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ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION
Eighth Ordinary Session
29 – 30 January 2007
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

Assembly/AU/12(VIII)

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PANEL OF THE WISE AS STIPULATED
BY ARTICLE 11 OF THE PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEACE AND
SECURITY COUNCIL

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PANEL OF THE WISE AS STIPULATED BY ARTICLE
11 OF THE PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEACE
AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

1. Article 11 paragraph 1 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) stipulates that: "in order to support the efforts of the Peace and Security Council and those of the Chairperson of the Commission, particularly in the area of conflict prevention, a Panel of the Wise shall be established." Article 11 paragraph 2 stipulates that "the Panel of the Wise shall be composed of five highly respected African personalities from various segments of society who have made outstanding contribution to the cause of peace, security and development on the Continent. They shall be selected by the Chairperson of the Commission after consultation with the Member States concerned, on the basis of regional representation and appointed by the Assembly to serve for a period of three years."

2. "The Panel of the Wise shall advise the Peace and Security Council and the Chairperson of the Commission on all issues pertaining to the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa (Article 11, paragraph 3). At the request of the Peace and Security Council or the Chairperson of the Commission, or at its own initiative, the Panel of the Wise shall undertake such action deemed appropriate to support the efforts of the Peace and Security Council and those of the Chairperson of the Commission, for the prevention of conflicts, and to pronounce itself on issues relating to the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa. The Panel of the Wise shall report to the Peace and Security Council and, through the Peace and Security Council, to the Assembly" (Article 11, paragraph 5).

3. At its Second Ordinary Session held in Maputo in July 2003, the Assembly of the Union adopted a Decision on the operationalization of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC, which invited the Commission to pursue the efforts already deployed to facilitate operationalization of the Protocol, once it enters into force including the provisions regarding the Panel of the Wise. At its subsequent meetings, the Assembly reiterated the need for the early establishment of the Panel of the Wise and, in more general terms, the need to conclude the establishment of the Continental Peace and Security Architecture.

4. At its 57th Meeting held on 21 June 2006 devoted, among other things, to the establishment of the Continental Peace and Security Architecture, the PSC underscored the need for the early establishment of the Panel of the Wise. Lastly, the Meeting of Governmental Experts on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention, held at Kempton Park, South Africa, from 17 to 19 December 2006, stressed the crucial role to be played by the Panel of the Wise in conflict prevention and, accordingly, urged me to accelerate operationalization of the Panel.

5. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Protocol, I have selected the following personalities to sit on the Panel of the Wise;

- Miguel Trovoada, former President of Sao Tome and Principe (Central Africa);
- Salim Ahmed Salim, former Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity (East Africa);
- Ahmed Ben Bella, former President of Algeria (North Africa);
- Brigalia Bam, President of the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (Southern Africa);
- Elisabeth K. Pogonon, President of the Constitutional Court of Bénin (West Africa).

6. As required by the Protocol, the personalities selected are highly respected and have each in their own way contributed greatly to the promotion of peace and security and the development of the Continent. I therefore recommend that the Assembly appoint them as members of the Panel of the Wise. The curricula vitae of the persons concerned are annexed.

7. The importance of the Panel of the Wise need not be stressed. The appointment of its members will mark a key phase in the establishment of the Continental Architecture for Peace and Security. In this regard, it should be noted that significant progress has been made since the entry into force of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC in December 2003: the PSC has been operational since March 2004, and has gained undisputed and widely recognized credibility in discharging its duties; the process for the establishment of the African Standby Force is underway at the level of the AU and Regional Economic Communities/Regions; finally, a Framework for the Operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System was adopted at the Meeting of Government Experts on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention mentioned above.

8. The experience of past years highlighted the importance of conflict prevention. The establishment of the Panel of the Wise will make it possible to instil new impetus into our efforts in this area. Successful preventive action will spare our countries and their populations the suffering and destruction linked to conflicts; it will also eliminate the need for peace support operations which are complex in terms of logistics and expensive in terms of financial resources, and for which our organization is not yet adequately equipped, as was clearly shown by the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS).

9. Once the Assembly has appointed the members of the Panel of the Wise, the Commission will endeavour to finalize the modalities for the functioning of the Panel, to be submitted for the approval of the PSC, and to elaborate a draft work programme.

2007

Report of the chairperson of the commission on the establishment of the panel of the wise as stipulated by article 11 of the protocol relating to the establishment of the peace and security council

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