

AFRICAN UNION

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UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Tel: +251-115-513 822 Fax: +251-115-519 321 Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

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**REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND
THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA**

REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa is submitted to the Assembly of the AU pursuant to Article 7(q) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the AU. The Report covers the period from the 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU, held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 1 to 2 July 2018 to the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10 to 11 February 2019.

2. The report covers the activities carried out by the PSC during the period under review and provides an overview of the state of peace and security on the Continent with respect to conflict and crisis situations, as presented in the respective geographic regional settings, as well as the status of the implementation of various key issues of continental scope within the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION

3. During the reporting period, the PSC has continued to pursue its efforts in addressing conflict and crisis situations, as well as thematic peace and security issues, in line with its mandate as stipulated in its Protocol. It also undertook field missions to some conflict areas in the Continent.

4. During the reporting period, the PSC has held 37 meetings on the following situations: Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur (Sudan), Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Madagascar, Mali/Sahel, Somalia and South Sudan. The PSC also considered the activities of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) for Sudan and South Sudan and the Horn of Africa; the ongoing withdrawal process of the African Union United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID); the implementation of the AU-led Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA); the harmonization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) within the Framework of the African Standby Force (ASF); the mandate of the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) fighting the Boko Haram terrorist group, the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin; and the Draft Policy on Conduct and Discipline for Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and A3 draft resolution on sustainable financing for African Peace Support Operations, as well as the Draft Policy for Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for PSOs. For the last two issues, the PSC dealt with them upon request from the meeting of the

Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security, held in Addis Ababa, on 12 October 2018.

5. The PSC also held meetings on thematic issues, namely Ending Child Marriage; Peace, Security, Prosperity and Embracing the Value of Democracy and Governance: Is the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance Adequate?; Africa's Security Priorities in line with Agenda 2063; Continental Framework for Conflict Prevention in Africa; "The Role of Women in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding at Community Level", in commemoration of the eighteenth anniversary of the adoption of United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; International and Regional Initiatives in the Sahel: Promoting Coordination and Ownership of African Peace, Security and Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development Efforts; Youth, Peace and Security in Africa; and Counter-Terrorism and Violent extremism in Africa. In all meetings where the PSC discussed thematic issues, communiques and press statements were adopted and disseminated. In addition, the PSC exchanged views with the UN Secretary-General on peace and security in Africa and received a briefing by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) on the review reports of various countries, under the APRM process.

6. During the period under review, the PSC held its 12th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting with the UN Security Council on 19 July 2018 in New York, preceded, on 18 July 2018, by the Joint Seminar between the PSC and the UN Security Council. During the meeting, the PSC and the UN Security Council exchanged views on conflict situations namely the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, as well as on thematic issues such as financing of African union-mandated and authorized peace support operations, the institutional reforms of the United Nations and the African Union: implications on their partnership and silencing the guns in Africa. On 23 October 2018, the PSC held its 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting with the EU Political and Security committee, in Brussels, preceded by the 4th Joint Seminar on 22 October 2018. The Joint Seminar provided the opportunity for an informal exchange of views on enhanced cooperation on aspects discussed in multilateral fora and sustainable financing of AU-led peace operations authorized by the United Nations (UN) and on cooperation on conflict prevention and mediation. The Annual Joint Consultative Meeting focused on progress made on resolving conflict/crisis situations and threats to peace and stability in the Mali/Sahel, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Somalia and Burundi.

7. On 4 September 2018, the PSC held its 793rd meeting, in an open session to commemorate the Africa Amnesty Month for the Surrender and Collection of Illegally Owned Weapons, pursuant to Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 645 (XXIX) adopted by the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union Amnesty month. The commemoration involved the participation of all AU Member States, partners and international organizations/institution. During the open session, the PSC and participants underscored that the observation of the African Amnesty Month significantly contribute to the goal of silencing the guns and build peaceful societies across the continent. They encouraged AU Member States to observe the African Amnesty Month,

not only at the higher levels of government, but to also ensure that the message is disseminated to the wider civil society stakeholders and the media across the continent.

