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

AFRICAN UNION

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**11TH RETREAT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE AFRICAN PEACE AND
SECURITY ARCHITECTURE STUDY AND WORKING
METHODS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

CAIRO, EGYPT

29 – 31 OCTOBER 2018

PSC/Retreat/11/2018

CONCLUSIONS

**11TH RETREAT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION
ON THE AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE STUDY AND WORKING
METHODS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

CONCLUSIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) held its Eleventh Retreat from 29 to 31 October 2018, in Cairo, Egypt. The Retreat was dedicated to the discussion on the comprehensive African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Study and the working methods of the PSC.

2. The Retreat was officially opened by H.E Khaled Amara, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui. Ambassador Lazare Safouesse Makayat, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Congo to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of October 2018, chaired the Retreat.

3. The Retreat took place within the context of deliberating on the outcomes of the Comprehensive Study on APSA from 2002 to the present, which integrated a review of the implementation of the African Governance Architecture (AGA), from 2012 to date.

4. In the same context, the Retreat was guided by Assembly decision [Assembly/AU.Dec.635] adopted in January 2017, which took note of “ the recommendations for the proposed reforms to further strengthen the African Union, in the following five (5) areas: a) Focus on key priorities with continental scope; b) Realign African Union institutions in order to deliver against those priorities; c) Connect the African Union to its citizens; d) Manage the business of the African Union efficiently and effectively at both the political and operational levels; e) Finance the African Union sustainably and with the full ownership of the Member States.” The deliberations of the Retreat, as informed by outcomes of the APSA Study, focused on the following aspects, namely:

- Implementation of the APSA from 2002 to the present;
- Implementation of the AGA from 2012 to the present;
- Evaluation of work of the PSC and consolidation of PSC working methods; and
- Essence of the Reform of the PSC.

5. During the deliberations, emphasis was placed on the following aspects of the work of the PSC:

II. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

6. The Retreat acknowledged that the PSC embarked on a vibrant and sustained process of addressing conflicts and crises in various parts of Africa since its operationalization in 2004, and continues to do so. The PSC placed as its centre of its strategic business the promotion of peace, security and stability in line with the mandate of the Council enshrined in Article 6 and 7 of the PSC Protocol, towards implementing the appropriate Assembly decisions to achieve sustainable peace in Africa.

7. Looking at the work carried out by the PSC since 2004, the PSC has been able to forge itself into well-organized and better prepared AU Organ, alert to its tasks and responsive to demands for its engagement. The PSC, as the main pillar/locomotive of the APSA and the AGA, has made significant progress since its operationalization, as exemplified below by the following of its important achievements, among others:
- i. Consolidation of promoting peace, security and stability as required by the mandate of the PSC. This has enabled the PSC to anticipate and effectively monitor conflict/crisis situations. In this context, the PSC has also deployed efforts to devise ways and means to address emerging threats to peace and security
 - ii. Deployment of various peace support operations and missions in areas of the Continent affected by conflicts, such as AMISOM, AMIS, AFISMA, MISCA, LRA, MNJTF,G5 Sahel:
 - iii. Elaboration of detailed and predictable provisional monthly programmes of work and the Indicative Annual Programme of Work of the PSC of the PSC, which has led to significant improvements in the conduct and strengthening of the current activities of PSC's business, as well as, streamlining its recurrent activities and mandatory meetings, which take place each year;
 - iv. Development of working methods and their review when need arise as to allow the PSC to stand up to and address emerging circumstances and situations, in a systematic manner;
 - v. Continuous appropriation and application of some key provisions of the PSC Protocol;
 - vi. Laying the foundation for strengthening coordination between itself and other sister AU Organs and RECs/RMs in both conflict prevention and interventions to resolve conflicts/crises on the ground;
 - vii. Streamlining and strengthening the role and work of the African members of the UN Security Council. Providing strategic guidance for enhancing relations with the United Nations system and other international organizations on peace and security issues in Africa;
 - viii. Consideration of periodic briefings by AU Commission and the relevant RECs/RMs secretariats on elections in Africa, which has significantly contributed to the capacity of the AU to prevent or failure of which, to better manage and resolve election-related conflicts and crises;
 - ix. Creating conditions conducive for strengthening cooperation and coordination between the AU Commission and the UN Secretariat, as well as with the EU Commission on peace and security issues in Africa by providing strategic policy guidance;
 - x. Organization of retreats and undertaking field missions which have further enriched its work, including giving visibility to its activities;

- xi. Seizure and consideration of important thematic issues of relevance to the promotion of peace, security, and stability, as well as development, in Africa. These themes include the plight of children in violent conflicts; women, peace and security; the nexus between corruption, peace and security; combating terrorism violent extremism and radicalization; the link between climate change, peace and security; the humanitarian situation in Africa; combating corruption; proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Africa; and genocide and hate crime, to mention some of them;
- xii. Establishing and operationalizing subsidiary bodied as lines of expertise in support of the work of the PSC;
- xiii. Mobilizing within the AU system for a predictable and sustainable budget for the activities of the PSC and its subsidiary bodies. Notably, the PSC activities are fully funded from the AU regular budget;
- xiv. Carrying out active interaction/engagements with the parties and or interested parties to a given conflict/crisis situation during PSC field missions, in processes aimed at finding solutions to the situations; and
- xv. Demonstration of will power for self-introspection with a view to further strengthening the PSC process, as exemplified by the PSC launching the Comprehensive APSA Study discussed by the 11th Retreat of the PSC.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

8. Assembly Decision 635 adopted by the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in January 2017 directs for “the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to be reformed to ensure that it meets the ambition foreseen in its Protocol, by strengthening its working methods and its role in conflict prevention and crisis management”. The ambition is for the PSC to be able to fully implement the provisions in its Protocol, coordinate activities of all APSA and AGA institutions and lead African efforts towards realizing a conflict-free Continent.

9. In this perspective, the Retreat underlined that the PSC has all necessary legal and institutional tools to ensure that it executes its mandate effectively as specified in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. The Retreat also underlined that implementation remains the main challenge which should be addressed.

10. The PSC agreed on the following:

a) **On Conflict Prevention:**

- i. Strengthening coordination between the PSC and all the supporting APSA and AGA pillars.
- ii. Organizing joint activities between the PSC and other AU Organs on peace and security issues to achieve the much-needed harmonization of initiatives. Undertaking joint field missions and sharing information on best practices in prevention was stressed.

- iii. Enhancing the role of women in peace processes, including in mediation and conflict prevention efforts.
- iv. Enhancing cooperation between the PSC and the RECs/RMs policy organs, particularly on giving effect to collective security, early warning and early response.
- v. Harnessing the contributions/role of the civil society organizations into the work of the PSC. In this context, a data base of the civil society organization dealing with peace and security issues in the Continent should be developed by the PSC Secretariat as a reference framework of the PSC in the process.
- vi. Establishing a trigger mechanism and indicators to facilitate the role of the PSC in assessing whether a given situation calls an early action by the PSC. In this context, the Commission should elaborate the mechanism and indicators for consideration by the PSC. (within the context of operationalization of the CEWS)
- vii. Promote and enhance the implementation of the continental structural prevention framework and its tools of CSVA and CSVMS.
- viii. Engaging member states concerned or affected by looming crises in order for the PSC to accompany them in their efforts to address issues relating to conflict prevention.
- ix. Providing adequate and sustainable financial and other necessary resources for effective conflict prevention efforts.
- x. Expediting the full operationalization of the PCRDC Centre in Cairo, Egypt as an integral part of the APSA, with the aim of reinforcing AU capacities in preventing countries emerging from conflict from relapsing, through strong and effective PCRDC programmes.
- xi. Emphasizing on the need for the PSC to be consistent in the application of the provisions of PSC Protocol in all conflict/crisis situations.
- xii. The need for regular meetings/briefings between the PSC and the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Commissioner for Peace and Security on peace and security matters in Africa, in line with Article 10 of the PSC Protocol.
- xiii. Emphasizing on the informal consultation between the PSC and the parties to conflict in line with the provision of the PSC Protocol.

b) On Crisis Management:

- i. Positioning the PSC to more actively play its locomotive role in guiding and harmonizing the efforts of all APSA and AGA institutions.
- ii. Having acknowledged that root causes of conflicts remain active in the Continent, as highlighted in the APSA Study, emphasis was put on focusing efforts on mobilization of resources to support policy interventions on the ground to addressing root causes of conflicts and disruptive crises, as well as grievances in Africa.
- iii. Deployment of all necessary efforts by all stakeholders for the rapid full operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF) and its Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) in order to provide the PSC with the required apparatus in its efforts to manage and resolve conflicts/crises.
- iv. Accelerating the establishment of the institutional and regulatory infrastructure of the AU Peace Fund. Notably, the Peace Fund is increasingly benefiting from the political will of Member states as evidenced by the contributions made thus far. In this context, Member States are encouraged to continue in this positive

- spirit with a view to equipping Africa with is funding and therefore reduce dependency on external sources.
- v. Strengthening coordination and synergy between the PSC and RECs/RMs policy organs across all cycles of conflicts in order to mobilize the required momentum in resolving conflicts. In this context, the PSC agreed to convene its meeting with the RECs/RMs policy organs to discuss and agree on modalities for coordination of peace efforts.
 - vi. Empowering the PSC for it to be able to institute individual punitive measures against peace spoiler or obstructionist to realization/restoration of peace in conflict situations. In this context, the PSC should elaborate a mechanism which will facilitate the imposition and implementation of punitive measures in all their relevant aspects, including identification of peace spoilers or obstructionists to peace efforts, monitoring of the implementation and review of the imposed punitive measures to determine next steps.
 - vii. Need to develop a modality for the PSC to be able to engage all parties to conflict in order to capture a broad view of the issues at stake and grievances. The Commission should take the necessary steps to work out this modality for PSC's consideration.
 - viii. Rationalizing the work of AU high/special representatives/envoys to get more value for the work of the PSC in conflict prevention and crisis management.

