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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
33rd MEETING
24 JUNE 2005
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm.(XXXIII) – (i)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 33RD MEETING OF
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC)**

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 33rd meeting held on 24 June 2005, adopted the following Decision on the follow-up on the Decision of the 23rd Meeting of the PSC on the Situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Relations between DRC and Rwanda:

Council,

1. **Welcomes** the efforts deployed by the Commission to ensure follow-up on Decision PSC/AHG/Comm.(XXIII) on the disarmament and neutralization of the ex-FAR/Interahamwé and other armed groups in Eastern DRC, adopted at its 23rd Meeting held in Libreville on 10 January 2005;
2. **Takes note** of the results of the Fact-Finding Mission dispatched by the Chairperson of the Commission to the DRC and Rwanda, and to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), in Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania), from 27 February to 8 March 2005, as well as the Conclusions of the Consultative Meeting on the Disarmament and Neutralization of the ex-FAR/Interahamwé and Other Armed Groups in Eastern DRC, and of the Meeting of Military Experts of Member States of the PSC Military Staff Committee (MSC) and the AU Committee on the DRC, held in Addis Ababa from 15 to 16 March 2005 and on 22 April 2005, respectively, as contained in the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Follow-up on the Decision of the 23rd Meeting of the PSC on the Situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and the Relations between the DRC and Rwanda [PSC/PR/2(XXXIII)];
3. **Expresses delight** at the current momentum in the region as evidenced by the return of confidence between the countries of the region thanks in particular to the progressive establishment of the joint mechanisms agreed upon between the various parties. Council **notes with satisfaction** the smooth functioning of the Joint Verification Teams (JVT) put in place within the framework of the Joint Verification Mechanism (JVM) agreed between the DRC and Rwanda in New York, on 22 September 2004, and **urges** that efforts be intensified towards the implementation of the recommendations of the JVT;
4. **Expresses satisfaction** at the adoption, on 30 March 2005, of resolution 1592 (2005) by the United Nations Security Council, especially paragraphs 5 and 7 thereof, relating to the disarmament of foreign combatants by the Armed Forces of the DRC, with the support of MONUC, and the execution by MONUC of its mandate under resolution 1565 (2004) of 1st October 2004 in the eastern part of the DRC, and **affirms** AU's readiness to work closely with MONUC in

defining its role in the region in support for efforts to further peace in Eastern DRC;

5. Notes with concern that, nearly three months after the publication of the Rome Declaration of 31 March 2005, by which the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), among other things, made a commitment to renounce the armed struggle, join in the process of the voluntary disarmament and return peacefully to Rwanda, no commencement of the implementation of their commitments has yet been observed on ground, despite the facilities put in place by MONUC toward this end, including the opening of several transit camps. Council **further notes with concern** the intensification of the armed attacks and other acts of violence against the population of the two Kivus, as well as against the Armed Forces of the DRC present in the region;

6. Requests to get the leaders of the FDLR to honour fully, unconditionally and without delay, the commitments contained in the Rome Declaration. Council **encourages** the Government of the DRC, the other countries of the region and the other members of the international community to do their utmost to get the FDLR to honour their commitments as entered into in the Rome Declaration, without delay and unconditionally;

7. Reiterates the AU's determination to contribute to the effective disarmament and neutralization of the ex-FAR/Interahamwé and other armed groups in Eastern DRC in conformity with Decision PSC/AHG/Comm.(XXIII). In this respect, Council **invites** Member States to indicate their readiness to contribute troops to the envisaged African Force;

8. Requests the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite preparations towards the early deployment in DRC of the African Force envisaged in decision, PSC/AHG/Comm.(XXIII). In this regard, Council **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to urgently dispatch to the DRC, and also to Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda, a reconnaissance mission, as recommended by the meeting of Military Experts of Member States of the PSC Military Staff Committee, as well as by the Meeting of the AU Committee on the DRC held in Addis Ababa on 22 April 2005, and which will include representatives of potential Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs);

9. Further requests the Chairperson of the Commission to undertake the necessary consultations with the United Nations, as well as other AU Partners, including the European Union, so as to keep them updated on the progress of the efforts invested to implement Decision PSC/AHG/Comm.(XXIII) and mobilize their logistical, financial and technical support towards the deployment of an African Force in the DRC;

10. Invites the Chairperson of the Commission, at the end of the reconnaissance mission, to submit to it a report on all aspects of the planned

deployment of an African Force, including the concept of operations and the logistical and financial aspects of such a Force;

11. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

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