the ground by grassroots communities; and
  - (v) mobilizing resources to support peace and security efforts on the Continent.

6. **EXPRESSES ITS FULL SUPPORT** for the steps and initiatives envisaged by the Chairperson of the Commission as contained in his report on the Year of Peace and Security in Africa. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the Commission for the steps already taken towards the implementation of the Year of Peace and Security, in particular the building of the required partnerships, the mobilization of resources and outreach activities;
7. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to pursue those efforts and to urgently take all the required measures for the successful celebration of the Year of Peace and Security, in particular by mobilizing human, technical and financial resources, ensuring the active involvement of all relevant AU structures, including the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and AU Specialized Institutions, among others, mobilizing the African private sector and civil society, as well as the support of AU's bilateral and multilateral partners and other relevant stakeholders. In this respect, the Assembly **WELCOMES** the partnership between the AU and the Confederation of African Football (CAF), as well as the financial and technical support provided by the German Government through GTZ, and the commitment of the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF) to work with the AU towards the successful celebration of the Year of Peace and Security;
8. **UNDERLINES** the crucial role of Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and **URGES** them to seize the opportunity of the Year of Peace and Security to highlight the actions undertaken in promoting peace and security and intensify their efforts in this regard, including by signing and ratifying relevant AU instruments and effectively implementing the commitments contained therein. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty and of the Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact, which enrich the AU normative framework for structural conflict prevention and **ONCE AGAIN, APPEALS TO** all Member States that have not yet done so to speedily take the steps required to become parties to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
9. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to take the necessary measures for the success of the campaign and to take other steps in support of the Year of Peace and Security, including issuing special stamps, providing free air time and space for advertisements in state media and facilitating the successful tour of the Flame of Peace;
10. **REQUESTS** the Peace and Security Council to undertake specific activities in support of the Year of Peace and Security, in particular by holding meetings in countries affected by conflicts, making further visits in the field, so that PSC members can observe at first hand the realities of these countries, and becoming

both more proactive in considering situations of potential and incipient conflict, while remaining engaged in countries that are emerging from conflict. The Assembly **ALSO REQUESTS** the PSC to devote special sessions to the theme of Women and Youth in Conflicts. Recognizing that women and children continue to be the most affected by the conflicts that ravage parts of our Continent and recalling the launch of the African Women's Decade, as decided at the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, **DECLARES** that the laudable intentions contained therein should be reinforced by the Declaration of 2010 as the African Year of Peace and Security in Africa, and that its objectives continue to permeate throughout the coming Women's Decade, reinvigorating and strengthening the attainment of lasting peace, security and prosperity on the Continent;

11. **NOTES** that, in the next twelve (12) months, seventeen (17) African countries will be celebrating their fiftieth anniversaries as independent states and that these celebrations should mark a new beginning, heralding a new era for the continent, specially through renewed efforts to address the challenge of peace and security;
12. **CALLS ON** the African countries concerned to seize the opportunity of their respective national days to work with the Commission in carrying out programmes collaboratively in support of the Year of Peace and Security;
13. **APPEALS** to all AU partners and other stakeholders to extend full support to the AU to ensure the successful celebration of the Year of Peace and Security and **ENCOURAGES** them to jointly identify with the Commission activities that could be undertaken in this respect;
14. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit to it a progress report on the implementation of the Year of Peace and Security campaign at the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council in July 2010.

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