c) On Working Methods:

- i. imperative to deploy adequate capacity in terms of human resources in the embassies of the PSC Member States and the PSC Secretariat to assist the PSC in carrying out its activities.
- ii. Streamlining the PSC subsidiary bodies and deploying more support towards the functioning of the PSC Military Staff Committee to address military/security related issues and the PSC Committee of Experts to function as a cross-cutting pool of expertise.
- iii. Raising the level of participation of the PSC member states in field missions to conflict/post conflict areas. In this regard, the PSC agreed that for any field mission the PSC should be represented by at least ten (10) permanent representatives/ambassadors of the PSC for the mission to be undertaken.
- iv. Increasing engagement of the PSC on humanitarian issues as provided for in relevant Articles of its Protocol.
- v. Imperative for provision for all necessary information on a given conflict/crisis to enable the PSC to take informed decision. To this effect, the PSC agreed to accord itself adequate time to discuss issues on its agenda.
- vi. In addressing the issues of time management in meetings to which partners are invited, the PSC agreed to on a limited number of guests particularly those most involved in resolving a given conflict/crisis.
- vii. Harmonizing the efforts deployed by different stakeholders in conflict/crisis situations. In this context, the PSC requests the PSC Secretariat to develop a data base of partners playing a role in given conflict/crisis situations to be considered by the PSC.
- viii. Need to mainstream voting in the decision-making of the PSC, where and when issues under consideration so necessitate.

- ix. Providing indication in the monthly provisional programmes of work of the PSC of issues and the reports to be prepared to facilitate timely elaboration and circulation to the PSC Member States.
 - x. In rationalizing the number of meetings of the PSC, it was agreed that, once the PSC adopts its monthly programme of work, there should not be inclusion of other agenda items with exception of emergency situations.
 - xi. Popularizing of the work of the PSC through reinforcing the existing structures in the Peace and Security department of the AU Commission.
 - xii. Identifying and implementing those provisions in the PSC Protocol that have been left dormant in the past, while their utilization can contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the PSC.
 - xiii. The national interest of the Chairperson of the PSC of the month should not interfere or undermine the collective work of the PSC.
11. Furthermore, the PSC agreed on the following:
- i) The PSC Secretariat should screen through all existing PSC working methods and propose a simplified consolidated text. The consolidated text may comprise the categories below:
 - Duties of the PSC Chairperson;
 - Development of the monthly programme of work of the PSC;
 - Development of the annual indicative programme of work of the PSC;
 - Rotation procedure of the PSC Chairship;
 - Swapping practice of the PSC Chairship;
 - Decision/outcome of the PSC: communique or press statement;
 - Silence procedure;
 - Framework for PSC Field Missions;
 - Preparation and organization of PSC Retreats;
 - Duties of the PSC Subsidiary Bodies/Sub-Committees;
 - Cooperation between the PSC and A3;
 - Interaction between the PSC and the P5;
 - Organization and conduct of consultative meetings of PSC and other entities/actors.
 - ii) Need to establish a rigorous modality within the AU on the selection/vetting process on candidates presented for election as African Members of the UN Security Council (A3), with a view to promote and defend the common African position in respect of the AU Assembly decisions on the role of the A3 in the UN Security Council decision making process. In this context, the PSC Secretariat, in collaboration with the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN in New York, should elaborate a modality for consideration by the PSC.
 - iii) Respect and implementation of the principle of subsidiarity in the relationship between the PSC and RECs/RMs policy organs, across all cycles of conflict which provides for flexibility for the PSC to take over the tasks of addressing a given conflict/crisis situation whenever a concerned REC/RM has exhausted its efforts, but without resolving the conflict/crisis at hand. In situations where a REC/RM does not act swiftly to resolve a conflict/crisis, the PSC should utilize Article 9 of its Protocol to determine entry point.

- iv) Fostering, by Member States, of the conditions necessary for effective implementation of provisions of Article 5 of the PSC Protocol on criteria for electing members of the PSC.

IV. CONCLUSION

12. The PSC took note of the proposal of the Kingdom of Morocco announced during its Retreat on the establishment of an African Peace and Security Institute dedicated to academic training, research and studies and promotion of AU policies in the domain of peace and security. In this context, the Retreat underscored the need for compliance with AU procedures for introduction and consideration by competent AU Organs of proposed new AU structures. Furthermore, the Kingdom of Morocco is to develop and submit a concept note to accompany this proposal in the process of its consideration by the competent AU organs.

13. The PSC expressed appreciation and gratitude to H.E. Abdel Al Fattah el-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Government and people of Egypt for the hospitality, facilities and support provided to the PSC during its Retreat.

Cairo, Egypt: 30 October 2018.

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**11TH RETREAT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON STRENGTHENING ITS WORKING METHODS AND EFFORTS IN
CONFLICT PREVENTION, CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND PEACE CONSOLIDATION IN AFRICA**

**RABAT, MOROCCO
24 – 26 JUNE 2019**

PSC/Retreat/12/2019

CONCLUSIONS

CONCLUSIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) held its Twelfth Retreat from 24 to 26 June 2019, in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. The Retreat was dedicated to the consideration of the draft Manual of the Working Methods of the PSC and on discussion on strengthening the working methods of the PSC in Conflict Prevention, conflict management and Peace Consolidation in Africa.

2. The Retreat was chaired by Ambassador Dr. Brima Patrick Kapuwa, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the PSC for June 2019. The Retreat was officially opened by His Excellency Mohcine Jazouli, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco, in charge of African Cooperation. Dr. Admore Kambudzi, Director for Peace and Security Department delivered a statement on behalf of the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui.

3. During the Retreat, the PSC considered and adopted the draft Manual of Working Methods, as annexed to the Conclusions of the Rabat PSC Retreat, and received presentations on conflict prevention, crisis management and conflict resolution, as well as on post-conflict reconstruction and development in Africa. These presentations, which were crafted in the spirit of AU Agenda 2063, more specifically the AU flagship project on silencing the guns in Africa, highlighted the various challenges currently impacting on the effectiveness of the Council in addressing the multiple threats to peace and security in Africa.

A. CONFLICT PREVENTION

4. The PSC was informed that there were several factors and circumstances which affected the efficiency of its operations when undertaking conflict prevention strategies, namely inadequate funding, voluntary nature of preventive work on the part of Member States, lack of support to deployment of preventive mechanisms, categorization of some cases of looming crisis as too sensitive for consideration by the PSC, non-committal to the spirit of non-indifference as provided for in APSA, and others. It was particularly underscored that funding of certain key activities continues to rely on international partners, with the concurrent late disbursements of these funds, often provided with conditions.

5. Furthermore, in cases of conflicts, there may be need for an upward traction by the PSC, especially for those that require elevation to the Heads of State and Government level of the PSC for consideration.

6. The Retreat was informed of the need, on the part of the PSC, to see the opportunity of further scaling up the use of horizon scanning and other tools, in undertaking assessment of each conflict or crisis in the Continent, taking into account the past, current and prospective

trends in a given situation. This step will enable the PSC to frequently monitor the evolutions of flashpoints and adapt approaches in order to enhance opportunities for effective remedies. Indeed, this would also facilitate in bringing about behavioural change among actors at an early stage, before much aggravation in a situation has taken place.

7. Sustained engagement in the Commission in diagnosis and policy formulation, for submission to policy organs for debate and way forward was raised as an area that requires further improvement. In this context, reference was made to previous requests by the PSC to the Commission to undertake a comparative study on constitutionalism in Africa with a view to building common parameters for promoting shared African constitutional values and practices.

8. The PSC was also informed that there was an absence of modalities for responsibly and proactively engaging countries which face crises. Yet, Article 9 of the PSC Protocol could be used by the PSC to develop and enhance such modalities. Such modalities could include the PSC raising the matter with the Permanent Representative of the concerned country and proposing timelines in addressing the matter. Further on, the PSC could request the Chairperson of the Commission to make a report on the issue to the PSC on the basis of Articles 2, 3, 7, 9, and 10 of the PSC Protocol. Such a report would form the basis of an appropriate PSC decision to address a looming crisis with indication of measures to be taken against those actors, which may be found to be fuelling the crisis.

B. CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

9. On crisis management and conflict resolution, the PSC was appraised of the challenges of coordination, as well as parallel and competing initiatives amongst the AU, RECs/RMs actors, as well as between the African actors and international actors. As a result, the impact is lack of maximal use of comparative advantages, subsidiarity and complementarity among the actors.

10. In this light, it was stated that international goals are not always aligned with those of the AU and RECs/RMs, thus affecting African efforts to apply African solutions and the strategies employed to address conflicts and therefore resulting in varying outcomes.

11. Council was further appraised of the growing external interference as exemplified by multiplication of externally driven initiatives and increase in foreign military bases which Africa has no control over. This situation needs to be addressed by AU Policy Organs in a decisive manner, in conformity with relevant AU texts, in particular, the Common African Defence and Security Policy (paragraph 11), in which it is stipulated that the defence and security of every African country is directly linked to that of all other Member States of the AU. In this context, the PSC should organize a session open to all AU Member States to discuss the matter and propose a concrete way forward in addressing this issue.