8. During the reporting period, the PSC undertook three field missions. The first field mission was undertaken to Guinea Bissau from 27 to 28 July 2018 to gather first-hand information of the ground and to express support and solidarity to the people and Government of Guinea Bissau in the preparation of the legislative elections then scheduled to take place in November 2018. The PSC delegation appealed to all stakeholders to uphold the collective interest and wellbeing of the people of Guinea Bissau over all other considerations, and encouraged all stakeholders to resolve their political differences through mediation and reconciliation, in good faith, as well as with high sense of responsibility.

9. The second field mission was undertaken from 26 to 30 August 2018, to the Kingdom of Lesotho to assess the deployment of the SADC Preventative Mission in the Kingdom of Lesotho (SAPMIL) within the framework of ASF. During the visit, the PSC noted the successful rapid deployment of the SADC Standby Brigade and emphasized that the successful deployment of SAPMIL within the framework of ASF should be emulated by the other ASF regional standby arrangements.

10. The third field mission was undertaken to the Federal Republic of Somalia, from 27 to 28 November 2018. During this mission, the PSC visited Mogadishu and two areas of AMISOM deployment, namely, Baidoa in Sector 3 and Beledweyne in Sector 4. In both Sectors, the PSC Delegation also received comprehensive briefings by the representatives of AMISOM. In these two Sectors, the Delegation also had the opportunity to consult with the Acting State President of South West State and State President of Hirbeshebele State, as well as other senior representatives of the two Federal Member States visited, and other stakeholders, which included some of the candidates for the approaching regional presidential elections. In Somalia, the PSC noted the progress made towards consolidating the gains in stabilizing Somalia. The PSC also noted the continued political tension between the FGS and some of the Federal member States (FMS), particularly, in view of the fact that the situation had the potential to negatively impact on the hard-won political, security and socio-economic obtained so far in the country. The PSC stressed the urgent need for constructive engagement and genuine dialogue between the FGS and the FMS as the only viable approaches of addressing any differences that may occur, pending the adoption of a final federal constitution that will further clarify the relations between the FGS and the FMS.

11. During the period under review, the PSC, from 13 to 14 December 2018, held the Sixth High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa: Assisting Incoming African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) in Preparing to Address Peace and Security Issues on the Continent, in Nairobi, Kenya. The Seminar brought together the following countries: the 15 Members of the PSC, Ethiopia (outgoing A3 Member and Equatorial Guinea (sitting A3 Members), as well as South Africa (incoming A3 member). The High-Level Seminar provided an opportunity for participants to discuss and

exchange views on peace and security situation on the continent, as well as to have an overview on challenges facing the A3 with respect to discharging its Africa-given mandate in the UN Security Council, in order to achieve effective coordination and robust A3 action in the UN Security Council, in promoting African common positions on peace and security issues. The conclusions of the 6th High Level Seminar are attached to this report as annex 1, for Assembly endorsement.

12. The PSC convened its 11th Retreat, in Cairo, Egypt from 29 to 31 October 2018, dedicated to assessing the status of implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA), with a view to enhancing implementation of these two key instruments and laying a solid foundation for the reform of the PSC, as called for in Decision Assembly[Assembly/AU.Dec.635] adopted in January 2017.

13. As part of supporting the activities of the PSC, some of its Subsidiary Bodies / Sub-Committees established by the PSC under Article 8 (5) of its Protocol, namely the Committee of Experts (CoE) and the Military Staff committee (MSC) have continued to meet on different occasions to carry out their assignments, under the instruction of the PSC.

14. It should be noted that members of the PSC of the three-year term mandate, which were elected in January 2016 and took their seats on the Council on 1 April 2016, will expire on 31 March 2019 in line with the PSC practice. Accordingly, in line with the mandate devolved to it by the AU Assembly, the AU Executive Council will elect new PSC five members for the three-year term mandate during its 34th Ordinary Session taking place on 7 to 8 February 2019, in Addis Ababa.

III. STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

A. CONFLICT AND CRISIS SITUATIONS IN AFRICA

i) Northern Africa

15. The 31st Ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Nouakchott, Mauritania in July 2018 expressed deep concern over the persistent insecurity **in Libya** which continues to prolong the suffering of the Libyan people. It should be recalled that, the Assembly took note of the efforts being deployed at the regional, continental and international levels to find a lasting solution to the situation with a view to promoting national reconciliation and successfully completing the ongoing transition in Libya. The Assembly welcomed the organization of meetings on Libya by neighbouring countries, the Quartet, the United Nations (UN) and other partners. The Assembly further endorsed the Conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting of the neighbouring countries, held in Addis Ababa, on 17 April 2018 and welcomed the outcomes of the International Conference on Libya that was convened under the auspices of the United Nations, on 29 May 2018 in Paris. The Assembly also took note of the commitment of the Libyan leaders to the establishment of a constitutional basis, the adoption of electoral laws, the

organization of legislative and presidential elections, as well as to an all-inclusive Political Conference. The Assembly called for the organization of an inclusive Inter-Libyan National Reconciliation Forum, under the auspices of the UN and AU, in August 2018, with a view to establishing conducive conditions for the successful organization of credible and peaceful elections.

16. During the period under review, the AU has continued its efforts, in close coordination with Libyan stakeholders and international partners, aimed at finding a lasting solution to the conflict in Libya, and to this end, participated in a number of meetings and international forums organized to address the situation. The AU participated in the Palermo International Conference, the Libya neighbouring countries meeting held in Khartoum.

17. During the period under review, some members of the House of Representatives and the High State Council tried to come to agreement for restructuring the Presidency Council, but their efforts did not materialize. Efforts are underway to convince those who boycotted to re-join the Council. Meanwhile, Egypt has deployed efforts to unite the national army of Libya. The Libyan authorities are also exerting efforts, in close coordination with UNSMIL, to implement the security arrangements for the greater Tripoli area. The Palermo conference endorsed the UN plan for holding the general elections in the spring of 2019 and supported the convening of the national conference in January 2019. According to the UN, preparations for the conference have commenced in most parts of the country. However, questions have been raised about the date, participation and possible outcomes of the conference. For his part, the Head of UNSMIL, Ghassan Salame confirmed that the elections will be held by the end of 2019.

18. The security situation in Libya remained tense in most parts of the country, especially in the capital Tripoli where armed confrontations between rival militias led to loss of life and destruction of property in August and September 2018. This period also witnessed the resurgence of ISIS which carried out deadly attacks and claimed responsibility for the two major attacks that targeted the National oil corporation in September and the ministry of foreign affairs in December 2018. In south Libya, extremist groups and criminal gangs operate freely in the area. The groups include Al-Qaeda and ISIS. They are involved in incidents of kidnapping, abductions and killings and they are also engaged in smuggling and trafficking. Their operations extend beyond the borders of Libya to neighboring countries and to the whole region.

19. Against this background, the Assembly may take note of the efforts exerted towards finding a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Libya, in line with the provisions of Skhirat Agreement signed by the Libyan parties in 2015, in Skhirat, Morocco, as the only political framework providing a way forward. The Assembly may wish to request the AU Commission to accelerate efforts to convene an international conference in Addis Ababa in 2019 under the auspices of the AU and UN to address the issue of reconciliation in Libya. The Assembly may also take note of the conclusions of the International conference held in Palermo, Sicily, which called for the convening of the

general conference, the holding the elections in the spring of 2019 on solid constitutional basis and election laws. The Assembly may further take note of the conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting of the neighbouring countries on Libya held in Khartoum on 29 November 2018. The Assembly may, once again, express the AU's commitment to continue working together with Libyan stake holders, neighbouring countries, regional and international organizations to find a permanent political solution to the conflict and bring lasting peace and stability to the country. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to commend the efforts of the Libyan National Army for restoration of security and stability in Libya.

ii) Indian Ocean

20. The situation in **Madagascar** is marked by the organisation of the presidential election on 7 November and 19 December 2018. The organisation of the presidential election was made possible, thanks to a number of measures of accompaniment taken by the AU to overcome many of the challenges it faced, including the decision of the Chairperson of the Commission to send to Madagascar, from 27 May to 4 June 2018, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa, from 5 to 11 September 2018, to try to avoid the outbreak of a new political crisis in the country and calling into question the electoral process. The good offices actions that the High Representative took with all the Malagasy stakeholders initiatives made it possible to bring closer the positions of the stakeholders in order to meet the conditions for a free and fair electoral process. It is important to note that the efforts of the AU High Representative also put the electoral process on track and made it irreversible.

