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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Twenty-First Ordinary Session

9 – 13 July 2012

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

EX.CL/738(XXI)

Original: English

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION
ASSEMBLY/AU/DEC.351(XVI) ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN AFRICAN CENTER ON POST CONFLICT
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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ASSEMBLY/AU/DEC.351(XVI) ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN
CENTER ON POST CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report is submitted in pursuance of paragraph 8 of decision EX.CL/Dec.687(XX) on the establishment of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AU-PCRD Centre), adopted by the Executive Council, at its 20th Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, from 23 to 27 January 2012. Paragraph 8 requested the Commission to report on a regular basis on the implementation of the decision to the Executive Council.

II. BACKGROUND

2. Council will recall that, at its 16th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 30 to 31 January 2011, the Assembly of the Union adopted decision Assembly/AU/Dec.351(XVI) on the establishment of an AU PCRD Centre. In that decision, the Assembly, *inter alia*:

- (i) welcomed the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt to establish the AU-PCRD Centre; and
- (ii) requested the Commission, in collaboration with the Government of Egypt, to undertake a study on the objectives, structure, financial implications, and the location of the proposed Centre, and to report to the Assembly.

3. At the 20th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, and in fulfilment of the request contained in decision Assembly/AU/Dec.351(XVI), the Commission submitted a report on the establishment of the AU-PCRD Centre [Doc. EX.CL/711(XX)]. Apart from providing an update on the implementation of the AU-PCRD Policy, which was adopted in Banjul, in June 2006, the report focused on the modalities for the establishment of the proposed AU-PCRD Centre. More specifically, it addressed the following issues: objectives and role of the AU-PCRD Centre, structure, location, funding and budgetary issues.

4. The report concluded by stating that the establishment of the AU-PCRD Centre would go a long way in enhancing the capacity of the Commission to meet the challenges at hand and, accordingly, called on the Executive Council to endorse the recommendations contained therein. It was also indicated that the operationalization of the Centre would be done in a gradual manner, with funding provided through extra-budgetary resources for the first three years.

5. On its part, the Executive Council adopted decision EX.CL/Dec.687(XX), in which it, *inter alia*:

- took note of the report I submitted;
- noted, with appreciation, the contribution by the Arab Republic of Egypt to the conduct of the study;
- requested the Commission to submit to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), for consideration, proposals on the modalities for the funding of the Centre, structure and financial implications;
- welcomed favorably the offers by the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Uganda to host the Centre, and recommended to the two Member States to undertake consultations with a view to finding an amicable solution regarding the location of the Center and to report to the Executive Council as soon as possible; and
- stressed the need to generally reflect on the issue of equitable distribution of institutions and structures of the AU within the different regions of the continent.

III. KEY DEVELOPMENTS SINCE JANUARY 2012

6. During the period under review, the Commission held consultations with the Permanent Missions of Egypt and Uganda, in Addis Ababa, on the issue of the location of the Centre. The Commission seized the opportunity of these meetings to encourage the two countries to expedite their consultations with a view to finding an amicable solution to the issue, in line with paragraph 6 of decision EX.CL/Dec.687(XX). The Commission expressed its readiness to facilitate this process in whatever way would be deemed appropriate.

7. On 2nd May 2012, the Commission received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda in Addis Ababa, submitting a position paper spelling out comprehensively Uganda Government's proposal on the establishment of the AU-PCRD Centre. The document addressed the following issues:

- (i) observations on the objectives and structures of the AU-PCRD Centre, to which the Government of Uganda is in agreement. It however stresses that vocational training should also be a key component of the mandate of the Centre;
- (ii) justification of Uganda's bid to host the Centre – in this respect, the document notably highlights Uganda's commitment to the goals and values of the AU, the fact that it does not host any AU body or institution, its own experience of successfully coming through a conflict and the post-conflict

reconstruction and development efforts in northern Uganda, and the existence of the necessary infrastructure;

- (iii) proposed location of the Centre in Jinja, near the source of the River Nile, with a description of the facilities available and other complementary advantages, including the fact that the city already serves as a Conceptual Training Centre for Peace Support Operations and Post conflict Activities, houses the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces Lessons Learnt Centre and the Uganda Rapid Deployment Capability Centre (URDCC). It is also intended to host the National Early Warning Centre; and
- (iv) budget, including offer to provide office premises for the Centre, at least two meeting board rooms, free accommodation for one year for its international staff, and ICT facilities.

