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**ON REVITALISING AND OPERATIONALISING THE AFRICAN UNION
POLICY ON POST CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND
DEVELOPMENT: PRACTICAL POLICY OPTIONS AND ADAPTIVE
MEASURES FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS ROOT
CAUSES OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT CHALLENGES IN AFRICA,
*(Item proposed by the Arab Republic of Egypt)***

CONCEPT NOTE
ON THE PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM “ON REVITALIZING AND
OPERATIONALIZING THE AFRICAN UNION POLICY ON POST CONFLICT
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT: PRACTICAL POLICY OPTIONS AND
ADAPTIVE MEASURES FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS ROOT
CAUSES OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT CHALLENGES IN AFRICA”

CONTEXT:

1. Forced displacement remains one of the pressing challenges for Africa, where its repercussion have direct reflection on the continental peace sustainability.
2. While several initiatives to address Forced displacement were undertaken. Still the need exists to address its root causes, through comprehensive approach based on sustainable, practical and adaptive options and policy measures, particularly in zones emerging from conflict, where Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development policy framework provides a robust platform within prevention of relapse context to address such challenges.
3. As part of Egypt continuous commitment to peace-building and sustaining peace efforts in Africa, Egypt proposed the establishment if the AU Center for Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUC-PCRD) to complement and reinforce the African Peace and Security Architecture Capacity to Support African Countries affected by or emerging from conflict. The African Union’s Assembly’s Decisions (Assembly/AU/Dec.351(XVI) of January 2011) to establish the Center, and (Assembly/AU/Dec.710(XXXI) of July 2018) to accept Egypt’s Offer to host it constituted important steps to operationalize the AU policy on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AU PCRD) and to signal greater commitment and Ownership of Reconstruction and development efforts on the Continent.
4. A more prominent and proactive role by the AU will not only strengthen Africa’s ownership of post conflict reconstruction and development efforts on the continent, but also help in forging more strategic and balanced partnerships with key international and regional partners, who will benefit from African-led platform for ensuring coherence and complementarity when designing engagement strategies and implementing PCRD programs and projects in countries and sub-regions affected by or emerging from conflict on Africa.

SCOPE OF THE INITIATIVE:

5. Against this context and as part of its AU Chairmanship priorities, Egypt wishes to launch a broader initiative to update the pillars of the AU-PCRD framework policy in order to align it with the evolving international discourse on peace building and sustaining peace and to the actual needs of the countries emerging from conflicts in Africa, ensuring deeper ownership and command of APSA of these needs and the support to meet them, and

promoting greater coherence of peace – building and reconstruction engagement and efforts of the international, regional and sub-regional levels.

6. Piloting the initiative in specific contexts, will give it credibility and opportunity to show tangible and practical results on the ground in at least one of the most challenged sub-regions of the continent.

7. This initiative will help deepen substantive discussions in the AU and with the RECS/RMs in order to generate a common African on peace building and sustaining peace to be advanced in the relevant international fora, and to help Africa exercise leadership at the upcoming United Nations review of its peace building Architecture in 2020.

8. Addressing the root causes of Forced displacement, particularly in zones emerging from conflict lies at the core of the initiative. As for sustainable peace to be attained, resolving the plethora of forced displacement factors has to be integrated within the PCRD frame work to be applied in post conflict emergence phase.

9. While it has be noted that no sole approach can be applied and yield exact results at different zones emerging from conflict, careful study and lessons learned revealed the possibility to identify common factors whether among the driving factors led to the eruption of the conflict, or among the adaptive policy options with the PCRD frame work resulted in sustaining peace.

10. Thus why the initiative embraces an adaptive approach, to take into account the specificities of each case emerging from conflict, stressing the need to have a holistic adaptive policy measures and options, to be included with the PCRD framework, with an ultimate strategic objective: avoiding relapse in to conflict.

INITIAL PREPARATION AND CONSULTATIONS: SAHEL REGION AS PILOT:

11. In this context and given myriad challenges facing several regions of Africa, and the implications of which for peace and security throughout the entire continent and beyond, Egypt proposed that the AU policy and the nascent center must manifest such African ownership and strategic partnership in these regions, among which is the Sahel region. To this end and in preparation for assuming the chairmanship of the Africa Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in 2019, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Cairo International Center for conflict Resolution, Peace Keeping and Peace Building (CCCCPA) and the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for development (EAPD), organized on 15 and 16 October 2018 n Cairo workshop titled: “Operationalizing the African Union Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy in the Sahel: Charting the Way Forward.

