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**REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON  
ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND  
SECURITY IN AFRICA**

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Article 7(q) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) stipulates that the PSC shall “submit, through its Chairperson, regular reports to the Assembly on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa.” The present report, prepared in conformity to the said article, covers the activities undertaken by the Council during the period January to June 2006 and other issues relating to the responsibilities entrusted to it under the Protocol. The report also provides an overview of the state of peace and security on the continent, as well as the efforts deployed to find solutions to cases that were discussed by the PSC.

**II. SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE PSC PROTOCOL**

2. During the period under review, there has been progress regarding the signature and ratification of the PSC Protocol. Thus, Swaziland signed the Protocol on 7 December 2004 and ratified it on 30 December 2005; the instrument of ratification was deposited with the Commission on 5 January 2006.

3. At the time of finalizing this report, 50 member States had signed the Protocol, while 41 had both signed and ratified it. Three Member States are yet to sign the Protocol; these are Cape Verde, Eritrea and Tunisia. The following Member States have signed the Protocol but have not yet ratified it: Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Seychelles and Somalia.

**III. ROTATION OF THE CHAIR OF THE PSC**

4. The Assembly would recall that the new members of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for a two year-term (Cameroon, Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Egypt, Botswana, Malawi, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Senegal) were elected by the Executive Council, following the Assembly decision adopted during the Summit held in Khartoum, last January. The mandate of the newly elected PSC members started on 17 March 2006. Consequently, starting March 2006, the updated alphabetical list of the Council members is as follows: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda.

5. In conformity with article (23) of the Rules of Procedure of the PSC, the chairmanship of the PSC rotates among the members on a monthly basis and following the alphabetical order (in English) of the list of the PSC members. During the period under review, the chairpersonship of the PSC rotated as follows:

- Cameroon: January 2006;
- Congo: February 2006;
- Ethiopia: March 2006;
- Gabon: April 2006;
- Nigeria: May 2006;
- South Africa: June 2006

#### **IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

6. During the period January to June 2006, the PSC held thirteen (13) formal meetings, which were convened in Addis Ababa, at the Headquarters of the AU. Three (3) of these meetings were held at ministerial level, on 10 March, 15 May and 27 June 2006, to consider the situation in Darfur and other issues, while ten (10) meetings took place at ambassadorial level to consider various issues.

7. In addition to its formal meetings, the PSC convenes, from time to time, as issues arise, briefing sessions for the purpose of being updated on the most recent issues/developments falling under its purview. No decisions are taken on such occasions; however, press statements are issued to place on record the fact that Council discussed the issues brought to its attention. During the period under review, nine (9) such briefing sessions were held: one (1) on Central African Republic (CAR), on 30 March 2006; two (2) on Comoros, on 19 April and 19 May 2006; one (1) on Burundi, on 29 May 2006; two (2) on Somalia, on 15 June 2006; and one (1) on the International Criminal Court (ICC), on 19 June 2006, one (1) on DRC on 27 June 2006, and one (1) on the relations between Chad and the Sudan, also on 27 June 2006.

8. The list of formal and other PSC meetings held since January 2006, the issues discussed and the decisions made on the issues considered during the period are hereon annexed.

9. In pursuance of its mandate, the PSC continued to be seized of the crises and conflict situations obtaining in the continent. The Council also undertook other activities, within the framework of the responsibilities entrusted to it under the Protocol.

##### **i) Activities relating to Conflict Situations in Africa**

10. Between January and June 2006, the PSC; either at both its formal meetings and briefing sessions, examined the situations in the following countries: Sudan (Darfur), Comoros, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Somalia and Mauritania. During its formal meetings, the PSC took decisions as informed by the exigencies of each situation.

