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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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DRAFT
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

PREAMBLE

The Executive Council,

Having regard to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and in particular Articles 14, 15 and 16,

Having regard to Decisions Assembly/Dec.227 (XII) and Assembly/Dec. 365 (XVII) on Specialized Technical Committees,

HAS ADOPTED THESE RULES OF PROCEDURE:

RULE 1 **Definition**

In these Rules:

“African Union” means the African Union established by the Constitutive Act;

“Assembly” means the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union;

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security;

“Commission” means the Commission of the African Union;

“Constitutive Act” means the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

“Executive Council” means the Executive Council of Ministers of the African Union;

“Member State” means a Member State of the African Union;

“STC Coordination Mechanism” means the Bureaus of all STCs of the African Union;

“STC” means a Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union;

“STCDSS” means the Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security;

“Vice-Chairpersons” unless specified otherwise, mean the Vice-Chairpersons of the STC on Defence, Safety and Security.

RULE 2 **Status**

The STCDSS is an Organ of the Union established in accordance with Article 5 (1) (g) of the Constitutive Act (2000). It shall be responsible to the Executive Council.

RULE 3

Composition

1. The STCDSS shall be composed of Ministers in charge of Defence, Safety and Security, Police and Home Affairs or authorities duly accredited by the Government of Member States.
2. The Ministerial session of the STCDSS shall be preceded and prepared by a meeting of Chiefs of Defence and Heads responsible for Safety and Security, Police, Home Affairs from Member States. The meeting of Chief of Defence and Heads shall be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by the relevant provisions of these Rules
3. The session of the Chiefs of Defence and Heads of Safety and Security shall be preceded and prepared by a meeting of Experts from Member States responsible for Defence, Safety and Security, Police and Home Affairs from Member States. The meeting of Experts shall be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by the relevant provisions of these Rules.

RULE 4

Designation of Delegates

Delegations of Member States to sessions of the STCDSS shall be duly designated and accredited representatives of Member States.

RULE 5

Powers and Functions

1. In addition to the functions provided for in Article 15 of the Constitutive Act of the Union,, the STCDSS shall, inter-alia direct:
 - a. the enhancement of the Continental Early Warning System;
 - b. the implementation of the Common African Defence and Security Policy;
 - c. the implementation of the African Union Policy on Post-Conflict Stabilisation;
 - d. the implementation of the AU Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform;
 - e. the continuous enhancement of the African Standby Force (ASF), Planning Elements, Civilian, Military and Police components including the ASF Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC);
 - f. the facilitation and coordination, through appropriate AU Policy Organs, the police, intelligence and other security institutions of AU Member States, in

the fight against transnational crime, illicit arms proliferation, cybercrime, and terrorism;

- g. implementation of the AU Border Programme (AUBP) in light of targets and goals set to be achieved as well as receive and consider reports from AU Commission, Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms (RMs), specialized Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and stakeholders thereof;
 - h. any other functions and tasks as may be assigned to it by the Executive Council or the Assembly.
2. The STCDSS may set up sub-committees and Ad-hoc working groups, as it deems necessary and shall determine their mandate, composition and functioning.

RULE 6 Venue

1. The Ordinary Sessions of the STCDSS shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union, unless a member state offers to host any such session.
2. In the event that the session of STCDSS is held outside the Headquarters of the Union, , the host Member State shall be responsible for all extra expenses incurred by the Commission as a result of the meeting being held outside the Headquarters.
3. In conformity with Rule 5 (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, Member States offering to host sessions of the STCDSS shall not be under sanctions and shall be required to meet pre-determined criteria, including adequate logistical facilities and a conducive political atmosphere.
4. Where two (2) or more Member States offer to host a session, the STCDSS shall decide on the venue by simple majority.
5. Where a Member State that had offered to host a session of the STCDSS is unable to do so, the session shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union, unless a new offer is received and accepted by Member States.

