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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
307TH MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
9 JANUARY 2012

PSC/PR/COMM.(CCCVII)

COMMUNIQUE

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 307th meeting, held on 9 January 2012, considered the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations on peace and security, and adopted the following decision:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the *Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Partnership between the African Union and the United Nations on Peace and Security: Towards Greater Strategic and Political Coherence* [PSC/PR/2.(CCCVII)]. Council **also takes note** of the statements made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kenya, the representatives of Algeria, Egypt and Mozambique, as well as by the representatives of the United Nations, the European Union, the United Kingdom and the United States;
2. **Commends** the Chairperson of the Commission for his comprehensive and forward-looking Report on the AU's strategic vision of the cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations on peace and security, issued pursuant to paragraph 31 of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.338 (XVI), adopted by the Assembly of the Union, at its 16th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, on 30 and 31st January 2011;
3. **Notes that** the UN Secretary-General has issued, on 29 December 2011, a report on United Nations-African Union cooperation on peace and security (S/2011/805), in which he provides an update on AU-UN cooperative efforts on peace and security and recommendations on ways to further strengthen the cooperation with the AU, building on his earlier report of 14 October 2010 (S/2010/514), in which he stressed that "the complex challenges of today's world require a revitalised and evolving interpretation of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter". Council **expresses its gratitude** to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his commitment to work closely with the AU and for his efforts to deepen earlier UN Secretariat initiatives to develop a complementary relationship between the UN and regional arrangements;
4. **Notes with appreciation** the sustained attention that the UN Security Council continues to devote to the promotion of peace and security in Africa, within the framework of its mandate under the UN Charter;
5. **Recalls** its previous communiqués and press statements on the partnership between the AU and the UN on peace and security, including its communiqué PSC/PR/Comm.(CLXXVIII) and press statement PSC/PR/BR.2(CCVII), adopted at its 178th and 206th meetings, held respectively on 13 March 2009 and 15 October 2009, in which it, among others: (i) welcomed the report of the African Union-United Nations Panel (Prodi Panel) established under Security Council resolution 1809 (2008) to consider the modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations (A/63/666- S/2008/813), (ii) stressed that regional arrangements, in particular the AU, have an important role to play in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, and (iii) emphasised that support by the UN to regional organisations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security is an integral part of collective security as provided for in the UN Charter;
6. **Welcomes** the progress made in the partnership between the AU and the UN on matters related to peace and security, within the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and Article 17 of the Protocol relating to the Peace and Security Council;

7. **Reiterates AU's gratitude** to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for having, in line with relevant AU decisions, used the opportunity of its successive memberships of the UN Security Council to further the objective of an enhanced partnership between the AU and the UN within the context of an innovative and forward-looking reading of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, and **commends** President Jacob Zuma for his personal commitment to this initiative as demonstrated by his decision to chair the forthcoming meeting of the UN Security Council on this theme, on 12 January 2012;

8. **Notes** the close cooperation that exists between the AU Commission and the UN Secretariat, including the consultations among senior officials, the establishment of the Joint Task Force (JTF), the holding of regular Desk-to-Desk meetings, the increased coordination on the ground between AU and UN representatives and the steps taken towards the implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU, as well as the institutionalisation of the yearly consultative meetings with the UN Security Council and the cooperation being developed with the UN Peace-building Commission (UNPBC);

9. **Emphasises** the need for innovative approaches to peacemaking and peacekeeping, in order to more effectively address the peace and security challenges facing the continent, such as the establishment of the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the authorization by the Security Council of a UN support package to the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the launching of joint mediation and other diplomatic efforts. Council **underlines** that these cooperative modalities and other innovative approaches provide a framework for future cooperation between the two organisations;

10. **Recognises** that, while Africa has made significant progress in its quest for lasting peace, security and stability, it continues, nonetheless, to be faced with serious challenges. In this regard, Council **emphasises, once again**, the need for renewed efforts by all concerned within the continent and the critical importance of African leadership and ownership, as well as the need for an enhanced support by the rest of the international community, in particular the United Nations, for the promotion of lasting peace and security;

11. **Reiterates** AU's strong conviction on the need for the AU and the UN, building on the progress already achieved and lessons learned, to develop a stronger partnership, based on an innovative strategic and forward-looking reading of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, in order to more effectively promote peace, security and stability in Africa, particularly in view of Africa's evolving security landscape and the complexity of the challenges at hand, the development by the AU and its Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of a comprehensive normative and institutional framework for dealing with peace and security issues, and their proximity and familiarity with the challenges facing their member States. In this respect, Council, while acknowledging the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, **stresses** that the following principles would provide the basis for a more effective strategic partnership between the AU and the UN in a manner that would further clarify the relationship between the two institutions:

- (i) support for African ownership of peace initiatives on the continent, as well as priority setting,
- (ii) flexible and innovative application of the principle of subsidiarity, which is at the heart of Chapter VIII of UN Charter, including consultations prior to decision-making, division of labour and sharing of responsibilities,

(iii) comparative advantage, taking into account the familiarity of AU and its Regional Mechanisms with conflict dynamics and their flexibility in dealing with security challenges, including their ability to rapidly deploy peace support operations to create conditions for the eventual deployment of UN peacekeeping operations, in line with the recommendations of the Prodi Panel Report;

