

AFRICAN UNION

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ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

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REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE ELECTIONS OF TEN (10) MEMBERS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE ELECTIONS OF TEN (10)
MEMBERS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY
COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. It will be recalled that the Peace and Security Council (PSC), in conformity with Article 5 (1) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (the Protocol) is composed of fifteen (15) Members elected on the basis of equal rights, in the following manner: Ten (10) Members elected for a term of two (2) years; and Five (5) Members elected for a term of three (3) years in order to ensure continuity. It will be further recalled that as mandated by the Assembly, the initial Members of the PSC were elected during the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in March 2004 as follows: Algeria, Ethiopia, Gabon, Nigeria and South Africa for a three-year term and Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Mozambique, Senegal, Sudan and Togo for a two-year term.
2. Accordingly, the Commission of the African Union (the Commission), by its Note Verbale BC/OLC/23.22/50/Vol.VII informed Member States that Ten (10) vacancies would arise as a result of the expiry, in March 2006, of the term of office of Ten (10) of the members of the PSC and that the retiring Members were eligible for re-election.
3. The Commission also informed Member States that the regional representation of the Ten (10) Members in the PSC is as follows: **Central (2), East (2), North (1), South (2) and West (3)** and that the new members will be elected during the Eight Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and appointed during the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly to be held in Khartoum, the Sudan, in January 2006. Each region was requested to consult and to short-list the candidatures.
4. The election of the ten (10) members of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) shall be based on the provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the provisions of the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and the Modalities for Election of Members of the Peace and Security Council adopted by the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in March 2004.

**II. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF THE PEACE
AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

5. In electing Members of the Peace and Security Council, due consideration shall be given to the following criteria with regard to each Member State which shall submit its candidature:
 - a. **Equitable regional representation and rotation:**
6. In conformity with Article 5 (2) of the Protocol, in electing the Members of the PSC, the Assembly shall apply the principle of equitable regional representation

and rotation and only Member States fulfilling the following requirements are eligible for appointment as Council Members:

- Member States which have ratified the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and have deposited their instruments with the Commission, and are therefore, State parties to the Protocol;
- Member States which are not affected by sanctions in terms of Article 23 of the Constitutive Act.

b. Member State's Qualifications

7. In conformity with Article 5 (2) of the Protocol, the following criteria should apply with Member States which have submitted their candidature:

- a) Commitment to uphold the principles of the Union;
- b) Contribution to the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in Africa – in this respect, experience of Member States in peace support operations would be an added advantage;
- c) Capacity and commitment to shoulder the responsibilities entailed in membership;
- d) Participation in conflict resolution, peace-making and peace building at regional and continental levels;
- e) Willingness and ability to take up responsibilities for regional and continental conflict resolution initiatives;
- f) Contribution to the Peace Fund and/or Special Fund created for a specific purpose;
- g) Respect for constitutional governance, in accordance with the Lomé Declaration, as well as the rule of law and human rights;
- h) Sufficiently staffed and equipped Permanent Missions at the Headquarters of the Union and the United Nations, to be able to shoulder the responsibilities which go with the membership;
- i) Commitment to honor financial obligations of the Union; and
- j) Provide all the information required in the attached form.

III. TERM OF OFFICE

8. The Ten (10) Members of the PSC shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. A retiring Member of the PSC shall be eligible for immediate re-election. **The new members will be elected for a term of two years.**

IV. VOTING PROCEDURE

9. In conformity with the Modalities for the Election of Members of the Peace and Security Council adopted by the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, in March 2004, the elections shall be carried out as follows:
10. The Members of the PSC shall be elected by secret ballot and two-thirds majority of Member States eligible to vote.
11. Where the region(s) has submitted the required number of candidatures the balloting shall continue until the candidate(s) obtains the two-thirds majority required, provided that if the third balloting remains inconclusive, the elections shall be suspended to enable Member States of the region concerned to undertake consultations.
12. Where the region(s) has submitted more than the required number and in the event that during the first round of balloting none of the candidates obtains the majority required, the candidate with the fewer votes shall withdraw. The remaining candidates shall proceed to the next round and the balloting shall continue until the candidate(s) obtains the required majority, provided that if the third balloting remains inconclusive, the elections shall be suspended to enable Member States of the region concerned to undertake consultations.

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Report of the chairperson on the elections of ten (10) members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union

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