##### **ii) Other activities**

11. During the period under review, the PSC undertook a number of other activities, within the context of its efforts to promote peace, security and stability in Africa.

a) **Meeting with the UN Security Council Members**

12. On 7 June 2006, the Council met with the United Nations Security Council Mission and Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to AMIS, at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa. Among other issues, the Council discussed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and the relations between Chad and Sudan, as well as Somalia, in light of the request by the AU for an exemption to the arms embargo imposed since January 1992.

b) **African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)**

13. At its 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 31 May 2006, under the chairmanship of the Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in his capacity as Foreign Minister of the country chairing the PSC for the month of May 2006, the Council considered the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba). The Council expressed concern at the long delay in the entry into force of the Treaty and at the fact that, to date, only twenty (20) African countries have deposited their instruments of ratification with the AU Commission, while twenty-eight (28) instruments of ratification are required for the Treaty to enter into force. The Council requested the Members States that have not yet done so to urgently sign and ratify the Treaty. The Council further recalled resolution CM/Res.1592(LXII) Rev.1, appealing to the Nuclear Weapon States to bring the necessary support to the Pelindaba Treaty, especially by their accession to the Protocols that concern them. The Council paid tribute to the Federal Republic of Nigeria for continuing to advocate for the signature and ratification of the Pelindaba Treaty.

c) **Briefing by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on its activities in Africa**

14. At its 56<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 19 June 2006, the Council received a briefing from the President and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC representatives seized the opportunity to update members of the Council on the activities of the ICC in Africa and the ways in which the ICC could contribute to the work of the PSC. The Council welcomed the briefing and underscored the importance of promoting an effective and continued working relationship between the AU Commission and the ICC. The Council reiterated AU's commitment to fight impunity and, in this respect, stressed the importance of the relevant provisions of the AU Constitutive Act.

d) **Status of the establishment of the Continental Peace and Security Architecture**

15. At its 57<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21 June 2006, the PSC was briefed on the progress made in the establishment of the continental peace and security architecture, and the challenges ahead. In particular, the Council was briefed on the efforts to operationalize the PSC Protocol, especially by the setting up of the Panel of the Wise, the establishment of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF). Although considerable progress has been made in the establishment of the African peace and security architecture, many challenges lie ahead. Accordingly, sustained efforts are required to ensure that all elements of the peace and security architecture are put in place and function effectively.

**V. STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE CONTINENT**

16. Generally, the period under consideration was marked by contrasting developments in different crises and other conflict situations in the Continent. On the one hand, progress was made concerning the Darfur conflict, with the conclusion of the 5 May 2006 Peace Agreement; the reconciliation process in The Comoros reached a crucial stage with the holding of presidential elections in April and May 2006, and in the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, where despite considerable delays in the implementation of many aspects of the peace process, significant progress was made in the quest for a lasting solution to the crisis. In addition, post-conflict reconstruction efforts continue in Liberia, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Burundi, to consolidate the recently regained peace. Similarly, the process for the restoration of constitutional order in Mauritania is still underway.

17. Furthermore, the situation in Somalia deteriorated seriously, particularly with the fighting in Mogadishu. Relations between Chad and The Sudan remain a source of grave concern and the impasse persists in the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

18. The Report of the Commission for the January to June 2006 period gives a detailed account of developments in peace and security issues in the Continent during the period under consideration. The following paragraphs provide a brief and updated overview of the situation.

19. In the Eastern part of the Continent, progress was made in the reconciliation process in the Comoros, with the holding of presidential elections in April and May 2006. These elections were all the more crucial since they marked the application of the principle of rotating presidency laid down in the Constitution of the Archipelago.

20. Recent events in Somalia, especially the fighting in Mogadishu and subsequent developments, posed a serious challenge to the international community and in particular, the African Union. There is an urgent need for the Continent to mobilize to provide the federal transitional institutions with all the necessary assistance to enable them to function effectively and to fully assume their responsibilities. In this regard, no effort should be spared to obtain from the United Nations Security Council an exemption for the arms embargo imposed on Somalia since January 1992, in order to allow the rapid deployment of IGASOM and the re-establishment of Somali security institutions.