12. **Emphasises** the urgent need for the AU and the UN, both at the level of their relevant decision-making organs and Secretariats, including within the framework of the forthcoming JTF meeting to be held on the margins of the forthcoming AU Summit, at the end of January 2012, to engage in earnest on a dialogue to elaborate the principles that would underpin their strategic relationship, to better harmonise their approaches and methods for dealing with peace and security issues on the continent;

13. **Reiterates its commitment**, including on the basis of the communiqués of the consultative meetings held between Council and the UN Security Council, to strengthen its cooperation with the latter, including through more structured and substantive yearly meetings, regular consultations before taking decisions on issues of common concern, enhanced interaction between the Chairperson of the AU Peace and Security Council and the President of the UN Security Council, joint field missions to enhance synergy in monitoring, assessment of results and response strategies;

14. **Recognizes** the important role that the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) can play in the enhancement of the partnership between the AU and the UN, particularly in view of the oversight functions of the UNGA on financial matters, and ECOSOC, whose mandate straddles the development and security spheres;

15. **Reiterates its commitment** to deepen its cooperation with the UN Peace-building Commission (UNPBC), and **looks forward** to further interaction with the UNPBC, bearing in mind the ongoing efforts by the AU to fully operationalize the AU Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), including the dispatching of assessment missions to countries emerging from conflicts and the planned launching of an African Solidarity Initiative to generate more significant support from within the continent, in a manner that complements international efforts;

16. **Underlines** the need for the UN Security Council to be more responsive to requests made by the AU regarding specific conflict and crisis situations in Africa;

17. **Encourages** the Commission and the UN Secretariat to pursue and intensify their efforts towards greater coordination and collaboration, in particular in dealing with specific conflict and crisis situations, addressing cross-cutting issues, such as security sector reform, demobilisation, disarmament and reinsertion, terrorism and transnational crimes, small arms and light weapons, impact of climate change on peace and security, post-conflict reconstruction and development, structural prevention of conflicts, as well as capacity building, within the framework of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme and the Roadmap for the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as adopted by the AU and the Regional Mechanisms following the APSA assessment study conducted from July to October 2010 with the support of the European Union;

18. **Reiterates its call** to the United Nations to address in a systematic manner the issue of the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of the funding of AU peace support operations undertaken with the consent of the Security Council, through the use of UN assessed

contributions, bearing in mind that, in undertaking peace support operations, the AU is contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security, in a manner consistent with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. In this respect, Council **stresses, once again**, that full endorsement and immediate implementation of the proposals contained in the Prodi Panel report would constitute a decisive first step in this regard;

19. **Reaffirms** the need to mobilise more significant resources from within the continent in support of the AU peace and security agenda. In this respect, Council **reiterates the call** made by the Extraordinary Summit of the Assembly of the Union held in Addis Ababa, on 26 May 2011, for all member States to make voluntary contributions to the AU Peace Fund, and **encourages** the Commission to pursue and intensify the efforts already initiated, within the framework of the *Make Peace Happen Campaign*, to mobilise additional resources through innovative partnerships with the civil society and the private sector, while more comprehensive solutions are being sought for within the framework of the AU Eminent Personalities Panel on Alternative Sources of Funding, under the leadership of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, established by decision Assembly/AU/DEC.364 (XVII) adopted by the Assembly of the Union, at its 17th Ordinary Session, held in Malabo, from 30 June to 1st July 2011;

20. **Encourages** the members of the Peace and Security Council to adequately staff and equip their Permanent Missions to the AU and the UN to enable them to shoulder the responsibilities which go with their membership, including the deepening of the partnership with the United Nations, as indeed provided for by the Protocol relating to the Peace and Security Council in article 5 (2h);

21. **Stresses** the need to strengthen the interface and coordination between the Peace and Security Council and the African members of the Security Council, to maximise the effectiveness and impact of the AU contribution in the UN Security Council. In this respect, Council **requests** the Commission to submit, by May 2012, proposals on ways and means to better coordinate African positions in the Security Council and ensure that they further reinforce the decisions taken by the Peace and Security Council and other relevant organs of the Union ;

22. **Further reiterates** the imperative to fast track the reform of the UN Security Council in order to bring to an end the historical prejudice on Africa with regard to Security Council membership, by ensuring the principle of parity and enable Africa to take its rightful role in this organ and enhance its efforts to address emerging security challenges;

23. **Looks forward** to the steps to be taken by the Commission to enhance the capacity of the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN, to enable it to play a more effective role in the AU-UN partnership and **requests** the Commission to submit further proposals to the relevant AU organs regarding the strengthening of the AU Mission to the UN ;

24. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to urgently forward the present communiqué to the UN Security Council and Secretary-General, ahead of Security Council meeting on the AU-UN partnership on peace and security, scheduled to take place in New York, on 12 January 2012, to follow up on all the aspects addressed therein and the recommendations contained in his Report, and to report every six months on progress made and challenges encountered. Council **further requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to brief it on the outcome of the New York meeting and to provide recommendations on the way forward ;

25. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

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