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**REPORT OF THE 9TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE,
SAFETY AND SECURITY (STCDSS),
1 – 4 JUNE 2016, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

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**9th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SPECIALIZED
TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
4 JUNE 2016**

DECLARATION

DECLARATION

1. We, the members of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) of the African Union (AU) met at the 9th Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and considered the Conclusions of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Safety and Security (ACDSS) on the African Standby Force (ASF).
2. Our meeting was preceded by the 12th Meeting of the ACDSS, on 3 June 2016, and a Meeting of Experts, held from 1 to 3 June 2016 respectively.
3. The Republic of Chad, in the absence of its Minister of Defence and the other Ministers of the Bureau deferred the responsibility to Chair the Meeting to the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Zimbabwe, in its capacity as Rapporteur.
4. On the basis of the recommendations of the ACDSS, we declare as follows:
 - a) Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanism (RECs/RMs) should be rostered, on a six-monthly rotational basis with effect from 01 January 2017. In this regard, the RECs/RMs will be rostered in the English alphabetical order as follows;
 - i) EASF (01 January – 30 June 2017)
 - ii) ECCAS (01 July – 31 December 2017)
 - iii) ECOWAS (01 January – 30 June 2018)
 - iv) NARC (01 July – 31 December 2018)
 - v) SADC (01 January – 30 June 2019)

The rostering process should repeat itself continuously after the end of each cycle. However, amendments to this schedule could be effected on the basis of consultations between the RECs/RMs, and the AU should subsequently be advised.

- b) The Peace and Security Council (PSC) shall authorise and request the deployment of PSOs by the regions, and by working closely with Regional Mechanisms, to ensure effective partnership between them and the Peace and Security Council in the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability as contained in Article 16 of the Protocol of PSC.
- c) The AMANI Africa II (AA-II) Field Training Exercise (FTX) After Action Review (AAR) Report re-affirmed the decision made by the Second Extraordinary meeting of the STCDSS that the ASF has attained Full Operational Capability (FOC), following the successful conduct of the AA-II FTX.
- d) All activities aimed at enhancing the ASF should now be considered as the post-FOC phase of the ASF.
- e) The Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Safety and Security appreciates the pledged capabilities and resources made by the

respective Member States to the RECs/RMs and consequently that, there was no need for their verification, but recommended the continuous training of the forces and their participation in regular exercises in their respective regions. They further recommend that the Commission and RECs/RMs speedily sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the employment of pledged capabilities.

- f) Recalled Assembly Decision 589 (XXVI) of January 2016, and, commends African Capacity for the Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) Volunteering Nations for the pledges and actual contributions made by this transitional mechanism during AA-II FTX, and in view of 8(e) above on the implementation of Decision 589 (XXVI), recommended to the Heads of States, the dissolution of ACIRC.
- g) The Draft Maputo Work Plan should include indicators, deliverables and timelines.
- h) The Work Plan should also take into account existing work plans developed by the various RECs/RMs.
- i) The AU, the Member States and the RECs/RMs should mobilise resources for the effective implementation of the Work Plan.
- j) The revised draft Maputo Five Year Work Plan should be considered in a meeting between the AU and RECs/RMs before the end of 2016 and be submitted to the next STCDSS meeting for their consideration and approval.
- k) In relation to the proposed AU-RECs/RMs meeting on the Draft Maputo Five Year Plan on the Enhancement of the ASF, Member States offered to fund and host the meeting on the request by the AU Commission. The Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Kenya also requested the AU Commission to submit its requirements in respect of this meeting for the consideration of all Member States.
- l) Took note of the presentation made by the Commission on the Policy for Policing in AU Peace Support Operations.
- m) In respect of the provision of personnel by AU Member States, at their own costs, to the AU Commission, Member States requested to be furnished with the Terms of Reference of the required posts, for their consideration.
- n) Noted the efforts made by the Government of Cameroon on the rehabilitation of the CLB facility in Douala, Cameroon, and urged the AU Commission in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon to expedite work on the CLB facility before the end of 2016 and consequently report on progress made during the next STCDSS Meeting. It is urged that Member States should support the project.

5. With respect to the Draft AU Charter on Maritime Safety, Security and Development, we:

- a) Took note, of the progress made in the development of the Draft African Union Charter on Maritime Safety, Security and Development. In this respect, the Meeting requested the AU Commission in consultation with Member States and RECs/RMs, to finalise the draft Charter and submit it to the Specialised Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs before consideration by the Lome Extraordinary AU Summit scheduled to held on 15 October 2016, in Lome, Togo.

6. We take note of the briefing by the representative of the Republic of Mali on the situation in Mali, which urged the AU Commission to expedite a technical assessment that will facilitate the deployment of a Rapid Intervention Force to support the Mali Security and Defence Force (MSDF) and the United Nations Multidimensional Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in the fight against terrorism.

7. We further take note of the briefing made by the distinguished Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cameroon on the progress made in the operationalization of the CLB, and commend the efforts made and resources committed towards the establishment of this facility.

8. We further reiterate the role of the STCDSS as per Decision 227 of the Assembly, in line with the provision of Article 15 of the Constitutive Act of the AU. In this regard, we recommend to the Assembly of the Union at its 27th Ordinary Session, scheduled to take place in Kigali, Rwanda in July 2016, to adopt the present Declaration.

2016

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