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**RETREAT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY
COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION
4 - 5 DECEMBER 2008
LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA**

PSC/PR/(CLX)

**CONCLUSIONS ON A MECHANISM FOR INTERACTION BETWEEN THE PEACE AND
SECURITY COUNCIL AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROMOTION OF
PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY IN AFRICA**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) held a Retreat in Livingstone, Zambia, from 4 to 5 December 2008. The Retreat was held against the background of the conclusions of the Dakar PSC Retreat as well as the outcome of the AU-Civil Society Organizations Consultation held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 27 to 29 December 2008, within the framework of the operationalization of article 20 of the PSC Protocol.

2. The objective of the Retreat was to consider an appropriate mechanism for interaction between the Peace and Security Council and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa within the framework of article 20 of the PSC Protocol. In this regard, the Retreat adopted the conclusions below:

II. CONCLUSIONS

A) Title/Name of the Formula

3. The name of the formula for interaction between the PSC and CSOs in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa is called **Livingstone Formula**.

B) Modalities of interaction

Procedural aspects

4. The Retreat agreed that the PSC remains master of its procedures and decisions, and that the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), as the consultative organ responsible for coordinating the participation of civil society in the work of the African Union, particularly the Peace and Security Cluster, is the focal point and plays a consultative role in the interaction between the PSC and CSOs. To interact with the PSC, Civil Society Organizations must conform to the relevant provisions in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the provisions in the PSC Protocol, especially article 8 (10c), as well as to the Rules of Procedure of the PSC (rules 21 and 22). They shall comply with the criteria for eligibility for membership as defined in article 6 of the Statutes of ECOSOCC, in particular:

- i) it shall be registered in an AU member State in accordance with national legislation of the country;
- ii) it shall uphold the objectives and principles of the African Union, as stated in articles 3 and 4 of the Constitutive Act of the AU;
- iii) it shall be a member CSO of a national, regional and continental organization or the African Diaspora, in pursuit of activities at the national, regional or continental level;
- iv) it shall be accredited, with the African Union or an African Regional Economic Community/Regional Mechanism;
- v) It shall solemnly declare to uphold the objectives and principles of the AU, as well as the provisions governing the CSOs in an observer status with the AU Commission, or working with it, including the principle of impartiality.
- vi) it shall belong to a recognized regional or continental umbrella/network of CSOs.

i) Annual meeting of the PSC with ECOSOCC.

5. The PSC will hold an annual meeting with ECOSOCC, in its consultative role, on a given theme relating to peace, security and stability in Africa or a related issue. Such a meeting should be timed in such a manner that relevant inputs provided by CSOs would be considered before finalization of the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa to the Assembly of the AU during the Summit.

ii) Invitation to PSC meetings:

6. The Chairperson of the PSC, in consultation with all the members of the PSC, as well as with the Commission, and within the framework of rules 21 and 22 in the Rules of Procedure of the PSC, may invite a CSO to address, through their mandated representative, a PSC meeting on an issue under consideration, provided that the invited CSO is concerned with the situation to be considered by that meeting.

iii) Submission of reports to the PSC:

7. CSOs may submit reports, to the AU Commission for its consideration during the process of preparation of reports to the meetings of the PSC.

iv) Providing information to PSC field missions and AU fact-finding missions:

8. CSOs, to the extent possible, and concerned by a situation within the mandate of a given mission, may provide information to such missions and may also form part of such missions-in-visit as observers specifically to the affected area, if invited and at their own cost.

C) Mechanisms for facilitating interaction:

- i. Chairperson of the PSC may invite, in consultation with all the members of the PSC and the Commission, CSOs to PSC meetings, on a case-by-case basis, when so required and when a request from a CSO is received by the Chairperson of the PSC;
- ii. Chairperson of the Commission, shall consider a request for accreditation of a civil society representative to participate in a PSC meeting to which he/she is invited in accordance with the provisions of Rule 22 in the Rules of Procedure of the PSC;

D) Identifying areas of contribution by CSOs towards the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, upon invitation by the PSC:

9. CSOs involved in issues of peace, security and stability and in conformity with the national law of the concerned States, and conforming to the principles of early warning system and if called upon by the PSC, in conformity to the law of the country concerned, may organize and undertake their activities in the following areas:

i) Conflict prevention (early warning):

10. CSOs may provide technical support to AU Field and fact-finding missions and RECs/RMS. By undertaking early warning reporting and situation analysis, civil society organizations can assist in enhancing the research and analysis process that feeds information into the decision-making process of the PSC.

ii) Peacemaking and mediation:

11. CSOs may assist and advise mediation teams during negotiations. CSOs can provide information to Special Envoys/Representatives of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union in the execution of their work. CSOs may also participate in giving publicity to the peacemaking process to enable the wider population to be informed of the ongoing efforts to broker peace in the country.

iii) Peacekeeping:

12. Following the signing of a peace agreement, CSOs may assist, in a complementary manner, the AU and the PSC to devise effective processes to ensure that the parties to a conflict are assisted in the implementation of peace agreements. CSOs may also work in support of PSC authorized peacekeeping missions by undertaking some aspects of the civilian component of the operation. This might, for example, involve supporting the work of the civilian component of the African Standby Force.

iv) Humanitarian support, peace-building, post-conflict reconstruction and development:

13. After the signing of peace agreements, CSOs may work in complementarity to the efforts of the PSC and Special Envoys/Representatives of the Chairperson of the AU Commission in post-conflict confidence-building and support reconciliation processes in war-affected regions. Also, in the aftermath of conflict, CSOs may assist in rebuilding of communities to enable the delivery of basic services to the people.

v) Provision of technical support:

14. CSOs may work on environmental rehabilitation issues to enable local populations to resume normal activities. In addition, CSOs may work with local governments to re-establish water, electricity, and re-build social infrastructures.

vi) Training:

15. CSOs may provide training sessions and workshops to impart skills and knowledge on peace building for specific parties to a conflict or for countries and regions that require such training. CSOs may backstop mediation efforts by providing appropriate information required on particular aspects, objectives, and procedures of the mediation process.

vii) Monitoring and impact assessment of the implementation of peace agreements:

16. CSOs may contribute to monitoring of the implementation of PSC decisions, particularly those relating to peace agreements and provide independent evaluation reports and briefs that would help the PSC in reviewing the situation.

viii) Post-conflict situations:

17. CSOs may engage in peace-making and peace-building, humanitarian assistance; addressing basic needs of returnees and internally-displaced persons; economic recovery and rehabilitation of ex-combatants; rebuilding the administrative infrastructure, disarmament and demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, especially child soldiers, as well as provide counsel and moral support to victims of violence and other members of the community affected by war.

ix) Advocacy/Publicity for PSC Decisions:

18. CSOs may play a complementary role in the advocacy/publicity of AU-PSC decisions and activities, using their wide continental and international networks, to contribute to a better understanding of PSC decisions by the population.

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