C. ON POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

12. With regard to the post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD) in Africa, the PSC was informed that key amongst the existing challenges was lack of tailored funding for PCRD. PCRD activities require more funding, which necessitates innovative approaches to mobilize resources. The meeting was also informed of the imperative of post-conflict countries to enhance their ownership of the process, and encourage domestic mobilization of resources. Furthermore, the PSC was informed that there were no AU or RECs apparatus to undertake research, monitoring and evaluation and to inform policy formulation or review on such matters. It was also highlighted that the PSC needs to reactivate its sub-committee on PCRD. In addition, cooperation between the AU and the RECs/RMs on PCRD activities was emphasized.

D. OUTCOMES

13. The Retreat confirmed the continued relevance of the PSC Protocol to address the evolving challenges and threats to peace and security in the Continent. In this regard, they stressed that there is no need to review the PSC Protocol but to focus on strengthening the PSC in the areas of conflict prevention and crisis management, as well as its working methods. Also, the PSC further underscored the need to establish modalities of partnership between itself and the RECs/RMs Policy Organs on peace and security with a view to facilitating and enhancing cooperation and collaboration focusing on an effective and efficient division of labour based on the principles of subsidiarity, complementarity and comparative advantages within the framework of the APSA and AGA.

14. There was need to regularly assess the evolution of conflicts and crises in the continent, including their root causes, to enable the PSC to frequently monitor the evolutions of flashpoints and adapt approaches in order to enhance opportunities for effective remedies. In this context, it was agreed to increase the regularity of briefing sessions with the AU Commission, on issues relating to looming crises with a view to assembling the relevant information for appropriate action by the PSC.

15. That prevention is a very critical tool for conflict management and therefore it requires predictable funding in order to ensure sustainable engagement. Members underscored the need to have the PSC Secretariat prepare an annual budget for the activities to be funded through AU regular budget. This should include activities for preventive aspects of the work of the PSC.

16. The PSC emphasized the need to further strengthen the existing AU institutional tools for research as part of the PSC's efforts to promote a holistic approach in addressing peace and security challenges. The PSC reiterated its request to the AU Commission to submit regular reports to the PSC on peace and security situations in the Continent, with a view to providing timely and adequate information on conflict prevention to facilitate decision making by the PSC. Furthermore, the PSC stressed the importance of engaging African research think-tank/institutions focusing on conflict/crisis situations in Africa.

17. There is need to ensure a robust approach on using preventive measures by Council to address tensions from escalating to full blown conflict. Hence, the Retreat highlighted the necessity to have regular interface with the AU Commission and the RECs/RMs Policy Organs to ensure common understanding of the various emerging conflict situations. They stressed that the RECs/RMs are usually better informed of the situations and should be the first respondent, within the context of comparative advantage, subsidiarity and complementarity.

18. The PSC and RECs/RMs should be working in synergy in order to ensure effective and efficient use of resources. Hence, they could bring forward their comparative advantages and better address emerging or ongoing conflicts.

19. There is need to establish, together with the RECs/RMs Policy Organs, criteria for assessing looming crises and emerging situations, in the framework of the implementation of Article 12 of the PSC Protocol. It is necessary to ensure that there was common understanding of parameters, benchmarks and principles that define entry points for interventions.

20. Regarding the issue of persistent denialism by some AU Member States on the prevailing conditions that may be undermining peace on their territories, Council highlighted that this deprives it of the opportunity to take timely action. The PSC agreed that such situations could be addressed through gradual engagement with the RECs/RMs and individual Member States affected to ensure support towards intervention strategies through APSA-AGA tools.

21. The subjective assessments of conflict situations remains a concern. In this context, Council underscored the need for timely and objective conflict analysis and subsequent engagement to ensure credibility and effectiveness of the Council.

22. There is necessity for improved working relations between the PSC and the AU Special Representatives/Envoys and AU High Representatives. It was agreed to hold each year a PSC session during which AU Special Representatives/Envoys and AU High Representatives will provide briefings on peace and security situations in Africa and interact in order to better inform the PSC for decision making. Furthermore, the PSC emphasized the need to invite, through the Chairperson of the Commission, newly-appointed Special Representatives/Envoys and High Representatives to exchange views with the PSC before they proceed to the field.

23. There is need for enhanced engagement on conflict situations to ensure timely interventions, including action for bringing about mitigations in the concerned situations.

24. There is need for information sharing and interactive sessions on the role of the PSC in the operation of the AU Peace Fund. Hence, the PSC agreed to engage further with the AU High Representative for Financing the Union and the Peace Fund as often as possible.

25. For the PSC to have a more holistic approach to conflict prevention, crisis management and conflict resolution, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development, the various

relevant Departments/services of the AU Commission should collectively provide the requisite coordinated support and information to the PSC. In this context, the PSC stressed the need for regular interactions with these Departments. This is more so, given the decision of the Assembly to merge the Peace and Security Department and the Department of Political Affairs into one Department.

26. There is need to have regular interactions with UN, especially the members of the UN Security Council, given that they have counterparts available in Addis Ababa.

27. The post conflict reconstruction interventions should be undertaken taking into account the national plans and policies of the receiving states.

28. The post-conflict reconstruction efforts require national ownership and therefore countries emerging from conflict should take the lead in carrying out projects with the support of the AU, RECs/RMs and international partners.

29. There is need for an enhanced publicity and popularization of PSC activities in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa.

E. CONCLUSION

30. The PSC expressed appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Government and people of Morocco for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to the PSC delegation and members of the AU Commission, as well as facilities and support provided to the PSC during its Retreat.

Rabat, Morocco, 26 June 2019

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**MANUAL ON THE WORKING METHODS OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

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MANUAL

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) was adopted in July 2002 and entered into force in December 2003. The Council's first fifteen (15) members were elected in March 2004 by the Executive Council of the Union. The PSC, at its inaugural meeting, held on 16 March 2004 adopted its Rules of Procedures. Over the years, the PSC has pursued its mandate with respect to the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa. The PSC has been able to contribute to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, as well as to efforts towards post-conflict stabilization, post-conflict reconstruction and peace building within the Continent.

2. The PSC has faced many challenges in dealing with the different conflict situations and crises which it has been seized with. The PSC has covered significant ground in terms of building its operational practice, acquiring experience and improving its working methods.

3. This Manual has been developed based on the provisions of the AU Constitutive Act, the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, the PSC Rules of Procedure and the Conclusions¹ of the various retreats of the PSC, adopted by the PSC and endorsed by the Assembly. The development of the Manual falls in the larger picture of the on-going Reform of the AU, in particular the working methods of the PSC. The Manual aims at improving the PSC working methods to guide its work and shall be a reference document for the PSC with regard to its working methods.

4. The Manual may be reviewed and updated by the PSC whenever the need arise, in conformity with the PSC Protocol, its Rules of Procedure, as well as relevant decisions taken by the PSC that are related to its working methods.

5. The Constitutive Act, the PSC Protocol and its Rules of Procedure shall prevail in a situation where there is ambiguity in interpretation or contradiction in any part of this Manual.

¹ Conclusions of the Retreat of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on Working Methods, Dakar, Senegal, from 5 to 6 July 2007; Conclusions of the Retreat of the Peace and Security Council on its Working Methods, Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 15 to 16 November 2012; Conclusions of the Retreat of the Peace and Security Council on its Working Methods, Djibouti, from 9 to 10 February 2013; Conclusions of the Retreat of the Peace and Security Council on Issues and Challenges in the Promotion Of Peace, Security And Stability in Africa, Swakopmund, Namibia, from 21 to 23 May 2015; Conclusions of the Retreat of the Peace and Security Council on Enhancement of Cooperation Between the AU PSC and the RECs/RMs in the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa, Abuja, Nigeria, from 14 to 16 September 2015; Conclusion of the Retreat of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on Implementation of the Conclusions of Successive PSC Retreats and Related PSC Decisions from 2007 to 2016, from 3 to 5 May 2017, Kigali, Rwanda; and Conclusions of the Retreat of the Committee of Experts held from 11 to 16 December 2017, Musanze, Kigali.

II. MANDATE OF THE PSC

6. The Peace and Security Council was established pursuant to Article 5(2) of the Constitutive Act, as a standing decision-making organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa, as per Article 2(1) of the PSC Protocol.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE PSC

7. The PSC is composed of 15 Members elected on the basis of equal rights in the following manner, as provided under Article 5(2) of its Protocol:

- Ten Members elected for a term of two years;
- Five members elected for a term of three years, in order to ensure continuity.

IV. WORKING METHODS

A. Organization of work

8. Annual Indicative Programme: In discharging its mandate, the PSC is always guided by the Indicative Annual Programme of Work and the Monthly Provisional Programme of Work. The Annual Indicative Programme outlines a list of mandatory/statutory meetings and other activities of the PSC, such as field missions, retreats and seminars, as well as conflict situations and thematic issues in which the PSC is seized with. The Annual Indicative Programme includes the tentative periods within which these meetings/ activities should be convened or undertaken.

9. Elaboration of the Annual Indicative Programme: The process of elaboration of the Annual Indicative Programme of Work is as follows:

- The PSC Secretariat prepares a Draft Annual Indicative Programme of Activities of the PSC;
- The PSC Committee of Experts reviews the Draft Indicative Programme of Work before its submission for consideration and adoption by the PSC;
- The Draft Indicative Annual Programme of Activities is submitted for consideration and adoption by the PSC at the beginning of each year.

10. During the adoption of the Annual Indicative Programme, the PSC, in line with Rule 7 (3) of the PSC Rules of Procedure, may consider removing situations from its Annual Indicative Programme, which have not been considered by the Council for the past two years, unless a Member State request that it is maintained on the list for a period of time to be determined by the PSC.

11. Monthly Provisional Programme of Work: The Monthly Provisional Programme of Work is based on the Annual Indicative Programme of Work. The Monthly Provisional Programme of

Work can be adjusted at any time during the course of the month in order to take into full consideration new circumstances.