12. The workshop reached conclusions that are not geographically restrictive to Region but could be also useful on other regions emerging from conflict. Among such conclusions are the following:

- a) The complex, multidimensional and regional nature of today's peace and security challenges in the Sahel further complicates the task of converting short-term stability into long term peace and development;
 - b) The real challenge ahead of Africa is to translate the broader international political and strategic commitment to the Sahel into tangible programs and projects that address the root causes of instability, with specific focus on marginalized border areas and on local needs in these areas;
 - c) International assistance to the Sahel should prioritize the development of pilot programs aimed at strengthening national and local institutions and capacities in critical security, socio economic development and governance sectors. This is a key approach to ensuring sustainability and viability of our collective investment in the region;
 - d) A "people – centered" approach to designing these pilot programs, inclusive of all communities and regions, should prioritize women and youth empowerment. This will ensure that partnership with the region has a transformative impact in the long run;
 - e) Humanitarian Assistance, while crucial for saving lives and address urgent needs, must not come at the expense of –or Substitute –institutional, structural and capacity development –oriented engagement with the countries of the region. Long-term sustainability requires priority investment in transformative capacity and governance areas;
 - f) Programmatic engagements and resources must be anchored in a long – term reconstruction and development strategy for the Sahel and other regions. It is therefore, imperative to mobilize and channel predictable and sustainable resources to the implementation of peace building programs in the region. The possibility for certain pilot peace building and long term reconstruction programs to access the AU peace Fund must be fully explored so as to deepen the African ownership of these programs.
13. The new AU center on PCRD, to be hosted in Cairo, Egypt, should act as a pillar around which partners support can be organized and extended.
14. The center will aim to:
- Conduct evidence-based, policy-oriented research.
 - Analyze root causes of conflict, emerging conflict drivers, risks of relapse, and/or opportunities to advance peace building;
 - Conduct strategic and needs assessments for programmatic purposes.
 - Develop sector-specific rosters of experts;

- Mobilize resources and enhance the resource mobilization capacity of the commission.
- Identify potential partners for trilateral programming and project implementation.
- Implement quick-impact projects (QIPs) with special focus on cross border challenges and regional aspects of peace building, with a potential for up scaling.
- Implement trainings and other capacity building activities for local, national and regional on PCRD and peace building programing and project management.
- Assist national, regional and continental actors in their efforts to develop and implement PCRD strategies and policies.

DRAFT DECISION
“ON REVITALIZING AND OPERATIONALIZING THE AFRICAN UNION POLICY ON POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (PCRD): PRACTICAL POLICY OPTIONS AND ADAPTIVE MEASURES FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS, INTER ALIA, ROOT CAUSES OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT CHALLENGES IN AFRICA”

The Assembly,

1. **COMMENDS** the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt to launch a process to revitalize and operationalize the AU policy on PCRD, while aligning it with the evolving international discourse on peace building and sustaining peace and the actual needs of countries emerging from conflict in Africa;
2. **ALSO COMMENDS** the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt to launch substantive discussions at the AU and with the RECs/RMs in order to formulate a common African position on peace building and sustaining peace, to be presented at the upcoming review process of the UN Peace Building Architecture in 2020;
3. **EXPRESSES its deep appreciation** for the workshop hosted by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Cairo on 15-16 October 2018 on “Operationalizing the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy in the Sahel: Charting the Way Forward”, and **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the said workshop;
4. **REQUESTS** the commission to work closely with the Arab Republic of Egypt in taking forward the aforementioned proposals, and to report on progress made in this regards to the 35th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Niamey, Niger on 27-28 June 2019;
5. **RECALLS** its Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.710 (XXXI)) of July 2018 on accepting the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the AUC-PCRD, and Requests the Commission to fast-track the functioning of the center in 2019 as a continental platform for strengthening the African ownership of PCRD activities;
6. **STRESSES** the need for practical policy options and adaptive measures to address, inter alia, the root causes resulting in the protracted challenges of forced displacement in Africa, with a view to reaching effective sustainable solutions;
7. **MANDATES** H.E. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt to champion the revitalization and operationalization of the African Union Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD).

2019-02-07

On revitalising and operationalising the African Union policy on post conflict reconstruction and development: practical policy options and adaptive measures for sustainable solutions to address root causes of forced displacement challenges in Africa, (Item proposed by the Arab Republic of Egypt)

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