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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

782<sup>ND</sup> MEETING

27 JUNE 2018

NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA

PSC/MIN/COMM.2 (DCCLXXXII)

COMMUNIQUE

## COMMUNIQUE

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 782<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 27 June 2018, adopted the following decision on the security and migration situation in Africa:

### **Council:**

1. **Takes note** of the presentation by the Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Amira Elfadif, as well as of the statement made by the representatives of the State of Libya on security and migration situation in Africa;
2. **Recalls** its previous communiqués and press statements on migration, particularly communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM(DCLXI)] adopted at its 661<sup>st</sup> ministerial meeting held on 23 February 2017 and communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM(DCCLXXI)] adopted at its 771<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 11 May 2018. In this context, Council further **also recalls** decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.607(XXVII)] on the Free Movement of Persons and the African Passport adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its 27<sup>th</sup> ordinary session held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016 in which the Assembly urged all Member States to adopt the African Passport and to work closely with the AU Commission to facilitate the process towards the issuance at national level based on international, continental and national policy provisions and continental design and specifications;
3. **Further recalls** the 2006 African Common Position on Migration and Development, as well as the Migration Policy Framework for Africa, which provide a sound basis for addressing issues of irregular migration on the Continent, caused by among others, violent conflicts, governance deficits, human rights violations, environmental factors, social exclusion, marginalization, poverty, inequality and underdevelopment, as well as lack of opportunities, particularly for the youth. Council **also recalls** the Agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) - signed by 44 Member States at 10<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held in Kigali, Rwanda and the Common African Position (CAP) on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration which was also adopted by the 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in January 2018;
4. **Expresses deep concern** over the scourge of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, including violation of their human rights. Council **also expresses deep concern** that transnational organized criminal networks have hijacked the otherwise historically harmless migration routes into a multi-billion criminal industry with devastating consequences for migrants and have profited from the misery and suffering of migrants. In this context, Council **strongly condemns** the acts of smugglers and traffickers and all their accomplices. Council **underlines the importance** for Member States to consolidate efforts and to increasingly coordinate and cooperate, towards fostering and strengthening existing mechanisms for better migration governance and management in the Continent;
5. **Reaffirms** the relevance of the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and **welcomes** its revision and development of a Plan of Action (2018 – 2030), as it provides Member States with

an updated and overarching framework in developing their own national frameworks. Council **emphasizes** that the full implementation of AU instruments on migration is a signal of political commitment of Member States to fully utilize and leverage socio-economic opportunities in Africa to harness the Continent's development potential;

6. **Commends** the AU-EU-UN Tripartite Task Force on the Situation of Stranded Migrants in Libya for its efforts to ensure the safety of the migrants in Libya and **welcomes** the mechanism, which was established during the AU-EU Summit held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in November 2017, to save and protect lives of migrants and refugees along migration routes, particularly in Libya, as well as to accelerate assisted voluntary returns to countries of origin and resettlement of those in need of international protection;

7. **Underscores the need** for reinforcing coordination and cooperation between Member States in addressing the issues of migration and security in the Continent. In this regard, Council **reiterates its appeal** to Member States to consolidate and strengthen national intelligence agencies and to fully make use of Committee for Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) and the African Union for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) to identify and dismantle transnational organized criminal networks in the continent;

8. **Emphasizes the importance** of addressing root causes of migration in countries of origin and focus on creating more conducive environment and opportunities, especially for youth, in the Continent. In this context, Council **urges** Member States to take urgent steps to effectively address the factors driving irregular and forced migration. Furthermore, Council **stresses** in particular, as the need to promote stable, secure, prosperous and inclusive societies;

9. **Requests** the AU Commission to accelerate the establishment of the Regional Operational Centre (ROCK) in Khartoum, Sudan for sharing of information on human trafficking and migrant smuggling, as well as the establishment and operationalization of the Continental study Centre for Migration, Research and Data in Mali, and the Observatory for Migration, in Morocco, which will provide a platform for sharing data and information among Member States on migration in the Continent for enhanced governance and management of migration;

10. **Reiterates its commitment** to strengthen efforts, among others, to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, through the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants. In his regard, Council **calls on** Member States to sign, ratify and fully implement legal instruments on migration, including the African Common Position on Migration and Development, as well as the Migration Policy Framework for Africa, with a view to reversing the persistent trend of irregular and forced migration on the Continent;

11. **Expresses its appreciation** to the support provided by Member States, international community, as well as partners and in particular by the Libyan authorities, in addressing the situation of stranded migrants in Libya. Council **calls for** further mobilization of support to Libya as rebuilds its institutional frameworks and capacity, including capacity to manage migration in all its dimension;

12. **Stresses the importance** of the AU and the RECs/RMs extending their early warning capabilities towards the phenomenon of human trafficking and irregular migration in order to better tailor responses in a timely manner, within the continent;
13. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

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