12. Elaboration of Monthly Provisional Programmes of Work of the PSC: The elaboration of these Programmes follows the following procedure:

- The incoming PSC Chairperson, after various consultations, submits for consideration and adoption by the PSC, the draft Provisional Programme of Work of the PSC for the month, at least two weeks before assuming the chairpersonship;
- The Committee of Experts, in collaboration with the PSC Secretariat, supports the incoming chairperson of the month in aligning the Programme and ensuring that mandatory and previously agreed activities are accommodated; and
- The PSC Chairperson, with the support of the PSC Secretariat, prepares a matrix of the agenda items for the month, indicating format, objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting, and proposed list of invitees and presenters/key speakers for the PSC meetings indicated in the Provisional Programme of Work to be approved by the PSC during the adoption of the monthly programme. In a situation where the list of invitees is not approved during the adoption of the monthly programme, the PSC communicates such list to the PSC Members five (5) working days before the meeting for its approval.

B. Organization of Meetings

13. The PSC, being a standing decision-making organ, is organized in a manner that enables it to function continuously, including attending/addressing emergency situations.

14. Each Member of the PSC is required to have a sufficiently staffed and equipped Permanent Mission to the African Union to be able to actively participate in all PSC meetings and other PSC activities, in line with Article 5(2)(h) of the PSC Protocol.

i. Quorum (Article 8(8) and Rule 5)

15. All PSC meetings take place after constituting a required quorum. The number of PSC Member States required to constitute a quorum is two-thirds of the total membership of the PSC.

ii. Agenda (Article 8(7) and Rule 6)

16. The agenda for PSC meetings derives from the Provisional Programme of Work of the PSC for the month and is communicated to the PSC Member States through a Note Verbale at least three working days before the proposed date for the meeting, with the exception of emergency situations, in which case the Chairperson of the month can convene PSC meetings at any time. Working documents for the PSC are circulated to Member States along with the agenda in all AU working languages. The agenda is adopted by the PSC at the beginning of the meeting under a closed session.

17. Any PSC Member has a right to propose an agenda item during the consideration and adoption of the meeting agenda. The addition of an agenda item that might be substantive is subject for discussion. Any item added for consideration under any other business (AOB), is not subject for discussion, but for information only.

iii. Level of meetings (Article 8(2) & Rule 2)

18. The PSC, convenes meetings at three levels, namely:
- Permanent Representatives (those accredited to the AU);
 - Ministerial; and
 - Heads of State and Government.

iv. Periodicity and venue of meetings (Article 8(2) and Rule 2)

19. At Permanent Representatives' Level: The PSC convenes meetings as often as required at the level of Permanent Representatives, but at least twice a month.

20. At Ministerial and Heads of State and Government Level: The PSC shall meet, at least once a year, at the level of the Ministers and Heads of State and Government.

21. PSC meetings are held at the Headquarters of the AU. In the event that a Member State invites the PSC to meet in its country, provided that two thirds of the PSC Members agree, that Member State shall defray the additional expenses incurred by the Commission as a result of the meeting being held outside the Headquarters of the Union. In a situation where multiple hosting offers have been presented, consideration should be given by the PSC to a number of criteria including the priority of submission of the offer, the number of PSC events previously hosted by the countries concerned, or any other criteria deemed appropriate by the PSC.

v. Format of meetings (Article 8(10))

22. The PSC holds two types of meetings: Closed and open meetings, informal consultations and informal interactions.

- Closed meetings:

23. Open Stage: Immediately following the adoption of the agenda for the meeting, invited guests, if any, are ushered into the meeting room. In the presence of invited guests the Chairperson of the PSC formally introduces the topic to be considered by the PSC. This is followed by the presentation of the main subject under consideration through a briefing, presentation, expert's presentation of a report or any other method agreed upon by PSC members. Thereafter, the invited guests will deliver their statements and the PSC Members will

be given time to also deliver statements or raise questions, before the invited guests leave the room to enable the PSC to deliberate in closed session.

24. The invited guests submit their statements /presentations to the PSC Secretariat ahead of the meeting. The documents are communicated to all PSC member States. Statements delivered by PSC members are availed to all members at the end of the session.

25. Closed Stage: Following the departure of the invited guests, the PSC enters into closed discussions, which will be followed by the adoption of a summary of the discussions that constitutes the draft outcome of the meeting, in line with Article 7 and 10 of the PSC Protocol.

- Open meetings/open sessions:

26. Open Stage with the participation of the PSC and all invitees. This is the stage where all participants will deliver their statements following the presentations of the subject matter under consideration. The presentations are through a briefing, a report, expert's presentation or any other method agreed upon by PSC members.

27. During PSC meetings, the Chairperson follows the following order of giving the floor to speakers:

- The PSC Members;
- All other AU Member States;
- The RECs/RMs;
- International Organizations (UN, EU etc);
- Partners;
- Institutions/organizations (mostly civil society organization)

28. The invited guests submit their statements /presentations to the PSC Secretariat ahead of the meeting. The documents are communicated to all PSC Members. Statements delivered by PSC Members are availed to all members at the end of the session.

29. Closed Stage: Following the departure of all invited guests, the PSC enters into a closed session to discuss and adopt key elements for the outcome of the meeting, in line with Article 7 and 10 of the PSC Protocol.

30. Open meetings to the AU Member States: The PSC holds meetings open to only AU Member States. Subsequent to deliberations, the invited AU Member States withdraw to allow PSC to deliberate in closed session and take decisions.

31. Informal Consultations: The PSC may hold informal consultations (Article 8(11) with parties concerned or interested on conflict situations under its consideration. The informal

consultation may be held with other AU Organs/Institutions, RECs/RMs, international organizations and civil society organizations.

32. Interactions with High Representatives/Special Envoys: The PSC interacts with the High Representatives and Special Envoys of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, on peace and security issues in Africa, as deemed necessary. The PSC interacts with the newly appointed High Representatives and Special Envoys prior to deployment to ensure that there is common understanding of objectives and mandates.

vi. List of Speakers: PSC members and invitees

33. In each meeting, the PSC Secretariat prepares a list of speakers and submits it to the PSC Chairperson who will use it as a guide for allocating the floor to all those who would have expressed their desire to speak. The PSC Chairperson invites members of the PSC to speak in order in which they would have made their requests.

vii. Time management

34. During open sessions, ten (10) minutes are allocated to a country under discussion, five (5) minutes to the RECs/RMs and three (3) minutes are allocated to all other invitees during their interventions, as well as to PSC Members. During closed sessions, five (5) minutes are allocated to each member of the PSC per intervention. A member is allowed to make more than one interventions. Time allocated for subsequent rounds of interventions may be limited by the PSC Chairperson to less than 5 minutes per speaker.

viii. Invited guests

35. The PSC invites guests to its meetings during the open segment of the meetings. The invitees include those who have an interest in the issue or situation under consideration by the PSC. In the event that the list of invitees changes from the list provided during adoption of the monthly program, the PSC Secretariat shall communicate a new proposed list of invitees to the PSC Members, at least five working days before the meeting, for approval.

36. Once the list of invitees is approved, the PSC Secretariat proceeds to send out the invitations. The country whose situation will be under consideration by the PSC and the REC/RM concerned, are invited and afforded the opportunity to deliver statements to the PSC. After delivering their statements/presentations and exchanging views with the PSC Members, the invited guests withdraw to allow the PSC to deliberate in a closed session.

37. Invitations for the open sessions of the PSC are sent to all AU Member States, international organizations or institutions and other interested stakeholders. Following the exhaustion of the list of speakers, the invited guests are requested to recuse themselves, to allow the PSC to deliberate on the subject matter and to adopt an outcome for the session.

ix. Invitation of countries under consideration

38. The PSC Chairperson of the month will inform and engage the representative of countries whose situation will be considered by the PSC during the month. Those countries will be invited to the PSC meeting and shall acknowledge receipt of the invitation note from the PSC Secretariat five days before the meeting date. This Note shall be copied to the PSC Chairperson of the month. In emergency situation, the PSC Chairperson will directly communicate with the representative of the country concerned.

x. Accreditation to meetings

39. PSC Members: PSC members submit a list of representatives of their Missions attending PSC meetings. Such a list is communicated to the PSC Secretariat immediately after the election by the Assembly.

40. Staff of the AU Commission: The PSC Secretariat submits, to the Chairperson of the month, a list of staff of the PSC Secretariat and those staff of other AU Departments/Offices who will be required to attend a particular meeting of the PSC. Any changes to the list should be communicated to the PSC Chairperson in due time.

41. It is the duty of the PSC Secretariat to ensure that participants to the PSC Meetings are in line with the list submitted to the PSC Chairperson.

xi. Types of working documents:

42. The PSC has the following types of working documents which can be prepared for different types of meetings, as may be adopted by the PSC, including the following:

- Report of the Chairperson of the AU Commission
- Report of the PSC (can be field mission's report)
- Report of a particular AU organ or institution (i.e. reports of the ACHPR, APRM or Panel of the Wise etc)
- Briefing Note/Information Note
- Concept Note
- Terms of reference (for the field missions or retreats etc)

xii. Outcomes

43. Regular meetings: During its regular meeting, the PSC adopts its outcome, as either of the following:

- Communiqué for closed sessions;
- Press statement for open sessions.

44. The Council consensually exercises flexibility, based on the flow of the discussion, in deciding the format of the outcome of its deliberations.

45. In some situations, Council may hold meetings to receive updates or briefings on peace and security issues without adopting a decision at the end of its meeting. In such cases, the PSC keeps the record of the meeting through the summary record prepared by the PSC Secretariat.

