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**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION ASSEMBLY/AU/DEC.710 (XXXI) ON
THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION CENTRE FOR
POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
DECISION ASSEMBLY/AU/DEC.710 (XXXI) ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF
THE AFRICAN UNION CENTRE FOR POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. It should be recalled that at its 7th ordinary session held in Sirte, Libya, from 28 June to 2 July 2006, the Executive Council adopted decision EX.CL/Dec.228(VII) urging the Commission to develop an AU Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), based on the relevant provisions of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union and the experience gained so far in the Continent, as part of the efforts to consolidate peace and security in Africa. In taking this decision, the Executive Council took into account the then prevailing circumstances on Africa's peace and security landscape, especially the risk of relapse into the cycle of violence in some post-conflict countries.

2. Subsequently, following completion of the given assignment by the Commission, the Executive Council, at its 9th ordinary session held in Banjul, The Gambia, in 2006, endorsed the Policy Framework on PCRD. It was from this background that the Arab Republic of Egypt, in its efforts to contribute to implementation of the Policy and rebuilding resilience in countries emerging from conflict, made a proposal to the Assembly of the African Union for the establishment of an African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUC-PCRD), as a support technical mechanism on PCRD issues and offered to host it.

3. The Assembly, at its 16th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, in January 2011, adopted Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.351(XVI) welcoming the proposal submitted by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the establishment of the AUC-PCRD, as part of the African efforts to operationalize the AU Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.

II. DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AUC-PCRD

4. Subsequent to the adoption of the said Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.351(XVI), there were lengthy consultations involving Egypt and Uganda, and also the AU Commission, to come out with an arrangement for the location of the AUC-PCRD, which resulted in the determination that the Centre is to be located in Egypt. It was within this context that the Assembly, at its 31st ordinary session held in Nouakchott, Mauritania on 2 and 3 July 2018, adopted Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.710(XXXI) accepting the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the AUC-PCRD. In this respect, the Assembly requested the Commission to take the necessary measures towards the operationalization of the Centre. Pursuant to this decision, the Commission, in collaboration with Egypt, has taken initial steps towards the operationalization of the Centre.

5. In its efforts towards the operationalization of the Centre, and given the fact that the AUC-PCRD is to provide essential policy research and technical support for PCRD implementation, the Commission was guided by the principles underpinning the PCRD Policy Framework, namely:

- a) Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development as first and foremost a political rather than a technical process. Therefore, the AU, as the premier continental body charged with providing leadership in the continent, and in the continent's relations with others, should provide strategic leadership and oversight of PCRD processes, including setting the terms of engagement of all actors involved in PCRD efforts on the continent;
- b) Member States should provide support and solidarity to countries in post-conflict and transition;
- c) The implementation of PCRD activities should be guided by African definitions and perceptions of their own needs and aspirations;
- d) The implementation of PCRD activities should prioritize the consultation with and use of African specialized agencies and regional bodies, as well as African technical expertise at local, national, regional and continental levels;
- e) PCRD should be viewed and used as a tool to consolidate peace and prevent the relapse of post-conflict countries into renewed violence, and as an opportunity for the reconstitution and social, political, economic and physical transformation of the affected state and society. The promotion of human security should be at the basis of all these actions. Within this, there should be promotion of broad national and local ownership in the state emerging from conflict;
- f) There should be inclusiveness, in order to ensure that management and implementation of PCRD involves the general populace to avoid exclusion, which is one of the root cause of conflict;
- g) There should be coherence of PCRD efforts, in order to increase opportunities for success of PCRD interventions;
- h) Consolidation of sustainable peace, which is a requisite for avoiding relapse. This includes implementation of initiatives relating to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) relative to ex-combatants, as well as security sector reform (SSR) aiming to foster security institutions amenable to civilian and democratic control.

6. As part of the implementation of the APSA and the AGA, the Commission has continued to provide briefings to the Peace and Security Council on issues and challenges facing PCRD in Africa, including on the aspect relating to the AU-led quick impact projects in some conflict and post-conflict countries and affected regions.

7. At the invitation of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Commission participated at a workshop hosted by Egypt in Cairo of 15 and 16 October 2018 on the operationalization of African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy in the Sahel: Charting the Way forward, which made important recommendations on how the AU and the RECs/RMs could further strengthen their efforts in PCRDR interventions.
8. On 16 November 2018, the Commission, through the Peace and Security Department, held consultations with an Egyptian Delegation at the AU Headquarters. The two sides exchanged views on how to accelerate the operationalization of the AUC-PCRDR, including aspects relating to the Host Agreement (HA), its structure, personnel, budget and related aspects. On the occasion, the Egyptian Delegation informed that the Government of Egypt had already allocated land and other facilities for the AUC-PCRDR and called for speedy collaboration in order to get the Centre functioning at an early stage. On its part, the Peace and Security Department undertook to take all necessary steps to this effect.
9. The HA has been elaborated in a consultative process involving the Commission and the Egyptian authorities. The HA is now being reviewed/processed by the AU legal Counsel to ensure that it meets AU requirements.
10. At the time of finalizing this report, steps were underway to convene a meeting of relevant stakeholders within the Commission, namely Peace and Security Department; Department of Political Affairs; Administration, Human Resources Management Department; Programming, Budgeting, Finance and Accounting Department and the Legal Counsel to further elaborate and finalize the requisite details on all aspects of the operationalization of the AUC-PCRDR.

III. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11. The AU and the RECs/RMs, working with the Member States, continue to make progress in the implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the African Governance Architecture, including through their efforts towards silencing the guns in Africa, which is contributing to creating the requisite conditions for resolution of conflicts/crises, mobilization of support for countries emerging from conflict for them to rebuild resilience and achieve sustainable peace, as well as for the return and rehabilitation of refugees and internally displaced persons. Despite the challenges at hand, particularly funding gaps, there are opportunities, as evidenced by the emerging financing arrangements of the Union, for promoting and building a conflict-free Africa in line with the vision in AU Agenda 2063.
12. On its part, the Peace and Security Council continues in its relentless efforts to consolidate efforts towards conflict prevention, and the resolution of existing conflicts and crises, as well as advancing the cause of reconciliation, healing, justice and PCRDR.
13. It is essential for the AU to play a central role in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development as part of the efforts to strengthen Africa's ownership and leadership of its peace and security agenda. Indeed, in so doing, the AU needs to

foster strategic partnerships with key regional and international actors, particularly the United Nations and its Peacebuilding Commission, in order to mobilize the required momentum to ensure success of PRCD interventions in countries emerging from conflict in Africa.

14. Thus, it is urgent to accelerate the process, including mobilization of funding, to culminate in the full operationalization of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, which requires a close collaboration between the Commission, the Arab Republic of Egypt and other relevant stakeholders.

**DRAFT ASSEMBLY DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION
ASSEMBLY/AU/DEC.710 (XXXI) ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION CENTRE FOR POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND
DEVELOPMENT (AUC-PCRD)**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** its Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.710(XXXI) of July 2018 in which it accepted the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the AUC-PCRD, and requested the Commission to fast-track the functioning of the Centre in 2019 as a continental platform for strengthening the African ownership of PCRD activities;
2. **COMMENDS** the Commission for the efforts it continues to deploy to operationalize the AUC-PCRD and **URGES** it to accelerate the process, including finalization of the Host Agreement (HA) and mobilization of the requisite human and financial resources to ensure early entry into operation of the Centre;
3. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the Peace and Security Council for its continuous engagement in the implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture, including PCRD implementation, and the African Governance Architecture, whose outcomes are evident in the gains made in conflict prevention, management and settlement of existing conflicts and crises;
4. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** for the workshop hosted by the Government of the Arab Republic in Cairo on 15 and 16 October 2018 on “Operationalization of the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy in the Sahel: Charting the Way Forward”, in which the AU Commission participated. In this context, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the Commission to work closely with the Arab Republic of Egypt in taking forward the proposals emanating from the workshop , and to report on progress made in this regard to the 35th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Niamey, Niger, on 27 and 28 June 2019;
5. **NOTES** the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt to launch substantive discussions at the AU and with the RECs/RMs in order to formulate a common African position on peace building and sustaining peace, to be presented at the review process of the UN Peace Building Architecture in 2020;
6. **STRESSES THE NEED**, in line with the vision in the AU Agenda 2063 to build an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa, for the AU and the RECs/RMs to take into account the evolving peace and security landscape in the continent, as well as in the world at large, in order to appropriately tailor their PCRD interventions, especially as regards issues of inclusion of women, youth and grassroots population, with a view to enhancing opportunities for rebuilding resilience in post-conflict countries as part of the efforts towards realizing a conflict-free Africa. In this context, the Assembly **FURTHER EMPHASIZES** the need for continuous

consultations and strengthening collaboration between the African stakeholders, led by the PSC, and the UN Peace Building Commission in the area of PCRD;

7. **REITERATES** the imperative for Member States and other concerned stakeholders to fully implement the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa (Lusaka Roadmap). In this context, the Assembly **STRESSES** the need for practical policy options and adaptive measures to address, inter alia, the root causes of conflicts and crises in a manner that promotes effective sustainable solutions;
8. **MANDATES** H.E. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt to champion the revitalization of the African Union Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.

2019-02-07

Progress report of the commission on the implementation of decision assembly/au/dec.710 (xxxi) on the operationalization of the African Union Centre for post-conflict reconstruction and development

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