21. Subsequently, the President of the Republic of Madagascar, Hery Martial Rajaonarimampianina, resigned on 7 September 2018, in accordance with the Malagasy Constitution. The President of the Senate, H.E Rivo Rakotovao, was appointed, the same day, by the High Constitutional Court, as the Acting President of the Republic of Madagascar. It was in this context that the Chairperson of the Commission sent to Madagascar, from 30 October to 9 November 2018, an African Union Election Observation Mission, led by Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, to observe the progress of the first round of the presidential election, on 7 November 2018. It is important to stress that the voting proceeded calmly, in serenity and transparency, as well as in a peaceful environment.

22. On 17 November 2018, the Chairperson of the Commission issued a Statement on the Electoral Process in Madagascar, in which he, among other things, took note of the publication, on 17 November 2018, by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), of the preliminary results of the first round of the presidential election in Madagascar, organised on 7 November 2018 and reaffirmed the commitment of the African Union to continue to support the Malagasy actors and people for the completion of the electoral process. On its part, the AU PSC, at its 809th meeting, held on 21 November 2018, considered the situation in Madagascar. It welcomed, among other things, the positive evolution of the situation in Madagascar, particularly the

successful organisation, on 7 November 2018, of the first round of the presidential election.

23. According to the official results of the first round of the presidential election announced on 28 November 2018 by the High Constitutional Court (HCC), the candidate Andry Nirina Rajoelina obtained 39.23% of the votes cast, followed by the candidate Marc Ravalomanana with 35.35% of the votes cast. The second round of the presidential election took place on 19 December 2018, for a run-off between the two candidates. On 8 January 2019, the HCC announced the final results of the second round and declared Mr. Rajoelina the winner of the ballot. Ravaolomana, who was the challenger, accepted the results of the ballot and congratulated Mr. Rajoelina. The Chairperson of the Commission issued a Statement on 8 January 2019 in which, among other things, he congratulated Mr Rajoelina on his election. The inauguration of the President-Elect took place on 19 January 2019. The Chairperson of the Commission, accompanied by the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa, attended the inauguration ceremony.

24. Within this framework, the Assembly may, inter alia, wish to congratulate the Malagasy people and stakeholders for the smooth conduct of the presidential election in a calm, orderly and peaceful manner and call upon the international community to support Madagascar in the organisation of the next elections, as well as for the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the country, with a view to promoting lasting peace and stability in Madagascar. The Assembly may wish to commend the AU Commission, in particular the High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Madagascar, Madam Hawa Ahmed Yousouf, for deploying relentless efforts in the search of peace and stability in Madagascar.

25. The situation in **The Comoros** remains characterised by the continuation of the stand-off between the Government and the opposition over the implementation of the constitutional and institutional reforms underway, initiated by the Government. It was within this context that the Chairperson of the Commission, at the request of the President of The Comoros, dispatched to Moroni, from 11 to 16 September 2018, the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, to promote dialogue between the Comorian stakeholders.

26. Thanks to the facilitation efforts of the High Representative, all the parties consulted accepted the dialogue, under the auspices of the AU. During his stay in The Comoros, three sessions of the Inter-Comorian Dialogue were held, under his facilitation. Other sessions took place after the departure of the High Representative. In the light of the Inter-Comorian Dialogue, the President of the Union of the Comoros met with the Leader of the Opposition, on 18 September 2018, to discuss the follow-up on the Dialogue. Before leaving the Comoros, the AU High Representative had the opportunity to discuss with President Azali and submit a letter and seven (7) proposals as measures to bridge the differences. He assured the High Representative that he was going to implement them.