46. Annual joint consultative meetings: During annual joint consultative meetings of the PSC with the United Nations Security Council, the EU Political and Security Committee, as well as other similar organizations the PSC adopts joint communiqués. The joint communiques between the PSC and the UN Security Council are drafted and negotiated by the PSC Committee of Experts in collaboration with their counter-parts in the UN Security Council and presented to the PSC for consideration ahead of the joint meeting.

47. Field missions: During PSC field missions, the PSC Chairperson, in consultation with members of the PSC, issues a press statement at the beginning of the mission to pronounce the mission's objective and at the end of the mission to communicate the findings of the mission. Upon its return to the AU headquarters, the PSC adopts its mission report through a PSC communique which is considered and adopted during a formal PSC meeting.

48. Joint field missions: During the joint field missions of the PSC and similar organs to conflict and post-conflict areas in Africa the PSC adopts a Joint Statement.

49. PSC Retreats/Joint retreats: During PSC retreats or Joint Retreats of the PSC with similar organs, the PSC adopts conclusions or joint conclusions.

xiii. Implementation of the Outcomes:

50. The PSC Committee of Experts develops a matrix on the status of the implementation of PSC decisions every six months for consideration and adoption by the PSC, on the basis of information provided by the PSC Secretariat. The status of implementation feeds into the reports of the PSC to the Assembly.

xiv. Summary of the meeting

51. At the end of the session, the PSC Chairperson presents a summary of the debate which guides the drafting of the outcome of the meeting.

52. At the end of the meeting, the PSC Chairperson may brief the press on the outcome of the meeting.

53. At the end of each meeting, the PSC Secretariat, in consultation with the PSC Chairperson, shall prepare a summary of the deliberations of the meeting, in line with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure. This summary, which shall be approved by the PSC Chairperson, will form part of the Council's records.

xv. Silence Procedure for adoption of Draft PSC Communiqués/Draft Press Statements/ Other Working Documents

54. After each PSC meeting, the PSC Secretariat drafts an outcome, which can either be press statement or a communique. PSC communiqués or press statements, once drafted, are disseminated to the PSC Member States for review through a silence procedure which lasts for 24 hours.

55. In a situation where there is no substantive proposed amendments/inputs, or inputs made are purely editorial and do not substantively alter the substance of the draft outcome, after expiration of the silence procedure, the PSC Secretariat will edit and publicize the communique or press statement, following its clearance by the PSC Chairperson.

56. Once a PSC Member has made substantive amendments to the draft communique or press statement, within the spirit of the discussion which took place during the meeting, the Silence Procedure period will be considered to have been broken. Thereafter, the PSC Secretariat, in consultation with the PSC Chairperson, will incorporate the changes into the main text, by highlighting them, and re-launch the Silence Procedure, in order to galvanize consensus of Member States. The communique or press statement will be published after expiration of the second silence procedure.

57. If the PSC Members fail to agree after the second round of the silence procedure, the PSC Secretariat, in consultation with the PSC Chairperson will organize a formal meeting of the PSC to reconsider and adopt a draft communique or press statement. The discussion will focus on the issue of divergence.

58. In the event that the outcome of the PSC meeting has been published but not to the satisfaction of some PSC Member(s), such member(s) draws the attention of the PSC Chairperson to the issue. Mindful of the fact that the PSC takes its decisions by consensus, the PSC Chairperson of the month will decide if the matter raised requires further discussion in a formal meeting of the PSC and will table it accordingly.

59. In emergency situations, the PSC may adopt its outcome immediately after the meeting.

xvi. Dissemination of PSC Outcomes

60. After adoption of PSC decision, the PSC Secretariat officially communicate the said decision to the country concerned and all AU Member States, as well as concerned stakeholders and the UN Security Council for information and implementation.

C. Chairpersonship

i. Duties and office of the PSC Chairperson (Rule 24)

61. The PSC Chairperson presides over the meetings of the Council and represents the PSC in other activities of the Union related to peace and security issues in Africa. The AU Commission provides an office for the PSC Chairperson at the Headquarters of the Union.

62. Each Chairperson of the PSC briefs the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) at the end of his/her chairing month on the activities of the PSC for the particular month.

ii. Rotation of Chairmanship

63. In terms of Article 8 (6) read in conjunction with Rule 23, the Chairpersonship of the PSC shall be held in turn by the PSC Member States in the (English)² alphabetical order of their names. Each member States will chair the Council for one calendar month.

64. Newly elected Members of the PSC join the existing queue of rotation of chairmanship at its tail end in order to maintain the subsisting order. Following the exhaustion of the subsisting order of succession, the PSC Secretariat immediately develops a new order of rotation of chairmanship, in (English) alphabetical order comprising all Member States of the newly configured Council.

65. The PSC Secretariat prepares and circulates the list of chairpersonship of the PSC, to PSC Member States, as soon as the new members of Council are elected.

66. The PSC Chairperson is expected to be always available at AU Headquarters to steer the work of the PSC, including the prompt convening and chairing of PSC meetings whenever the need arises.

iii. Stand-in-Chairperson

67. In the absence of the substantive PSC Chairperson, the stand-in-Chairperson of the month, must be the next Chairperson. In circumstances where the next chairperson is

² Currently the PSC follows the English alphabetical order

unavailable, any available Permanent Representative Member of the PSC, takes over the Chair of the Council. In this regard, the Chairperson must inform the Commission on time.

68. In some situations, Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure may be applied where a country chairing the PSC accredits a representative to chair the PSC in the absence of the accredited permanent representative of a member state. The member state concerned inform the PSC of this accreditation by the Commission before the accredited representative chairs of the PSC.

iv. Swapping Arrangements

69. Swapping arrangement should be treated as an exception rather than the norm.

70. Although the rotation of the Chairperson of the PSC should be predictable, sometimes unavoidable circumstances compel the PSC to change the rotation of chairmanship. The PSC makes arrangements for swapping chairpersonship, following the English alphabetical order.

71. A PSC Member State which is not able to chair the PSC during a designated month, due to circumstances beyond its control, shall formally communicate to the PSC Secretariat in time for necessary arrangements to be made to ensure the smooth and continuous functioning of the PSC.

72. PSC Member States intending to swap their months of chairing shall inform the PSC Secretariat at least one month in advance. Such a swapping arrangement will be on the basis of the proximity of the two Member States in the existing queue.

73. The PSC Secretariat shall formally inform all PSC Member States on the agreed swapping arrangements.

74. In a situation where no swapping arrangement can be put in place, the PSC Member State concerned shall forfeit its turn to Chair the PSC.

v. Troika

75. A Troika of the PSC, comprising the current, immediate past and incoming PSC Chairpersons, in the order of the rotation of the PSC Chairship, or any available PSC Member, once agreed upon by the PSC, may be tasked to undertake some PSC activities on behalf of the PSC, in the implementation of the PSC decisions, on a case by case basis.

D. Consultative Meetings

i. Interactions with RECs/RMs (Article 16)

76. In its efforts to work closely with the RECs/RMs, the PSC holds annual consultative meetings with the RECs/RMs.

77. The RECs/RMs involved or concerned with a situation which is on the agenda of the PSC are always invited to attend PSC meetings and make submissions for consideration by the PSC.

ii. Interactions with other AU Organs/Institutions (Article 18 & 19)

78. In line with its Protocol, the PSC is expected to interact with sister AU Organs whose mandate relates to the promotion of peace, security and stability, as well as the general well-being of African people. The PSC expanded the consultations to include other AU Organs which are not mentioned in the PSC Protocol, such as the APRM, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. The PSC engages sister Organs individually whenever necessary. The PSC Chairperson is regularly invited to brief the sessions of the Pan-African parliament on peace and security in Africa.

iii. Interactions with Civil Society Organizations (Article 20)

79. The PSC is expected to work closely with African civil society organizations dealing with peace and security issues on the continent. In line with Rule 21 and 22 of the PSC Rules of Procedure, the PSC invites CSOs, which have an observer status to the AU, to its open sessions to make contributions to its deliberations on various thematic issues related to the PSC mandate. During such open session of the PSC, invited CSOs provide key/lead speakers or presenters.

80. The PSC may hold consultative meetings with CSOs on peace and security issues in Africa.

81. The PSC, following consensus of Members, may engage with African research institutions/organizations dealing with peace and security matters, with a view to enrich the work of the PSC, as well as enhancing the analysis of situations the Council is seized with.

iv. Interactions with International Organizations (Article 17)

82. Article 17 of the PSC Protocol provides for close working relationships between the PSC and the United Nations Security Council, which bears the primary responsibility for promoting international peace and security. It also provides for working relations between the PSC and similar international organs.

- UN Security Council

83. In the framework of the AU-UN Partnership, the PSC and the UN Security Council convenes, since 2007, annual joint consultative meetings to discuss peace and security issues in Africa. The meetings are held alternately in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and in New York, United

States of America. The Councils' scope of annual joint consultations include an informal joint seminar that is held on the eve of the annual joint consultative meeting, the ideal platform to candidly exchange views on thematic issues of interest to both Councils. Informal joint conclusions are adopted as a record of the seminar for future reference.

84. During the annual joint consultative meetings, the PSC and the UNSC exchange views on ways to enhance cooperation and collaboration on peace and security issues in Africa and to build a common understanding on conflict situations on the agenda of both Councils.

85. The PSC regularly invites the UN to attend some of its meetings.

- UN Peacebuilding Commission

86. The PSC organizes annual consultative meetings with the UN Peace building Commission on the margins of the annual joint consultative meetings between the PSC and the UNSC. Occasionally the Peace building Commission also convenes consultative meetings with the PSC in Addis Ababa. Such meetings provide the opportunity for the two sides to exchange views and share experiences, as well as lessons learnt on peace building efforts in selected post-conflict countries on the African Continent.