RULE 7 Convening of Sessions

1. The Commission shall be responsible for convening and servicing all the meetings of the STCDSS.

RULE 8 Quorum

1. The quorum for a Ministerial session of the STC on Defence, Safety and Security shall be two-third majority of the Member States eligible to vote.
2. The quorum for meetings of Chiefs of Defence and Heads responsible for Safety and Security, Police, Home Affairs and for meetings of Experts, Sub-committees or ad hoc working groups of the STC on Defence, Safety and Security shall be a simple majority.

RULE 9 Ordinary Sessions

The STCDSS shall, as per Assembly/AU/Dec.365 (XVII) meet in ordinary session once every year.

RULE 10 Agenda of Ordinary Sessions

1. The STCDSS shall adopt its own Agenda at the opening of each session.
2. The Provisional Agenda of an Ordinary Session shall be drawn up by the Commission in consultation with the Bureau of the STCDSS and may include item(s) proposed by Member States. The Commission shall communicate the provisional agenda and the working documents to Member States at least thirty (30) days before the opening of the session.

RULE 11 Other Agenda Items

Any additional agenda item, which a Member State wishes to raise at a session of the STCDSS, shall only be considered under the agenda item "Any Other Business". Such agenda items shall be for information only and not subject to debate or decision.

RULE 12 Extraordinary Sessions

1. The STCDSS may meet in an extraordinary session, subject to availability of funds, at the request of:
 - a. the policy organs of the Union
 - b. the STCDSS
 - c. any Member State, upon the approval by a two-thirds majority of the Member States.
2. The extraordinary sessions shall be held in conformity with Rule 6 above.

RULE 13

Agenda of Extraordinary Sessions

1. The Commission shall communicate the Provisional Agenda and working documents of an extraordinary session to Member States at least fifteen (15) days before the opening of the session.
2. The Agenda of an extraordinary session shall comprise only the item(s) requiring the urgent attention of the STCDSS.

RULE 14 Open and Closed Sessions

All the sessions of the STCDSS shall be closed. The STCDSS may, however, decide by simple majority whether any of its sessions shall be open.

RULE 15 Working Languages

The working languages of the STCDSS shall be those of the Union.

RULE 16 Bureau

1. The Bureau of the STCDSS shall be the same as the Bureau of the Union for that particular year.
2. The period of the STCDSS Bureau shall be the same as that of the Bureau of the Union.
3. The STCDSS Bureau will meet at least once every year.

RULE 17 Duties of the Chairperson

1. The Chairperson shall:
 - a. Preside over all the proceedings of the Ordinary and Extraordinary sessions;
 - b. open and close the sessions;
 - c. submit for approval the records of the sessions;
 - d. guide the proceedings;
 - e. rule on points of order.
2. The Chairperson shall ensure order and decorum of the proceedings of the sessions.
3. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairpersons or Rapporteur in the order of their election shall act as the Chairperson.

4. The Chairperson or a duly appointed representative shall attend the sessions of the Executive Council and the session in the annual meeting of the STCs Coordination Mechanism.

RULE 18 **Attendance and Participation**

1. The STCDSS shall be attended by Member States subject to Articles 23 and 30 of the AU Constitutive Act (2000).
2. In accordance with Rule 4, the Ministers responsible for Defence, Safety and Security, Police and Home Affairs shall participate in person in the STCDSS sessions. In the event that they are not in a position to attend personally, duly accredited representatives shall represent them.
3. The Representatives of the Organs of the Union, RECs and RMs shall be invited to attend the sessions of the STCDSS.
4. The STCDSS may invite, as an Observer, any person or institution to attend its sessions. Such an Observer may be invited to make written or oral interventions but shall not be entitled to vote.

