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**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION**  
**Twenty-Second Ordinary Session**  
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**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**Assembly/AU/4(XXII)b**

**REPORT ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SPECIALIZED  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, SAFETY  
AND SECURITY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**



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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the decision adopted by the 21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Addis Ababa, from 26 to 27 May 2013, on the establishment of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC). The report provides an overview of the proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) held in Addis Ababa, on 14 January 2014, as well as the preparatory meetings of the Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Safety and Security Services and that of experts.

**II. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS AND 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF AND HEADS OF SAFETY AND SECURITY SERVICES**

2. As indicated above, the STCDSS meeting was preceded by a preparatory meeting of experts, from 10 to 11 January 2014. The meeting was attended by representatives of Member States, as well as those of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RMs). The meeting reviewed the report of the Panel of Independent Experts on the Assessment of the African Standby Force (ASF), including its Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC); the modalities for the operationalization of the ACIRC; and other related issues. The meeting adopted a report covering its deliberations and the recommendations agreed upon.

3. The meeting of Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Security and Safety Services took place on 12 January 2014. The meeting was officially opened by the Commissioner for Peace and Security. The meeting exchanged views on the report of the preparatory meeting of experts, and endorsed their recommendations in light of its own deliberations and observations. The meeting adopted conclusions relating to the ASF, including its RDC, the ACIRC, Amani Africa II Exercise and other relevant issues.

**III. MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE STCDSS**

4. As indicated above, the African Ministers of Defence, Safety and Security Services met on 14 January 2014. The Commissioner for Peace and Security officially opened the meeting, which provided an opportunity to take stock of the report of the Panel of Independent Experts, as well as the modalities for the operationalization of the ACIRC. The meeting also considered other relevant issues. It adopted the attached Declaration.

#### IV. OBSERVATIONS

5. In the Declaration adopted by the STCDSS, important recommendations have been made regarding the operationalization of ASF and the RDC, in light of the report of the Panel of independent of Experts, as well as that on the ACIRC. Notably, the Ministers stressed the need for harmonization of the ACIRC and RDC concepts to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure that ACIRC assist in expediting the operationalization process of the RDC. They also stressed that the ACIRC initiative should be captured as a phase in the implementation Roadmap and operationalization of the ASF, including its RDC. They requested the Commission, with the support of Member States, to establish working groups to finalize the implementation modalities of the ACIRC, building on the proposals already made. It is understood that all Member States and the RECs/RMs shall be invited to participate in these working groups. Furthermore, the Ministers agreed on the need for Member States, the Commission and the RECs/RMs to work towards the speedy implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Panel of Independent Experts, and requested the Commission to monitor the timeframes for the full operationalization of the ASF, including its RDC, by 2015. The STCDSS meeting also made other recommendations, including regarding the holding of the Amani Africa II Exercise and the funding of African-led peace support operations.

6. The Ministers have recommended to the Assembly of the Union to adopt the attached Declaration. On the basis of the Assembly decision on the matter, the Commission will take the necessary follow-up steps.

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**7<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SPECIALIZED  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, SAFETY  
AND SECURITY**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA  
14 JANUARY 2014**

**DECLARATION**

## DECLARATION

1. We, the members of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) of the African Union (AU) met at our 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14 January 2014, pursuant to the implementation of the Assembly Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.489(XX1)], in order to: (i) consider the Report on the Panel of Independent Experts on the Assessment of the African Standby Force (ASF), including its Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC); (ii) the modalities for the operationalization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC); and (iii) and other related issues.

2. Our meeting was held as a follow-up to the Declaration adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the STCDSS, held in Addis Ababa on 30 April 2013, and the Decision on the Establishment of ACIRC adopted by the 21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 May 2013. It was preceded by the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Safety and Security, on 12 January 2014, and a Meeting of Experts, from 10 to 11 January 2014.

3. Mindful of the urgency and imperative of enhancing African capacity to deal with the peace and security challenges confronting the continent, in order to promote African solutions to African challenges and enhance the continent's leadership and ownership, and on the basis of our deliberations, we:

- (i) welcome the Report of the Panel of Independent Experts established by the Commission and commend the members of the Panel for the work done and their dedication in the discharge of their mission;
- (ii) further welcome the efforts made by the Commission to develop modalities for the operationalization of the ACIRC, in pursuance of the decision adopted by the Assembly on this matter; and
- (iii) endorse the Conclusions of the meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff.