- EU Political and Security Committee (EUPSC)

87. Since 2008, the PSC and the EUPSC convenes annual joint consultative meetings devoted to peace and security issues in Africa, within the framework of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. The meetings are held alternately in Addis Ababa and Brussels. The PSC and the EUPSC hold joint seminars ahead of the annual joint consultative meetings, dedicated to the exchange of views on thematic issues.

88. The PSC, when it deems necessary, invites the EU to its meetings, in situations where the EU is an interested stakeholder.

- Peace and Security Council of the League of Arab States

89. Within the context and framework of Article 17 of its Protocol, the PSC has institutionalized consultative meetings with the Peace and Security Council of the League of Arab States. The two Councils convened their first joint consultative meeting in Cairo, Egypt, from 18 to 19 December 2010. The two Councils agreed to institutionalize their cooperation, through the convening of annual joint consultative meetings and joint retreats/brainstorming sessions, alternately in Addis Ababa and Cairo.³

90. The PSC invites the LAS to attend some of its meetings particularly those on situations in a member state of the LAS.

³ Due to a number of factors, the annual joint consultative meetings of the two Councils have not been as regular as was intended.

E. Organization of other PSC Activities

i. PSC Field Missions

91. The PSC undertakes field missions to conflict/post conflict situations in Africa. The PSC delegation is normally composed of the representatives of the 15 Member States, the officer accompanying the Chair of the month and support staff from the AU Commission. In some field missions, the Permanent Representative of the member state concerned joins the PSC Delegation, as facilitator of the visit, on condition that he/she will not participate in all meetings of the PSC Delegation. The meetings to which he / she will be excluded will be communicated to him/her.

92. The responsibility for logistical preparations and working documents, such as the terms of reference and the programme, for the successful undertaking of field missions rests with the PSC Secretariat. The Secretariat will prepare and share the working documents and the terms of reference and draft programme of the field mission to the PSC for consideration during PSC preparatory meetings of the field mission. The PSC Secretariat communicates necessary logistical arrangement to members of the PSC during the preparatory sessions.

93. During the field missions, among other consultations, the PSC hold consultations with the REC/RM concerned in the field.

94. The PSC Member States are expected to be represented in all activities of the Council at the level of Permanent Representatives, including in field missions. A minimum number of confirmations of at least five Ambassadors, one from each region should be required. The PSC encourage all Ambassadors to participate in field missions.

95. At the end of each field mission, the PSC Secretariat prepares a report under the guidance of the PSC Chairperson who heads the PSC Delegation during the field mission. The report will be formally considered and adopted in a PSC meeting and a Communiqué will be adopted.

96. The PSC undertakes joint field missions with the EUPSC to conflict situations in Africa where both Organs have interest.

97. The PSC and the UNSC have agreed to undertake joint field missions to conflict and post-conflict situations in Africa, which are on the agenda of both Councils.⁴

⁴ To date no such joint field missions have been undertaken due to lack of mutually agreed framework of modalities for such joint field missions.

98. The Joint field missions promote a shared understanding of the dynamics on the ground that informs the decision-making processes of the PSC and the UNSC.

ii. Retreats

99. Annually the PSC organizes a retreat on an agreed theme. Any PSC Members can offer to host the retreat provided, the concerned Members takes into consideration the provisions of Article 8 (4) relating to the implications of meetings held outside the AU Headquarters.

100. After agreeing on the agenda, the PSC Secretariat will prepare a program and a concept note for the retreat and other working documents for the adoption by PSC Members.

101. Retreats are informal brainstorming sessions of the PSC. As such, all outcomes of PSC retreats are in the form of conclusions, which are formally adopted in a formal meeting of the PSC through a communique, not more than fifteen (15) days from the date of the holding of the retreat. The PSC Secretariat prepares all the logistical arrangement for the retreats.

- Legal standing of outcomes of PSC Retreats

102. All conclusions of PSC retreats are adopted in a form of a communiqué by the PSC through a formal meeting. The adopted Conclusions of the Retreat will be attached as an annex to the PSC Report to the Assembly. The Assembly will endorse the Conclusions in a decision which adopts the PSC Report.

iii. High Level Seminar

103. Annually, the PSC hold a High Level Seminar on “Peace and Security in Africa: Assisting incoming African Members of the UN Security Council”. The Seminar takes place during the 3rd quarter of the year, following the election of the new members of the UNSC.

104. Once the PSC agrees on the venue of the High Level Seminar, the PSC Secretariat will liaise with the host country and send out invitations and prepare a concept note and programme which will be adopted by the PSC.

105. The aim is to assist African non-permanent members of the UNSC, especially the newly elected ones, to address peace and security issues affecting the African continent within the UN Security Council. The Seminar brings together delegations of African non-permanent members of the UN Security Council, outgoing members and incoming members, as well as the fifteen (15) Members of the PSC, senior officials of the African Union Commission, United Nations and partners. The delegation of the African members in the UNSC to these High Level Seminars comprises a Minister and an Ambassador, from New York and Addis Ababa, plus one official from the capital.

F. Preparation and presentation of the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa

106. In line with Article 7 of the PSC Protocol, the PSC submits to the AU Assembly, regular reports or when it is required on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa. The PSC also submits a report on the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap for Silencing the Guns in Africa until the year 2020, in line with the decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII), adopted during the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 – 31 January 2017.

107. The two reports with the draft Assembly decisions are drafted by the Committee of Experts with the support of the PSC Secretariat, and are presented to the PSC for consideration and adoption, one month before their submission to the Assembly.

108. The two reports are presented to the Assembly in the following format:

- i. The Chairperson of the PSC for the month in which the AU Summit happens will introduce the PSC Reports to the Assembly of the Union;
- ii. The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security will deliver its detailed presentation to the Assembly of the Union and provide responses to issues and questions that Member States may raise.

G. Enhancing support for the African Members (A3) of the UN Security Council

109. The PSC involves the A3 in preparation for PSC/UNSC annual joint consultative meetings and other joint activities and holds video tele-conferences (VTC) between the PSC and the A3, through their respective Chairpersons.

110. The PSC invites the A3 to all of its meetings on crisis and conflict situations, with a view to provide a platform for the A3 representatives based in Addis Ababa to understand the position of the PSC on different situations so as to communicate to their counter parts in New York.

111. The A3 coordinator regularly briefs the PSC on the activities of the A3 in the UN Security Council and their activities are reflected in the report of the PSC to the Assembly.

H. PSC Subsidiary Bodies/Sub-Committees

112. In line with the provisions of Article 8(5) of its Protocol, the PSC established several subsidiary bodies/ sub-committees with a view to facilitate its work. The following are the sub-committees of the PSC:

- i. **Military Staff Committee** - established by Article 13(8) PSC Protocol.
Comprises Defence Advisors of all fifteen (15) PSC Members, supported by the PSC Secretariat;
- ii. **Committee of Experts** – established by the PSC Decision emanating from the Dakar PSC retreat Conclusions, 2007.
It comprises experts from all fifteen (15) PSC Members, supported by the PSC Secretariat;
- iii. **Committee on Sanctions** – established the PSC Decision emanating from the Ezulwini PSC Retreat Conclusions, 2009.
Comprised of fifteen (15) Members of the PSC;
- iv. **Committee on Counter-Terrorism** – established by the 249th PSC meeting of 22 November 2010
Comprises five (5) Members of the PSC, one per region;
- v. **Committee on Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development**
Comprises five (5) Members of the PSC, one per region. Its mandate was expanded to encompass all countries emerging from conflict on the Continent by PSC Decision emanating from the Djibouti PSC Retreat).

113. The PSC adopted Generic Terms of Reference which guide the conduct of work of the PSC Sub-Committees.

114. The member state chairing the PSC automatically takes over the chairpersonship of the Military Staff Committee and the Committee of Experts. The Military Staff Committee meetings are chaired by uniformed personnel. In a situation where a country has no Defence Attache, the Chairpersonship of the Military Staff Committee meeting passes on to the next readily available Defence Attache, member of the PSC.

115. The Military Staff Committee assists and advises the PSC on military related issues, while the Committee of Experts deals with drafting of working documents, outcomes of the PSC and preparation of the meetings, particularly the annual consultative meetings.

116. The new PSC Members, immediately after taking their seats in the PSC in April, expeditiously designate members for all of the PSC Sub-Committees.

I. Budget of the PSC

117. The PSC Committee of Experts, with the support of the PSC Secretariat, prepares the draft budget of the PSC and presents it to the PSC for its consideration and adoption at least two months before its submission to the relevant committees and the Policy organs of the Union. The PSC Chairperson of the month during which the AU draft budget is considered, with the support of the PSC Secretariat, presents and defends the budget before the said committees and Policy Organs.

J. Induction and orientation of the new members of the PSC

118. Following the election of new members of the PSC, and before they take their seats on 1 April of the same year, the Commission organizes an induction session during the month of March. The induction provides an opportunity for the newly elected PSC Members to acquaint and familiarize themselves with the various aspects relating to the work and working methods of the Council and the support that is expected to be provided to PSC members by the AU Commission and other relevant actors within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

119. The PSC Secretariat prepares the working documents for the induction and a check list of documents for the new members of the PSC.

120. Following their election, the new members start attending PSC meetings as observers on the second week of the month of March.