8. In the note verbale forwarding the position paper, the Permanent Mission invited the Commission to send a team to Uganda, to inspect the facilities offered by the Government. Subsequently, the Commission had a meeting with the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the AU, to exchange views on the various issues raised in the position paper. The Commission intends, in due course, to dispatch a team to Uganda, in response to the invitation extended to it.

9. On 21st June 2012, the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt sent a note verbale to the Commission regarding the follow-up to the relevant provisions of decision EX.CL/Dec.687(XX). In that note, Egypt, having recalled decision Assembly/AU/Dec.351(XVI), as well as the support and cooperation it extended to the Commission in undertaking the study requested by the Assembly:

- (i) stressed that, although the Uganda's offer to host the AU-PCRD Centre came at a very late stage, Egypt, in a spirit of cooperation and understanding, welcomed decision EX.CL/Dec.687(XX) to allow for more time for consultations that would make it possible to reach a consensus on the location of the Centre;
- (ii) reaffirmed its readiness to start immediately working with the Commission towards the effective establishment and operationalization of the AU-PCRD Centre, taking into account the pressing challenges facing several African countries emerging from conflicts, including helping in the mobilization of the necessary resources and providing premises in a separate historical building within the compound that houses the Cairo Regional Centre for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA) and the Egyptian Institute for Diplomatic Studies (IDS), in the heart of downtown Cairo; and
- (iii) stressed Egypt's advanced infrastructure, as well as its contribution in strengthening the continental peace and security architecture, including its

comprehensive conceptual knowledge of the AU-PCRD processes and the fact that it is one of the leading countries in peace support operations.

IV. OBSERVATIONS

10. I note with satisfaction the interest that the establishment of the AU-PCRD Centre is generating among Member States. This is a welcome development, as the challenges at hand in the area of post-conflict and peace building require the effective involvement of all Member States and the mobilization of all available resources. The Commission intends to make full use of the existing goodwill to further the implementation of the AU-PCRD Policy.

11. I encourage Egypt and Uganda to expedite their consultations, as indeed called for by the Executive Council, in order to reach an amicable solution on the issue of the location of the AU PCRD Centre. The Commission stands ready to assist in this respect, and explore with them options that could be considered. The early resolution of this issue will enable the Commission to proceed to the next phase in the process towards the establishment of the Centre, including finalizing the proposals requested by the Executive Council on specific aspects, speeding up the resource mobilization work and undertaking other related tasks.

12. As these consultations proceed, it is important to highlight, as indicated in my January report, that the AUC-PCRD is expected, in the discharge of its mandate, to work closely with existing research centers and other similar institutions in Africa, to make full use of existing resources and maximize its impact. This is all the more necessary as the proposed structure of the Centre is lean. With a core staff of 7 individuals, the AU-PCRD Centre effectiveness would greatly depend on the strength of the relationship it builds with relevant institutions across the continent.

13. In this light, it is possible to envision the establishment of satellite institutions, located in the different regions of the continent and linked to the Centre, wherever its headquarters is located. These satellite institutions, which would be part of the AU-PCRD Centre, could specialize on specific issues falling under the mandate of the Centre. The detailed modalities of the relationship could be further worked out. It is understood that countries hosting such satellite institutions would be requested to provide the necessary support for their takeoff, similar to the support pledged by Egypt and Uganda to the Centre. This of course would not preclude the mobilization of additional resources by the Commission.

14. I would like, once again, to emphasize that, with the progress made in addressing the conflict situations on the Continent, there is an urgent need to step up the post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building efforts. The establishment of the AU-PCRD Centre will go a long way in enhancing the capacity of the Commission to meet the challenges at hand.

2012

Progress report on the implementation of decision assembly/Au/Dec.351(XVI) on the establishment of an African center on post conflict reconstruction and development

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