4. In light of the above, we agree on the need for the Member States, the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) / Regional Mechanisms (RMs) to work towards the speedy implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Panel of Independent Experts with respect to:

- mandating and decision-making;
- Planning Elements (PLANELMS);
- pledged capabilities; and
- mission support.

5. Furthermore, and on the basis of the conclusions of the Chiefs of Defence Staff, we:

- (i) reiterate the operationalization of the ASF as the main mechanism and renewed commitment by Member States and RECs/RMs to meet their obligations as provided for in the relevant AU decisions and the recommendations of the Panel of Independent Experts;

- (ii) request the Commission to monitor the timeframes for the full operationalization of the ASF, including its RDC, by 2015;
- (iii) reiterate support for the early establishment of the Continental Logistics Base (CLB) and, in this respect, stress the need for the development of Regional Logistics Depots, as a way of expediting the operationalization of the CLB, and request the Commission to submit an exhaustive report on the status of the establishment of the CLB.

6. We request the Commission to submit regular reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Panel of Independent Experts, as reviewed by the meeting of Experts and the African Chiefs of Defence Staff, to facilitate assessment of progress towards full operational capability.

7. Regarding the ACIRC, and bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Conclusions of the Chiefs of Defence Staff, we approve the following:

- (i) harmonization of the ACIRC and RDC concepts, to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure that the ACIRC assists in expediting the operationalization process of the RDC;
- (ii) the ACIRC initiative should be captured as a phase in the implementation Roadmap and operationalization of the ASF, including its RDC;
- (iii) reiterate the need for ACIRC's expeditious operationalization as a transitional arrangement pending the full operationalization of the ASF and its RDC;
- (iv) stress the need to ensure harmonization and synergy between the ACIRC and RDC concepts, with the ACIRC serving as a tool in accelerating the full operationalization of the RDC;
- (v) request the Commission, with support from Member States, to establish working groups to finalize the implementation modalities of the ACIRC, building on the proposals already made. It is understood that all Member States and the RECs/RMs shall be invited to participate in these working groups. We also request the Commission to develop guidelines to facilitate the efficient functioning of these working groups;
- (vi) welcome the additional pledges made by Member States to contribute to ACIRC and encourage those Member States that have not pledged to join the process; and
- (vii) agree to convene an extraordinary meeting of the STCDSS no later than April 2014, in order to consider and adopt the modalities for the operationalization of the ACIRC, as finalized by the working groups, for submission to the Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union scheduled to take place in July 2014. This meeting of the STCDSS will also review the implementation status of the recommendations of the

Panel of Independent Experts, as well as relevant issues pertaining to the Exercise Amani Africa II.

8. We welcome and support the implementation of the recommendations made regarding the:

- (i) holding of Exercise Amani Africa II, including using this Exercise to test the readiness of the ASF and its RDC;
- (ii) establishment of cooperative relations between the Commission and the African Defence Attachés or officers in charge of peace and security in Addis Ababa;
- (iii) offer by Algeria to host a Conference of Police Heads in Algiers;
- (iv) offer by Zambia to host a meeting of relevant civilian Member State Ministries in 2014; and
- (v) integration of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) into the Commission, as part of the efforts to enhance the effectiveness of African-led peace support operations.

9. We reiterate, once again, the need to address the issue of the funding of African-led Peace Support Operations. Furthermore, and in line with earlier AU decisions, we call on all Member States to make additional voluntary contributions to the AU Peace Fund. In this regard, we reiterate the implementation of the provisions of article 21 paragraph 5 of the PSC Protocol.

10. We further reiterate the role of the STCDSS as per Decision 227 of the Assembly, in line with the provision of article 15 of the Constitutive Act of the AU.

11. We recommend to the Assembly of the Union at its 22<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session, scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, on 30 and 31 January 2014, to adopt the present Declaration.

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# Report on the 7th Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security of the African Union

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