27. However, little progress has been made in the implementation of the aforementioned measures. It was within this framework that the Comorian Opposition withdrew from the Dialogue on 2 October 2018, justifying its withdrawal by, among other things, the lack of sincerity and genuine willingness.

28. Furthermore, on 25 October 2018, the Governor of the Anjouan Island, Dr. Abdou Salami, organised a demonstration which was to take place for 3 consecutive days to, among other things, "protest, once more, against the Constitutional Referendum of 30 July and the dictatorial excesses of the regime in place". The demonstration degenerated into direct clashes between the government security forces and the demonstrators.

29. In a Statement issued on 16 October 2018, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, urged, inter alia, all the parties to exercise utmost restraint and to refrain from any action likely to worsen the current tension.

30. On 20 October 2018, the Comorian armed forces launched an attack on the armed groups opposed to President Azali, which had been occupying, since 15 October, the City Centre of Mutsamudu, the capital of Anjouan Island. The attack enabled them to retake this City.

31. On 21 October 2018, the Governor of the Anjouan Island surrendered to the Comorian Police Force and was placed under house arrest. Despite the persistence of a divergence of views between the Government and the opposition, President Azali issued a decree on 24 December 2018, for the elections of the President of the Union and the Governors of the Islands, scheduled for 24 March 2019 for the first round and 21 April 2019 for the second round. It should be noted that the Comoros National Electoral Commission published the list of candidates for the elections. It is also to be noted that on 17 January 2019, the Comorian opposition made a plea for securing and observing the upcoming presidential elections by the international community.

32. In view of the historic role played by the AU in The Comoros, particularly as the guarantor of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in The Comoros, signed in Fomboni, on 17 February 2001, the latter and more particularly its PSC, should redouble its efforts to seek ways and means to avoid the resurgence of conflict in The Comoros and the implosion of the Archipelago. The Assembly may, in particular, urge all parties to resume the Dialogue with the opposition with a view, inter alia, to agreeing on the modalities for the implementation of the constitutional and institutional reforms and the future elections and to call upon all the Comorian stakeholders to refrain from any action likely to heighten the current tension. The Assembly may also encourage the Chairperson of the Commission to initiate without delay in-depth consultations with the AU partners, particularly the UN, SADC, IOC, the League of Arab States and where appropriate other international partners, with a view to coordinating their actions in The Comoros to give the opportunity for the widest possible consensus before the elections.

iii) Horn of Africa

33. Since July 2018, **Somalia** has continued to demonstrate tangible progress. However, this progress has faced challenges due to the standoff between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States, and exacerbated by tensions emanating from the electoral process that took place in the South West State. Furthermore, on 8 September 2018, during the third meeting of the Council of Interstate Cooperation (CIC) in Kismayo, Federal Member States declared a suspension in relations with the Federal Government, citing political interference and a failure by the Federal Government to deliver on key agreements. This has resulted in a concerted effort by the Somali Upper House, Office of the President, and other stakeholders to attempt to mediate the political stalemate.

34. Similar efforts were deployed to diffuse tensions in South West State in order to carry out the delayed elections initially scheduled for November. During the height of the tensions that resulted in elections being delayed four times, on 13 December Somali authorities arrested Mukhtar Robow, a Presidential candidate in the state elections, accusing him of failure to fully comply with the terms of his amnesty with the Federal Government and threatening the security of Baidoa by deploying arms and militia.

35. Despite the ongoing political standoff, Somalia has focused on peacebuilding and state building priorities, particularly in the areas of federalism, constitutional review, preparation for universal elections, and promoting conflict resolution. As part of efforts aimed at deepening federalism, the Federal Government and Federal Member States have continued to work at a technical level. In December 2018, members of the Federalisation Negotiation Technical Committee (FNTC) met in Mogadishu together with the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs and Ministry of Finance to discuss fiscal federalism. While efforts to finalise the Constitutional review by the end of 2018 were not realised, on 1 October, Prime Hassan Khaire convened a high-level meeting on inclusive politics. During the meeting it was noted that there were ongoing collaborative efforts on the Constitutional review process at technical level. Progress towards ensuring universal elections scheduled for 2020/21 remains achievable. In November, the Ministry of Interior Federal Affairs and Reconciliation presented a draft electoral law to the Council of Ministers. Similar efforts have been made by the Federal Government to promote conflict resolution. In September, the Ministry of Interior Federal Affairs and Reconciliation held its first round of consultative meetings as part of developing the national reconciliation framework.

