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THE 5TH MEETING OF AFRICAN CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF AND HEADS OF SECURITY, AND THE 2ND ORDINARY MEETING OF MINISTERS OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY

**24-28 MARCH 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING OF AFRICAN CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF AND HEADS OF SECURITY ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE AND THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

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The 5th Meeting of African Chiefs of Defence Staff (ACDS) and Heads of Security, was held at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 27th March 2008, to consider the progress achieved so far in the operationalization of the ASF and consider proposals for further implementation. The meeting was preceded by a Meeting of Experts at the same venue from 24th to 26th March 2008.

The meeting was chaired by General Davis Adolf Mwamuyauage, Chief of Defence Staff of Tanzania. It was addressed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, who gave a brief on the background and objectives of the meeting.

The ACDS and Heads of Security adopted the following agenda:

- a. Election of the Bureau.
- b. Adoption of Agenda.
- c. Consideration of the Report and Recommendations of the Experts on the establishment of the ASF and the Military Staff Committee (MSC).
- d. Briefing on AMISOM and other current AU Operations
- e. Consideration of the Draft Declaration for the Ministers of Defence and Security.
- f. Closing Session.

The meeting of the ACDS and Heads of Security was briefed by the Chairman of the Experts Meeting on their deliberations. Based on the reports and documents submitted by the Commission on the progress made in the establishment of the ASF and the outcome of the deliberations of the experts meeting, the following recommendations were made:

1. The ASF draft policy documents on Doctrine, SOPs, Logistics, Training and Evaluation, C³IS and related recommendations as proposed by the Commission and further reviewed by the meeting of experts should be adopted. The Commission was requested to convene meetings of Member States and Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) to review the policy documents by 2010.
2. The additional documents formulated with respect to the ASF Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) and the Logistics Depot Study Report should be accepted in principle and the Commission should be requested, in liaison with

the RECs/RMs and Member States, to further continue developing these areas and submit proposals by 2010.

3. With respect to the RDC, our meeting recommended that Option 3 be retained. It is to be recalled that option 3 provides that RDC would be part of the regional brigade that will deploy in advance, while the rest of the brigade deploys as a follow-on force.

4. With respect to the logistics depot study report, our meeting recommended that the initial concept of 1 continental depot and 5 regional depots should be retained, pending the outcome of further consultations on the issue with the RECs/RMs and Member States.

5. The meeting took note of the proposed documents on the legal and medical aspects, and the civilian dimension, which constitute a sound basis towards the establishment of the ASF and requested the Commission to further develop these documents in liaison with Member States, RECs/RMs and submit proposals by 2010.

6. We recommended the establishment of a working group of experts to:

a. Look into the rationalization of the establishment of the regional brigades, vis-à-vis the fact that some Member States belong to more than one regional brigade.

b. Propose ways of meeting the challenges faced by the AU Commission and RECs/RMs in the operationalization of the ASF especially in the areas of human and financial resources and strategic lift.

c. Consider the need for appropriate terminology to reflect the multidimensional and multifunctional mechanisms, given that the expressions "Standby Force" and "Standby Brigade" have exclusive military connotations.

7. In the operationalization process of the ASF, the importance of enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of the MSC as a critical advisory structure to the PSC in the development of the ASF was stressed. Accordingly, Member States concerned were urged to urgently take the necessary steps to be appropriately represented in the MSC by deploying Defence Attachés who should be actively involved in the evolving process to establish the ASF and offer assistance to AU Commission in order to ensure African ownership. We also recommend that reflection should be initiated on the composition of the MSC to reflect the multidimensional nature of the ASF and peace support operations.

8. Member States should strengthen the capacity of ASF and peace support operations structures at both continental and regional levels and provide the required financial resources. The Commission should adopt specific flexible procedures for the management of peace support operations and ASF related matters, and review the structure of the AU PSOD, as well as undertake urgent staff recruitment, while obeying the principles of accountability and transparency.

9. On the way forward, our meeting agreed on the following:

a. The AU Commission, RECs/RMs and Member States, shall jointly formulate a document on the 2nd phase of the operationalization of the ASF based, among others, on the recommendations proposed by the experts.

b. The AU Commission, the RECs/RMs and Member States shall undertake steps to implement the recommendations that emanated from all the workshops on the ASF.

c. The ASF policy documents should be applied as working tools to guide the conduct of all ASF exercises contained in the ASF Training Plan 2007-2010. The policy documents will remain blocked up to June 2010, with the exception of effecting recommendations made at this meeting. The documents will be reviewed by June 2010, using the results of ASF exercise after- action reviews and lessons learnt.

d. Efforts should be made to develop a more sustainable funding mechanism that will not be solely dependent on external donors, to support the ASF.

e. There is the need to enhance the mechanism for coordination and cooperation between the AU Commission, RECs/RMs and Member States.

f. There is also the need to further develop the police/gendarmerie and civilian components of the ASF to reflect the multidimensional nature of the ASF and peace support operations.

g. The AU Commission should undertake steps to produce a Formed Police / Gendarmerie Unit Manual covering all aspects of executive policing.

h. There is a further need to enhance the Police/Gendarmerie and civilian component of the ASF to reflect the multi-dimensional and multi-functional nature of the ASF.

i. In order to accelerate the operationalization of the ASF, the following steps should urgently be undertaken:

- Consolidation of ASF tools and development of Concepts of Operations, identification of capacities for deployment and Capability Development.

- Implementation of ASF Training Plan 2007-2010.
- Verification and assessment of readiness of the pledged brigade units for purposes of providing guidance and support. This shall be carried out by the AU Commission and co-opted officers from the regions to form appropriate teams.
- Staffing of the Planning Elements both at the strategic level (AU Commission) and regional levels. In this regard the AU PSOD should be mandated to undertake its own recruitment, with due regard to transparency, in order to facilitate the improvement of its human resource capacity without recourse to the traditional AU bureaucracy.

10. Finally, our meeting was briefed on the progress in the deployment of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) as well as other peace support missions deployed by the AU or under its authority, including in Burundi, Darfur and Comoros. Special attention was devoted to the situation in Somalia and the need to ensure the full deployment of AMISOM and its envisaged enhancement. The meeting paid tribute to the AU Member States that contributed to the mission, particularly, Uganda and Burundi, and urged Member States to provide troops and support. Our meeting also welcomed the successful missions deployed by AU Member States (Tanzania, Sudan, and Libya and supported by Senegal in the initial operational planning), in support of the efforts of the Government of the Union of Comoros to restore its authority on the Island of Anjouan in line with the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State during its last Session held in Addis Ababa in January 2008.

11. In conclusion, the meeting adopted the Report of the Experts, subject to the above observations being effected in the relevant policy areas. The meeting also discussed a Draft Declaration proposed by the Commission, based on the outcome of the meeting of the Experts and our own meeting. We recommended the Draft Declaration for adoption by the Ministers of Defence and Security.

2008

Conclusions of the meeting of African Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Security on the Operationalization of the African Standby force and the Military Staff Committee

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