RULE 19 **Majority Required for Decisions**

1. The STCDSS shall take all its decisions by consensus or, failing which;
 - a. At the Ministerial level, by a two-thirds majority of the Member States eligible to vote;
 - b. At the Chiefs of Defence and Heads responsible for Safety and Security, Police, Home Affairs and experts' levels, by a simple majority of the Member States present and eligible to vote.
2. Decisions on questions of procedure shall be taken by a simple majority of Member States eligible to vote.
3. Decisions on whether or not a question is one of procedure shall also be determined by a simple majority of Member States eligible to vote.
4. Abstentions by Member States eligible to vote shall not prevent the adoption by the STCDSS of decisions by consensus.

RULE 20 **Amendment of Decisions**

1. *A proposed decision or an amendment (s) thereof may at any time, prior to it being submitted to a vote, be withdrawn by the initiator.*

2. Any other Member State may reintroduce the proposed decision or amendment that has been withdrawn.

RULE 21 **Point of Order**

1. During deliberations on any matter, a Member State may raise a point of order. The Chairperson, in accordance with these Rules, shall immediately decide on the point of order.
2. The Member State concerned may appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson. The ruling shall immediately be put to a vote and decided upon by simple majority.
3. In raising a point of order, the Member State concerned shall not speak on the substance of the issue under discussion.

RULE 22 **List of Speakers and Use of Floor**

1. The Chairperson shall, subject to Article 23 of the Constitutive Act, during the debate, grant the use of the floor in the order in which the speakers indicate their intention.
2. A delegation or other invitee shall not have the floor without the consent of the Chairperson.
3. The Chairperson may, during the debate:
 - a) read out the list of speakers and declare the list closed;
 - b) call to order any speaker whose statement deviates from the issue under discussion;
 - c) accord the right of reply to any delegation where in his/her opinion a statement made after the list is closed justifies the right of reply; and
 - d) limit the time allowed to each delegation irrespective of the issue under discussion, subject to sub Rule 4 of this Rule.
4. The Chairperson shall, on procedural questions, limit each intervention to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

RULE 23 **Closure of Debate**

When a matter has been sufficiently discussed, the Chairperson shall close the debate at his/her discretion.

RULE 24
Suspension or Adjournment of the Meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a Member State may move for the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted. The Chairperson shall immediately put such motion to a vote.

RULE 25
Order of Procedural Motions

1. Subject to Rule 21 (Point of Order) of these Rules of Procedure, the following motions shall have precedence in the order listed below, over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:
 - a) suspend the meeting;
 - b) adjourn the meeting;
 - c) adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
 - d) close the debate on the item under discussion.

RULE 26
Voting Rights

1. Each eligible Member State shall have one vote.
2. Member States, subject to sanctions under Article 23 of the Constitutive Act, (2000) shall not have the right to a vote.

RULE 27
Consensus and Vote on Decisions

After the debate has been closed, and there is no consensus, the Chairperson shall immediately put to a vote the proposal with all the amendments to a vote. The vote shall not be interrupted except on a point of order related to the manner in which the vote is being taken.

RULE 28
Vote on Amendments

1. When there is no consensus, the chairperson shall put all amendments to vote.
2. A proposal shall be considered as an amendment to a text if it adds or removes parts there from or modifies it.

RULE 29
Methods of Voting

Method of voting shall be determined by the STCDSS.

RULE 30
Decisions and Reporting

1. The Ministerial session of the STC shall take decisions on issues falling within its competence, except where there are attendant financial and structural implications in accordance with Decisions/ Assembly/AU/Dec.582(XXV) on streamlining of the AU Summit and its working methods.
2. Without prejudice to sub paragraph 1 of this rule, the Executive Council may, if necessary, consider decisions of the STC at the request of any member state.
3. The Commission shall submit STCDSS reports and recommendations arising from its deliberations to the Executive Council for consideration.

RULE 31
Implementation

The STCDSS may lay down guidelines and supplementary measures to give effect to these Rules.

RULE 32
Amendments

The STCDSS may propose amendments to these rules to the Executive Council for consideration.

RULE 33
Entry into Force

These Rules shall enter into force upon their approval by the Executive Council.

Adopted by the STCDSS Extraordinary Session, held on

Approved by Executive Council

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