

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

P.O. Box: 3243, Addis-Abeba, Ethiopia, Tel.:(251-11) 551 38 22 Fax: (251-11) 551 93 21

Email: situationroom@africa-union.org, oau-ews@ethionet.et

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

98TH MEETING

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**CONTRIBUTION OF THE AFRICAN UNION TO THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED
BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL IN PURSUANCE OF UNITED
NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT OF 28
MARCH 2007 ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND
REGIONAL ORGANZATIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE AFRICAN UNION, IN THE
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

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I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. The following principles should inform the proposals on how best to enhance the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union (AU):

- primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in the maintenance of international peace and security;
- role of regional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations;
- the cooperation between the United Nations and the regional arrangements in matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security as an integral part of collective security as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations;
- the comparative advantage of regional organizations, which are better positioned to understand the root causes of conflicts in their respective regions and to contribute effectively to the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in their regions;
- the provisions of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) Protocol relating to the cooperation with the UNSC and recognizing that, where necessary, recourse will be made to the United Nations to provide the necessary financial, logistical and military support for the AU's activities in the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa, in keeping with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

II. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

2. In order to develop a stronger and more structured relationship between the UN and the AU in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa, there is need to:

- support effectively the efforts made in the continent to operationalize the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as provided for by the PSC Protocol, and strengthen the institutional, logistical and operational capacity of the various components of the APSA;
- ensure continued and regular exchange of information and views on issues of common concern;

- coordinate mediation efforts in African disputes and conflicts;
 - encourage close consultations between the AU PSC and the UNSC during the preparation of decisions on issues affecting peace and security in Africa;
 - develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive strategy for the structural prevention of conflicts, as well as for peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa;
 - exchange and share experiences, best practices and lessons learnt;
 - enhance the resource base of the AU and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, to enable them to fulfill their mandate in the maintenance of peace and security.
3. In order to achieve the above, the following is recommended:

UNSC – AU PSC

- convene joint meetings between the AU PSC and the UNSC, at least once a year, alternatively in Addis Ababa and New York;
- ensure close consultation between the chairs of the AU PSC and the UNSC on issues affecting peace and security in Africa, particularly in the preparation of meetings where such issues will be discussed;
- hold *ad hoc* meetings between the AU PSC and the UNSC when the need arises;
- develop close collaboration between subsidiary bodies of the AU PSC and the UNSC, including periodic meetings on issues of common concern;

AU – UN cooperation in peace-building in and post-conflict reconstruction and development

- develop close collaboration between the United Nations Peace Building Commission (UNPBC) and the AU Multidimensional Standing Committee (AU MSC) established by Decision EX.CL/Dec.302 (IX) on the AU Policy Framework on Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development;
- hold joint meetings between the UNPBC and the AU MSC on issues of common concern;
- participation of the AU Commission, on behalf of the AU PSC, in UNPBC meetings discussing African issues;

- provision by the UN of technical and financial support to the AU to facilitate the implementation of the AU Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.

AU Commission – UN Secretariat

- enhance the exchange of information and coordination on issues of common concern ;
- encourage desk-to-desk consultation;
- undertake joint missions and activities on issues of common concern;
- periodic meetings between the relevant Departments of the AU Commission and the UN Secretariat to review status of cooperation in the area of peace and security and identify activities to be undertaken;
- ensure the effective implementation of the UN 10-year capacity-building programme and mobilize the required resources to his effect.

III. FUNDING OF AU-LED PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

4. In view of the primary responsibility of the UNSC for the maintenance of international peace and security, and taking into account the fact that, in undertaking peace support operations, the AU is acting on behalf of the larger international community, in particular the UNSC, there is need to urgently put in place a mechanism to provide predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for AU-led peace support operations.

5. In this respect, recalling the provisions of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and the recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change for the rules of United Nations peacekeeping budget to be amended to give the United Nations the option, on a case-by-case basis, to finance regional operations authorized by the Security Council with assessed contributions, the following is proposed:

- support by the UN to the request by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government for the funding of peace support operations undertaken by the AU or under its authority and with the consent of the UNSC through UN assessed contributions;
- appointment by the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission, of a high-level panel to look into the issue and make recommendations on how to put it into effect. Such a panel would make proposals on the formal arrangements to be put in place between the AU PSC and the UNSC regarding the deployment and management of AU-led peace support operations funded through UN assessed contributions, as well as on the modalities of the proposed funding;

- in the meantime, and building on the experience of the UN light and heavy support package for AMIS, provision by the UN of similar support to all AU-led peace support operations undertaken with the consent of the UNSC.

2007

Contribution of the African Union to the Report to be Submitted by the United Nations Secretary-General in pursuance of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidential Statement of 28 March 2007 on the Relationship Between the United Nations and Regional Organizations, in particular the African Union, in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security

African Union Commission

Peace and Security

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