

AFRICAN UNION  
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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
370<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
24 APRIL 2013  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.(CCCLXX)

**COMMUNIQUÉ**

## COMMUNIQUÉ

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 370<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 24 April 2013, in an open debate format, adopted the following decision on the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the Rapid Deployment Capability:

### **Council,**

1. **Takes note** of the statement made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the status of operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the Rapid Deployment Capability, a component of the African Standby Force, the progress made, challenges encountered and the way forward, as well as of the statements made by Member States, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) and invited Partners, UN agencies, civil society organizations and other inter-governmental organizations;
2. **Welcomes** the holding of the open debate on the operationalization of APSA and the Rapid Deployment Capability as a means through which the Commission briefs Council, member States, partners and civil society organizations on the progress made so far, while identifying challenges that still need to be addressed;
3. **Stresses** the need for the full operationalization of APSA, so as to enable the AU respond in a timely manner to conflict and crises on the continent, as well as addressing the root causes of conflicts in a systematic and holistic manner, through the various tools developed within the framework of APSA including the Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy;
4. **Calls** for more stakeholder engagement including through the implementation of the Livingstone Formula and other relevant frameworks for PSC's engagement with the civil society organizations;
5. **Urges** AU member States to provide the necessary support, particularly funding and capabilities in terms of airlift and others, towards the full operationalization of the African Standby Force by 2015, including the Rapid Deployment Capability;
6. **Also Appeals** to AU Partners to continue providing support towards the full operationalization of APSA, and **urges** all member states and all stakeholders including the private sector to support the African Solidarity Initiative aimed at mobilizing resources in support of post-conflict countries;
7. **Notes** with appreciation the role played by the RECs and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) for conflict prevention, management and resolution in the promotion of peace and security on the continent in accordance with Article 16 of the PSC Protocol and the institutionalization of the AU-RECs/RMs relations through the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the AU

and the RECs and RMs in January 2008 in Addis Ababa, and **welcomes** the deployment of AU Liaison Officers to the RECs and the RECs/RMs Liaison Officers to the AU;

8. **Affirms** Africa's determination to own and lead its peace processes and to this end **urges** AU Member States to provide necessary support for operationalization of APSA, including greater political commitment and provision of requisite logistical support, as well as adequate, predictable and sustainable resources for the AU Peace Fund;

9. **Stresses** the link between APSA operationalization and optimization of full use of preventive tools in Africa and **acknowledges** that the operationalization of APSA will provide a robust preventive posture in the management and resolution of conflicts in Africa;

10. **Calls** for closer harmonization and coordination of the RECs/RMs activities in the area of peace and security with those of the AU, while **underscoring** the primary responsibility of the AU for the promotion of peace and security on the continent and the need for complementarity between the AU and RECs efforts in this respect;

11. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

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