21. Since the Khartoum Assembly, a number of initiatives were taken to overcome the impasse in the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea. In this regard, it should be noted that the Meeting of Witnesses to the Algiers Agreement of June and December 2000 took place in New York in February 2006. On that occasion, the Witnesses reaffirmed their continued commitment to the implementation of the Algiers Agreement and endorsed the American diplomatic initiative launched in January 2006 with a view to overcoming the current impasse and encouraging the parties to resume the process for the demarcation of their common border.

22. Regarding the situation in Darfur, it is encouraging to note the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) by the government of the Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Movement/army (SLM) of Minni Arkou Minawi, on 5 May 2006. Sustained efforts were subsequently made to bring on board the rebel groups that refused to sign the DPA in Abuja, in particular the SLM/A group led by Abdulwahid Nour.

23. The situation in Darfur and the role of AMIS were recently reviewed by the PSC in the light of the efforts to implement the DPA and the challenges involved, as well as the outcome of the Joint UN-AU Assessment Mission that visited the Sudan in June 2006. On that occasion, the PSC decided to apply targeted measures against all individuals or groups undermining the DPA, obstructing its implementation or violating the comprehensive ceasefire. The PSC also reaffirmed its earlier decisions on ending the mandate of AMIS on 30 September 2006 and on the transition from AMIS to a UN Peace-keeping operation.

24. The implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of January 2005 between the government of the Sudan and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) continues to witness progress. Efforts should continue to be made to bring the ongoing process to a successful conclusion and make unity attractive to the people of the Southern Sudan at the end of the interim period stipulated for by the CPA.

25. The process of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region is progressing towards its final stage which is the Summit scheduled to take place in Nairobi, and which will adopt the Security, Stability and Development Pact. This Pact will bring together the individual eleven Member countries of the process, and the region at large.

26. Concerning Central Africa, it should be mentioned, with regard to Burundi, that the Government has continued with its reconstruction policy. Significant inroads have also been made in the negotiations with Palipehutu-FNL. At the end of the negotiations which took place in Dar-es-Salaam, the Burundi Government and Palipehutu-FNL signed an Agreement of Principle aimed at ushering peace, security and stability into Burundi and paving the way for negotiations towards the conclusion of a definitive ceasefire agreement.

27. The situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has continued to be dominated by the preparations for the electoral process, expected to mark the end of the transition process which has been ongoing in the country since 30 June 2003. The 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the Presidential elections, as well as the legislative elections will take place on 30 July 2006. Apart from the substantial contribution provided by the United Nations and other partners, notably the European Union, as well as by South Africa; the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) are standing by to avail their contributions towards the successful conduct of the electoral process by, among other things, fielding electoral and military observers and a group of African leaders during the elections.

28. Lastly, the encouraging developments in the Central African Republic should be welcomed despite the financial and security problems that have continued to be encountered on the ground, including the resurgence of tension in the region. The AU pursued its assistance to the CAR by supporting post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

29. The relations between Chad and the Sudan have remained tense despite the efforts deployed, notably in pursuance of the 8 February 2006 Tripoli Agreement. These efforts should be intensified to reduce the tension between the two countries and facilitate the return of sustainable peace in Darfur.

30. In West Africa, significant progress has been achieved as evidenced by the promotion of regional peace and stability, the continued positive results in Sierra Leone and by the recent conclusion of the peace process in Liberia. This progress should be consolidated through resilient effort to ensure the early conclusion of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and intensification of initiatives aimed at preventing conflicts in the region. In this regard, the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Liberia deserve the full support of the international community. As regards Côte d'Ivoire, it is important to take all appropriate measures to ensure the holding of free, open and transparent elections within the set time frame. To this end, the Ivorian parties should continue to cooperate fully with the mechanisms put in place by the international community in support of the peace process in their country.

31. Finally, in Mauritania, progress has continued to be made towards the return to constitutional order and the consolidation of democracy in conformity with the pertinent decisions of the AU. On this score, it should be mentioned that the constitutional referendum organized on 25 June 2006 resulted in the adoption of a new Constitution for that country.