36. Beyond Somalia, the Federal Government's focus has been on strengthening its diplomatic ties within the Horn of Africa, particularly in the context of ongoing positive regional developments. Efforts at strengthening ties regionally have resulted in Somalia becoming part of the tripartite arrangement with Ethiopia and Eritrea. As part of the tripartite arrangement, Somalia will focus on building close political, economic, social, cultural and security ties to contribute in promoting regional peace and security.

37. Notwithstanding the ongoing progress, the security situation in Somalia remains a concern, with Al-Shabaab continuing to pose a threat to peace and security, together with the gradual ascendancy of the Islamic State. In Mogadishu, despite the ongoing violent rivalry between Al-Shabaab and the Islamic State, both groups have carried out targeted assassinations. In September, Al-Shabaab carried out a Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) attack against the premise of a District Commissioner in Howlwadaag, killing four people and targeted an Italian military convoy near the Ministry of Defence in Mogadishu in October. Furthermore, on 2 January 2019, and in a sign of a possible shift in tactics, Al-Shabaab launched a series of mortar attacks against the AMISOM camp in Mogadishu landing predominantly inside the UNSOM compound. Beyond Mogadishu, the security situation remains volatile with Al-Shabaab activity increasing through the use of improvised explosive devices targeting both AMISOM and Somali security forces. This has predominantly been against convoys in Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Gedo, Hiiran, and Bay regions.

38. Despite the volatile security situation across Somalia, transition planning continued to register positive developments. This included the transfer of security responsibilities of Mogadishu Stadium from AMISOM to Somali security forces in August 2018. In December 2018, preparations for AMISOM to handover the Military Academy began with the relocation of 157 Burundi soldiers to a new base in Jowhar where they will support the implementation of the transition plan under the HirShabelle initiative. While planning for the Mogadishu–Baidoa main supply route and the reoccupation of Leego experience delays due to the situation in South West, efforts to devolve transition planning and implementation in Lower Shabelle are currently ongoing. The AU Commission is currently in the process of implementing the drawdown of additional 1000 troops, by 28 February 2019, as per the UN Security Council resolution 2431 (2018) adopted on 30 July 2018.

39. Somalia's economic trajectory continued to make progress, particularly with the Federal Government's commitment to reforms. Progress in this area has resulted in Somalia being eligible for direct budgetary support and the launching of a World Bank development strategy. As part of the budgetary support, Somalia will receive €100 million from the European Union and access grants worth US\$80 million from the World Bank. In related efforts to boost the economy, the Federal Government awarded a fishing license to a consortium of Chinese companies in December. The contract is expected to earn Somalia up to US\$135 million annually.

40. In view of the developments highlighted above, the Assembly may wish to commend Somalia for the progress it has achieved in implementing the Transition Plan and further commend AMISOM for its critical role in the implementation of the Transition Plan and degrading the Al-Shabaab terrorist group, as well as other extremist groups in Somalia. The Assembly may wish to pay tribute to the AMISOM Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs), for their sacrifices in the service of peace, security, reconciliation and stability of Somalia and the continent of Africa. The Assembly may also wish to urge the FGS and the FMS to resolve the disagreements and finalise the outstanding aspects of the Constitution that will facilitate the implementation of the

National Security Architecture and the electoral processes for adoption by Parliament as part of the implementation of the Transition Plan.