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DRAFT CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEVENTH HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR
ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

**«Assisting Incoming African Members on the UN Security Council in Preparing to Address
Peace and Security Issues on the Continent»
Libreville, Gabon**

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEVENTH HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR
ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA**

**«Assisting Incoming African Members on the United Nations (UN) Security Council
in Preparing to Address Peace and Security Issues on the Continent»,
Libreville, Gabon, 13 to 14 January 2020**

I. Introduction

1. From 13 to 14 January 2020, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), in collaboration with the Commission of the African Union (AU), the Government of the Gabonese Republic and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), organized the *Seventh High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa: Assisting Incoming African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) in Preparing to Address Peace and Security Issues on the Continent*, in Libreville, Gabon. The Seminar was held within the context of the ongoing implementation process of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as well as in line with the Communiqué [PSC/AHG/COMM/1.(CCCXCVII)] adopted by the PSC at its 397th meeting held at the level of Heads of State and Government in New York, on 23 September 2013, which reviewed the partnership between the AU and the United Nations (UN) in the area of peace and security, and decided, inter alia, on the need for “greater consultations between the Peace and Security Council and the African members of the Security Council, to ensure that PSC decisions and those of the AU Assembly are effectively promoted and defended in the Security Council.”

II. Participation

2. The Seminar brought together the 15 Members of the PSC, plus Cote d’Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea (as outgoing A3 Members), and South Africa (sitting A3 Member), as well as Niger and Tunisia (as incoming A3 Members). Ethiopia also attended the Seminar in its capacity as a Friend of the Seminar and institutional memory, as it is a former A3 Member. His Excellency Julien Nkoghe BEKALE, Prime Minister of the Gabonese Republic, presided over the opening ceremony of the High-Level Seminar. H.E. Mothepu Mahapa, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations of the Kingdom of Lesotho; H. E Dr. David Musabayana, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe; H.E. Tete Antonio, Secretary of State for External Relations of the Republic of Angola, and H.E. Mohamed Ali Hassan, Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti, attended the Seminar, as well as a number of PSC Members at Ambassadorial level attended the Seminar. The Seminar was chaired by H.E. Ezechiel Nibigira, Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, in his capacity as the PSC Chairperson of the PSC for the month of January 2020.

3. The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, H.E. Ambassador Smail Chergui, accompanied by officers from the AU Commission, attended the High-Level Seminar and

made an opening statement. The UN was represented by H.E. Madam Bintou Keita, Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and Peace Operations (DPO), as well as officials from UNITAR. The High-Level Seminar was also attended by Cameroon, Chad, as invited guests, and AU partners namely, Norway and Switzerland.

III. Objective

4. The main objective of the High-Level Seminar was to further strengthen the foundation laid by the Inaugural Seminar held in December 2013, in Oran, Algeria, of ensuring effective articulation, coordination, promotion and defense of African common positions on peace and security issues concerning the Continent and its people, within the decision-making process of the UN Security Council.

5. The High-Level Seminar discussed some conflict situations in the Continent, namely Central African Republic (CAR), Sahel region, South Sudan, Sudan and Libya, as well as one broad thematic issue, namely: "Silencing the Guns in Africa: creating conducive environment for children affected by armed conflicts". The Seminar also discussed the cooperation between the PSC and the A3, paying particular attention to progress made and lessons learnt during the course of 2019 and best means and ways of further enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of the A3 in discharging its mandate within the overall context of implementation of the AU's Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020. During the discussion, participants agreed on the following issues:

(a) On Silencing the Guns in Africa: Creating Conducive Environment for children affected by armed conflicts

6. Following an extensive discussion, the PSC and the A3:

- i. Noted that this year 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
- ii. Noted the significant progress achieved to date in promoting child protection in peace and security activities of the AU.
- iii. Noted the challenges at hand and emphasized the urgent need, in line with the AU's theme for the year 2020, Silencing the Guns in Africa, to effectively end all violent conflicts and wars in Africa.
- iv. Expressed deep concern over the continued targeting of schools and hospitals during conflict situations, as well as their continued use by belligerents for military purposes, despite the existence of AU and other international instruments on child protection, including the Safe Schools Declaration.
- v. Underscored the importance of mainstreaming child protection in the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and in the implementation process of the AU

Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa (AUMR), as well as in all activities around the AU theme for the year 2020.

- vi. Requested the Commission to expedite the operationalization of the AU Child Protection Architecture, as well as to mainstream child protection in all AU activities, including in the AU Peace Support Operation documents, such as the draft AU Peace Support Operation Doctrine and Draft Guidelines to TCCs/PCCS.
- vii. Also requested the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite the process of appointing an AU Special Envoy on Child Protection in Africa, who will amplify the AU voice, visibility and coordination on child protection, in line with the 32nd Assembly Decision and various conclusions of the PSC.
- viii. Underlined the importance of developing a strategy for expediting the implementation of all existing AU normative frameworks and instruments relating to child protection.
- ix. Commended the efforts being deployed by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflicts, particularly on child protection in Africa and welcomed the signing of the Partnership Agreement between the AU and UN on Child Protection.
- x. Encouraged AU Member States to uphold all AU and UN instruments, including the African Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child and the Safe Schools Declaration.
- xi. Also encouraged all Member States, which have not yet done so, to comply fully with UN Security Council resolution 2457 on Silencing the Guns in Africa, with a view to minimizing the negative impact of armed conflicts on children.
- xii. Welcomed the efforts by the A3 to champion the adoption of a resolution on protection of children in conflict situation by the UN Security Council. In this regard, the PSC and A3 appealed for necessary support from all AU Member States and partners.
- xiii. Recalled the nexus between Peace, Security and Economic Development and stressed the need for holistically addressing the structural root causes of violent conflicts in the Continent, including underdevelopment, poverty, unemployment and marginalization.
- xiv. Underlined the urgent need for the AU Commission and concerned AU Member States to intensify the protection of children in Refugees and IDPs camps in Africa, against the manipulation and exploitation of children by armed groups, as well as the need for Member States to protect IDPs and refugee camps, against any form of militarization and to maintain the civilian character of these camps and public infrastructures.

- xv. Encouraged, particularly countries emerging from violent conflicts to take concrete steps to implement AU child protection instruments, create conducive conditions for child development, including establishing national child protection systems and programmes for effective re-integration of children affected by armed conflicts.
- xvi. Underlined the need for redoubling efforts in mobilizing necessary resources, including for ensuring that the plight of children is well addressed at national, regional and continental levels, as well as promoting accountability and justice for victims of violations committed during violent conflicts.

(b) On Assessment of the State of Peace and Security in Africa

7. The PSC and the A3 noted with concern that Africa continues to face persistent violent conflicts and crises. They also noted that although the number of conflicts have significantly decreased, violence is now compounded by the rise and spread of a deadly combination of terrorism, extremism, radicalization and networks of organized crime affecting various parts of the African Continent. The net result of the violent conflicts prevailing in parts of the Continent include disruption of socio-economic activities in the affected areas, loss of life and material destruction, severe violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

8. The PSC and A3 noted the importance of promoting preventative diplomacy and recognized that many countries on the Continent will hold elections during 2020. In this regard, they encouraged all efforts to avoid any post-election crisis and urged countries on the Continent, including RECs/RMs to support those countries requiring support.

9. During this session, the PSC and A3, took note of the presentations made by the High Representative of the Commission on Mali/Sahel, the Special Representatives of the Chairperson of the Commission for the Central African Republic (CAR), South Sudan and Libya, as well as from the presentation made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security. Following extensive discussions, the PSC and the A3 agreed as follows:

- **On Central African Republic**

10. The PSC and the A3:

- i. Welcomed the progress recorded, thus far, since the signing of the Peace Agreement on 6 February 2019, in Bangui, in addressing the situation on the ground and commended the Government of President Touadeira, the AU and the UN for their joint efforts in the implementation of the Peace Agreement with a view to stabilizing the situation in CAR.
- ii. Strongly condemned the continued fighting between armed groups including the signatories of the Peace Agreement of February 2019.

- iii. Acknowledged the persistent challenges that still need to be addressed with a view to facilitating effective implementation of the Peace Agreement.
- iv. Emphasized the need to ensure that the 2020 elections are held on the planned dates. In this context, the PSC and the A3 appealed to all AU Member States and partners to extend their support to the Government of CAR to ensure smooth organization of credible elections and urged all parties to place the supreme interest of the country above all else and fully commit themselves to ensure the successful organization of the elections.
- v. Warned all peace spoilers and obstructionists, including the armed groups who signed the Peace Agreement, that they will be held accountable for their actions.
- vi. Stresses the need for the AU to continue to provide leading role in the political process in the CAR.

- **On the Sahel Region**

11. The PSC and the A3:

- i. Expressed deep concern over the continued attacks in the Sahel region by terrorist and armed groups and condemned them in strongest terms possible. They also expressed concern over the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the Sahel region, in particular, the security threats resulting from terrorism, and transnational organized crime, including human, arms and drug trafficking, as well as inter-communal conflicts around scarce resources, notably water, within the context of several challenges including the adverse effects of climate change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa regions.
- ii. Stressed the need for the AU Member States and the UN, as well as other partners to further enhance their support to the G5 Sahel Joint Task Force, with a view to enabling it to more effectively discharge its mandate, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter
- iii. Encouraged all Member States, the UN and other international development partners, including the UN Development Programme (UNDP), to continue to align their activities with the Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, the Stabilization Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin, the Inter-water Basin Transfer Initiative for the Lake Chad Basin, and redouble efforts to mobilize the necessary resources targeted at revamping the socio-economic condition of the Sahel. In this regard, the PSC and the A3 requested the A3 to champion this matter within the Security Council.
- iv. Underscored the need for all concerned stakeholders to work closely together in ensuring that the upcoming elections in the region are conducted in a peaceful, credible and transparent manner with a view to guarantee peace and stability in the region.

