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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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**DECLARATION OF THE 11TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC
ON DEFENSE, SAFETY AND SECURITY, 8-12 OCTOBER 2018,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

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**11th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SPECIALISED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE,
SAFETY AND SECURITY (STCDSS)**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
12 OCTOBER 2018**

DECLARATION

**DECLARATION OF THE 11th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SPECIALISED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY (STCDSS)**

ADDIS ABABA, 12 OCTOBER 2018

1. We, the members of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) of the African Union (AU) met at the 11th Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and considered the Conclusions of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Safety and Security (ACDS).
2. Our meeting was preceded by the 14th Meeting of the ACDS, held respectively from 11 to 12 October 2018, and a Meeting of Experts held from 8 to 11 October 2018.
3. On the basis of our deliberations, we declare as follows:
 - a. Adopt the draft amended Rules of Procedure for the STCDSS.
 - b. Call for consultations with the AU, RECs/RMs and Member States on the draft MoU on the Deployment and Employment of the ASF and submit the finalised MoU to the next meeting of the STCDSS. In this regard, the Commission should provide timelines for its completion to Member States by November 2018.
 - c. Direct the Commission to ensure that the Maputo Five Year Work Plan (2016-2020) focuses on the enhancement of the ASF.
 - d. Urge the PSC to expedite its efforts on the way forward on the harmonization of ACIRC within the ASF Framework. In respect of harmonization, the meeting took note of the advice provided by the AU Office of Legal Counsel, as attached to this Declaration (Annex A).
 - e. Direct the Commission to separate the issue of harmonization of ACIRC from that of cooperation with ad hoc coalitions, which should be a standalone issue.
 - f. Encourage Member States to consider the Draft African Union Border Governance Strategy and provide written submissions to the Commission within a maximum period of three months in order to allow the Commission to resubmit the document to the next meeting of the STCDSS.
 - g. Take note of the Declaration of the African Union Border Programme and the Measures for its Consolidation.
 - h. Urge the PSC and the Military Staff Committee (MSC), to visit the Continental Logistics Base (CLB) and provide strategic guidance on the use of the equipment, including possible utilization by current PSOs.
 - i. Direct the Commission to provide the PSC with regular updates on the CLB in respect of maintenance and storage of equipment, personnel and future plans.

- j. Urge Member States to provide additional support to the CLB with regard to storage facilities, maintenance of equipment and staffing.
 - k. Urge AU Member States to continue providing all kinds of support to AU PSOs.
 - l. Direct the Commission to circulate the draft Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSOs and the draft Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for PSOs to all Member States for their inputs within one month of this 11th STCDSS and subsequently submit the revised drafts to the PSC for their consideration and adoption.
4. Congratulate the Republic of Cameroon for its continued commitment to the operationalization of the CLB, and commend its offer to deploy two Officers, in response to the Note Verbale from the African Union Commission, requesting Member States to deploy staff to the CLB, at own cost.
 5. Commend the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Zimbabwe for seconding a staff officer each to the CLB, as well as the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Kenya for their offer on the same, at own cost.
 6. Commend the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for the offer to second an Officer, at own cost, to the AUC to support the processes for the establishment of the Continental Movement Coordination Centre (CMCC).
 7. Express gratitude to the Republic of Rwanda for its financial contribution of one million USD for the Joint Force of G5 Sahel.
 8. Express appreciation to the Commission for its continued support to the Joint Force of G5 Sahel.
 9. Urge Member States to consider providing additional capabilities for the ASF Rapid Deployment Capability.
 10. Emphasize the importance of women in AU PSOs, including ensuring greater participation and placement in leadership positions.
 11. Call on Member States to ensure that the Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSOs and the draft Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for PSOs, once adopted, become part of national legislation and training efforts.
 12. Request the Commission to avail working documents in a timely manner, in all AU working languages.
 13. Take note of the statement made by the representative of the Republic of The Gambia in welcoming the technical assistance provided by AU Member States and the Commission in support of Security Sector Reform and Transitional Justice in the country.

14. Commend the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Turkey for the equipment provided to the AU, particularly for the CLB and PSOs.
15. Encourage the Commission to continue to provide regular updates and reports on progress towards the implementation of our decisions in the next meetings of the STCDSS.
16. Express gratitude to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for her hospitality.
17. Further reiterate the role of the STCDSS as per Assembly/AU/Dec. 227 (XII) and in line with the provisions of Article 15 of the Constitutive Act of the AU (2000). In this regard, we hereby submit our Declaration to the Executive Council of the AU for onward transmission to the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, scheduled to take place from 10 to 11 February 2019.

ANNEX A

On the question as to whether the harmonization of activities ACIRC is 'with' or 'within' the Framework of African Standby Force (ASF):

1. The representative of Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC) made the following remarks:
 - Indicated that the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in January 2018 (Assembly/AU/Dec.679 (XXX)) in regard to harmonization of ACIRC to the Framework of the ASF used the term 'with'. However, in July 2018, the Assembly decision (Assembly/AU /Dec.695 (XXXI)) on the issue of ACIRC harmonization used the word 'within'.
 - On the basis of chronological order of the two decisions, OLC construed that the Policy Organ had made an implicit modification to its older decision and used the term 'within' instead of 'with'. In a similar vein, the OLC drew the attention of the Experts that the PSC who is mandated to receive regular briefings on the harmonization ACIRC used the term 'within' in its latest Communique adopted at its 795th meeting held on 20 September 2018.
 - In view of the above, the OLC advised that the latest decision of the Assembly adopted in July 2018 shall have precedence over the older decision of January 2018 on the matter of harmonisation of ACIRC. Thus, the harmonization of activities of ACIRC shall be within the Framework of ASF as stipulated under latest Assembly decision.

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