DATE AND MEETING	ISSUES	DECISIONS / DECLARATIONS
46 <sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting at Ministerial level, 10 March 2006, Addis Ababa	Consideration of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission pursuant to paragraph 5 of the PSC Communiqué PSC/PR/Comm (XLV) of 12 January 2006 on the situation in Darfur [PSC/Min/2(XLVI)]	Communiqué on the situation in Darfur PSC/MIN/Comm.(XLVI)
47 <sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting, 21 March 2006, Addis Ababa	Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in the Comoros [PSC/PR/2(XLVII)].  Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the implementation of the Tripoli Agreement of 8 February 2006 between Chad and Sudan [PSC/PR/3(XLVII)].	Communiqué on the situation in the Comoros PSC/PR/Comm.1(XLVII)  Communiqué on the implementation of the Tripoli Agreement of 8 February 2006 between Chad and The Sudan PSC/PR/Comm.2(XLVII)
48 <sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting 6 April 2006, Addis Ababa	Briefing by the AU Special Envoy for the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks in Abuja, Nigeria.	PSC/PR/Comm. 1(XLVIII)
49 <sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting 13 April 2006, Addis Ababa	Consideration of the situation in Chad.	Communiqué on the situation in Chad PSC/PR/Comm(XLIX)
50 <sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting 28 April 2006, Addis Ababa	Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the follow-up on the decision of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on the situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the relations between the DRC and Rwanda.  Briefing on the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks.	Press release on the outcome of the Military Reconnaissance Mission that visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi  Communiqué on the Inter-Sudanese peace talks on the conflict in Darfur PSC/PR/Comm/(L)
51 <sup>st</sup> PSC Meeting at Ministerial level 15 May 2006, Addis Ababa	<b>Consideration of the status of the implementation of the PSC decision of 10 March 2006 on the situation in Darfur.</b>	Communiqué on the situation in Darfur PSC/MIN/Comm/1(LI)
52 <sup>nd</sup> PSC Meeting 29 May 2006, Addis Ababa	Consideration of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.	Communiqué on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire PSC/PR/Comm(LII)

53 <sup>rd</sup> PSC Meeting 31 May 2006, Addis Ababa	The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba).	Communiqué on the Pelindaba Treaty PSC/PR/Comm(LIII)
54 <sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting 2 June 2006, Addis Ababa	Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (RDC).	Communiqué on the situation in DRC PSC/PR/Comm(LIV)
55 <sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting, Addis Ababa 17 June 2006	Consideration of the situation in Somalia.	Communiqué on the situation in Somalia PSC/PR/Comm(LV)
56 <sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting, Addis Ababa 19 June 2006	Update on the negotiations between the Government of Burundi and the Palipehutu-FNL.	Communiqué on the negotiations between the Government of Burundi and the Palipehutu/ <i>Forces nationales de Libération</i> (FNL) PSC/PR/Comm(LVI)
57 <sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting, Addis Ababa 21 June 2006	Status of the establishment of the Continental Peace and Security Architecture; Consideration of the situation in Mauritania.	Communiqué on the situation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania PSC/PR/Comm(LVII)
58 <sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting at Ministerial Level, Banjul, The Gambia 27 June 2006	Consideration of the Chairperson Report on the situation in Darfur	Communiqué PSC/MIN/Comm(LVIII)

### PSC Briefing Sessions

DATE	ISSUES	PRESS RELEASE
30 March 2006, Addis Ababa	Briefing on the situation in Central African Republic (CAR)	Declaration of the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) PSC/PR/BR/2
19 April 2006, Addis Ababa	Briefing on Comoros	N/A
19 May 2006, Addis Ababa	Briefing on Comoros	Press Communiqué
29 May 2006, Addis Ababa	Briefing on Burundi	Press Communiqué
15 June 2006, Addis Ababa	Briefing on Somalia	Press Communiqué
19 June 2006, Addis Ababa	Briefing by the International Criminal Court on its activities in Africa	Press Communiqué
27 June 2006, Banjul	Briefing on the situation in Somalia Briefing on the situation in the DRC Briefing on the relations between Chad and Sudan	N/A

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