- v. Requested the AU and UN to jointly continue to support the peace process in Mali, including providing predictable and sustainable material and financial support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force, in the context of Chapter VII of the UN Charter.
- vi. Also underlined the importance of enhancing the collaboration and cooperation between the UN and the AU in addressing the current crisis in Libya that since the year 2011 continue to fuel instability in the Sahel region.
- vii. Underlined the importance of collective security approaches in combating terrorism. In this regard, they encouraged all AU Member States to extend support to the efforts being deployed by the countries of the Sahel region in combating terrorism and violent extremism; and
- viii. Stressed the urgent need to list all terrorist and extremist groups operating in the Continent.

- **On South Sudan**

12. The PSC and the A3:

- i. Welcomed the steady progress being recorded in the peace process in South Sudan, including the current ceasefire, the overall improvement in the security situation and the progress made in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, including the on-going establishment of cantonment and training sites;
- ii. Encouraged the South Sudan Stakeholders to persevere and expedite the implementation of the remaining tasks within the Revitalized Agreement;
- iii. Also encouraged the concerned South Sudan parties to redouble their efforts in building mutual trust and confidence in order to expedite the full implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, address all internal matters relating to the issue of State boundaries and the number of States, and to meet the 22 February 2020 deadline. In this context, they encouraged the Government of South Sudan to facilitate the relocation of Dr. Riek Machar to Juba to fully participate in the peace process in the country;
- iv. Commended the A3 for their efforts which led to the adoption by the UN Security Council, on 22 November 2019, of a Press Statement which took note of the 100-day extension.
- v. Commended the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for its relentless efforts in South Sudan and expressed their commitment to continue to support these efforts;

- vi. Underscored the need for mobilizing necessary funding to ensure the completion of all activities as in the Revitalized Agreement. In the same context, they emphasized to importance of coordination of efforts in supporting South Sudan, through joint messages to the South Sudanese parties, at this critical juncture;
- vii. Underlined the need to promote accountability and end impunity for violations and abuses of human rights and in this regard, they underscored the urgent need for the full operationalization of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan.

- **On The Sudan**

13. The PSC and the A3:

- i. Welcomed the positive developments in The Sudan and noted the commitment and priorities set by the Government of Sudan to expedite the implementation of the Peace Agreement;
- ii. Expressed deep concern over the atrocities being committed by the SLA/AW which is still reluctant to participate in the peace process. In this regard, they encouraged the SLA/AW to place the supreme interest of the country above all else and embrace the current peace process;
- iii. Urged the Sudanese parties to spare no effort and continue to implement the Agreement signed in Khartoum on the establishment of a new civilian-led Transitional Government. In this regard, they stressed the need for the PSC to continue to accompany the people of Sudan until the full restoration of normal constitutional order in the country;
- iv. Reiterated the PSC call for the Government of the United States of America to lift all forms of economic and financial sanctions imposed again Sudan and to remove Sudan from the list of State Sponsors of terrorism, with a view to facilitating the current transition process;
- v. Expressed concern over the security situation in Darfur which is attributed to the activities of armed movements that remain outside the peace process. They also expressed concern over intermittent intercommunal violence particularly in the Jebel Marra area;
- vi. Underscored the need for a joint PSC and A3 solidarity field mission to Sudan.

- **On the Situation in Libya**

14. The PSC and the A3:

- i. Expressed concern over the escalation of violence and that the issue of Libya continues to remain divisive across the international community as seen in the

influx of external interference, including failure to respect the arms embargo imposed by the UN Security Council. The PSC and A3 insisted that there cannot be a military solution in Libya, stressing that parties must accept an immediate ceasefire and embrace national dialogue, taking into consideration the provisions of the Political Agreement, signed by the Libyans in 2015, in Skhirat, Morocco.

- ii. Reaffirmed the commitment of the AU to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya. They condemned, in the strongest terms, the increasing external interference in Libya which is undermining the current efforts to find a lasting political solution to the crisis.
- iii. Welcomed the press release of the Chairperson of the Commission of 12 January 2020 on Libya, welcoming the ceasefire Agreement and calling for all stakeholders to redouble their efforts towards inclusive dialogue for a political solution.
- iv. Recalled the PSC Ministerial meeting, held in New York on 27th September 2019, and strongly reaffirmed the imperative for the AU to play a more substantive role in efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Libya.
- v. Looked forward to the pronouncement by the AU Assembly on the situation in Libya, with regard to the need for the appointment of an AU/UN joint special envoy.

(c) On Enhancement of Cooperation Between the African Members of the UN Security Council (A3) and the Peace and Security Council – Progress and Lessons Learnt in 2019 and Future Prospects (Closed Session For PSC and A3):

15. Since the launch of the High Level Seminar in 2013, in Oran, Algeria, participants have been discussing and exchanging views on how best the A3 and the PSC could improve their cooperation, with a view to further enhancing capacity and visibility of the A3 in championing and promoting common African positions and interests in the UN Security Council decision-making process.

16. Through the High-Level seminars, significant gains have been achieved, such as the establishment of the A3 coordination and modality of interaction between the PSC and the A3. The common voice of the A3 in the UN Security Council has gained its visibility, leading to the adoption of several resolutions in favour of African common positions. During the 7th High Level Seminar, the PSC and the A3 reviewed the status of implementation of conclusions of their previous high level seminars and they:

- i. Acknowledged that the A3 Members have played a very significant role in bridging the gap between the AU and the UN, particularly, in articulating, defending and promoting African perspectives and common positions on issues of concern to the Continent.

- ii. Welcomed the significant improvements in A3 cooperation over the last year, including through delivery of several joint statements to the Security Council, joint media statements and a joint address to the UN media corps.
- iii. Noted that this enhanced cooperation between Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa builds on the foundation for strengthened coordination and cooperation and encouraged the remaining and incoming A3 Members, namely, South Africa, Niger and Tunisia, to continue strengthening their unity and coordination with a view to more effectively amplifying and spearheading the African voice and common positions on African peace and security issues in the UN Security Council agenda.
- iv. Commended the outgoing A3 Members, namely, Cote d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea, for their exemplary work during their tenure in the UN Security Council.
- v. Congratulated Niger and Tunisia for their election as non-permanent members of the Security Council and welcomed them in the A3 Group, as well as to the 7th High Level Seminar and expressed Africa's hope for their contribution to supporting and championing the African common positions and interests in the UN Security Council decision-making process. In the same vein, they urged the two countries to emulate, build on and maintain the positive trend and momentum set by the sitting (South Africa) and outgoing A3 (Cote d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea) members.
- vi. Underlined the need for increasing the frequency of interaction between the PSC and the A3.
- vii. Underscored the importance of synchronization of respective programmes of work of the PSC and of the A3, as well as ensuring participation of A3 in PSC meetings in Addis Ababa, whenever necessary.
- viii. Also underscored the importance of institutionalization and regularization of Video Teleconferencing (VTC) engagement between the PSC Troika and the A3, on a monthly basis and, whenever necessary. In this context, they stressed the need to further enhance the institutional capacity of the AU Permanent Observer Mission, in New York, which serves as the facilitator of the VTCs.
- ix. Emphasized the need to formally extend invitations to the A3 Members in New York to participate, at their own cost, in the AU Summits especially in the Assembly Sessions considering reports of the PSC on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa, as well as on the Status of implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020.
- x. Also emphasized the need for PSC decisions to be transmitted timeously to the A3 so as to facilitate work within the UN Security Council.
- xi. Further emphasized the need for the organization of capacity building training for the A3 in New York, following election of the new A3 Members.

- xii. Stressed the need for joint field missions of the PSC and the A3. In the same context, they also stressed the need for the A3 to use their position in the Security Council to finalize draft modalities for the conduct of joint AUPSC and UNSC field missions in Africa, taking into account the PSC positions in this regard.
- xiii. Underscored the need for timely sharing of information between the PSC and A3, in particular, the Indicative Annual programmes of work between the PSC and the UNSC with a view to more effectively synchronizing the activities subscribed on the agenda of the two Councils and their decision-making processes.
- xiv. Also underscored:
 - a) The need for the PSC to timeously provide strategic guidance to the A3 ahead of considerations of imposition of sanctions and other forms of punitive measures against any actor in Africa. They requested the A3, in close coordination with the PSC, to work towards the lifting of sanctions imposed against some African countries;
 - b) The need for A3 to continue to provide quarterly reports to the PSC on its activities within the UNSC,;
 - c) The need for the A3 to closely coordinate and to regularly brief the African Group in New York;
 - d) The need for the A3 to further strengthen relations with the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) group particularly those in the UNSC with the facilitation of the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN in New York, which is the lead institutional facilitator between the Members of the A3 and the PSC Secretariat/AUC PSD;
 - e) The need for the capitals of the A3 in New York to consult their Permanent Missions in New York before issuing instructions with a view to ensuring that African common positions of Africa and its interests are articulated and enhance coordination among the A3 in championing African common positions within the decision-making process of the Security Council.
- xv. Welcomed the announcement of the A3 intention to organize a UN Security Council meeting on child protection in February 2020, with a view of mobilizing necessary support for the implementation of AU and other international instruments on the child protection, and called upon all AU Member States and partners to extend their support, in this regard.
- xvi. Also underlined the need for taking stock of the achievements made by the High Level Seminars to date and the challenges to be addressed. In this regard, they requested

the PSC Secretariat to submit a matrix on the status of progress in the implementation of the Conclusions of the high Level Seminars.

IV. Vote of thanks

17. Participants thanked the Government of the Gabonese Republic, under the leadership of H.E. President Ali Bongo ONDIMBA, as well as the people of Gabon, for the generous hospitality and the excellent conditions put in place to ensure the successful organization of the Seventh High Level Seminar. Participants further expressed their gratitude to the partners, particularly Norway and Switzerland, for their support towards the successful organization of the High Level Seminar.

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