41. The security situation in **Darfur** has continued to improve as UNAMID's reconfiguration on the basis of UN Security Council resolution 2429 continues apace. The processes of handing over closed sites to the Government of Sudan are ongoing. However, the sustainability of the peace in Darfur remains a major concern to major stakeholders, especially given the current political developments in Sudan. In September 2018, in New York, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, the international partners discussed the "Transition from Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding and Development in Darfur", and focused on how to sustain the peace gained in the past 16 years. Development in Darfur was identified as one of the key elements to sustaining the peace in the region. In addition, a pledging conference was proposed to raise funds for Darfur's development. As a way of actualizing this proposal, both the United Nations Country Team UNCT and UNAMID are proposing to partner with the African Union to organize a fund raiser as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Darfur Armed Movements, Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) of Jibril Ibrahim and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Mini Minawi (SLM-MM) and the Government of Sudan are discussing the issue of setting up a new independent implementation mechanism. The issue of an independent agency to implement any agreement with the Government has been the main sticking point in their negotiations, thus preventing the armed movements from signing a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. However, Sudan Liberation Army/Movement - Abdul Wahid's (SLA-AW) still remains out of this arrangement and in opposition to the peace process.

42. The situation in the Sudanese Two Areas of **South Kordofan** and **Blue Nile** remains unresolved. The humanitarian situation remains a grave concern as humanitarian actors have limited or no access to affected communities. Following the failure of the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) to reach an agreement in February 2018, when the African Union High Level Implementation Panel on Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP) convened the parties in Addis Ababa, there was a lull in the efforts to reconvene the parties and in the meantime the crisis within SPLM-N deepened. In September 2018, General Abdelaziz Al Hailu met and discussed with the AUHIP the best possible way to advance the peace process within the context of the 2016 Roadmap Agreement. Subsequently, the two factions of the SPLM-N also met with the AUHIP in Addis Ababa in November 2018 to further seek ways of ensuring progress on the peace process. The Abdelaziz faction insisted on the resolution of outstanding political issues ahead of other considerations which hindered discussions on the cessation of hostilities agreement and the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the SPLM-N controlled areas. In December 2018, the AUHIP met with the Government of Sudan and agreed on ways to best accommodate the interests of the SPLM-North in order to achieve progress. In January 2019, President Salva Kiir convened both factions of the SPLM-N, General Malik Agar and General Abdelaziz in an effort to reconcile them, since they split in 2018. The Assembly may wish to note, with appreciation, the unilateral declaration of cessation of hostilities

announced on 28 January 2019 by H.E. President Omar Hassan Al Bashir and encourage the parties to the conflict to undertake follow-up measures in this regard.

43. On Darfur, the Assembly may wish to commend both the Government of Sudan and UNAMID for their collaborative efforts in implementing the UN Security Council resolution 2429 on the drawdown. The Assembly may further wish to underscore the significance of sustaining the peace in Darfur through investment in sustainable development projects. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to encourage the Commission, together with the UNCT and UNAMID, to undertake initiatives that will ensure adequate funds are raised for Darfur's development. The Assembly may wish to encourage the UN to provide financial support to the UNCT for its peacebuilding, development and stability programmes in Darfur. On the Two Areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, the Assembly may wish to urge the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-N, with the support of the AUHIP, to find a lasting solution to the issue of the Two Areas and create conducive environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and further commend the continued engagement of the Government of Sudan on this matter.

44. Subsequent to the signing of the South Sudanese Khartoum Declaration of June 2018, **Sudan** and **South Sudan** entered into a new phase of friendly relations. Since then, the two countries have demonstrated commendable enthusiasm towards implementing the outstanding issues within their Cooperation Agreement of September of 2012, as manifested in the meetings of their Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM). In September 2018 an extraordinary JPSM meeting was convened by the AUHIP focusing on outstanding issues, especially meeting the benchmarks set by the UN Security Council. The United Nations Interim Force in Abyei (UNISFA) has played an important role in securing peace in the restive area of Abyei, whose final status remains unresolved. In October 2018, the ordinary session of the JPSM took place in Juba as scheduled, and the parties agreed to continue to meet on a regularly basis until all issues are fully resolved. It is important to note that this ordinary session took place without the participation of the AUHIP, which is a testimony of improved relationship between the two countries. However, other critical issues, especially the contested areas along the border remain unresolved and a threat to the security situation along the common borders of two countries.

45. The Assembly may wish to commend Presidents Omar Hassan Al Bashir and Salva Kiir Mayardit for their commitment to securing peace between their two States through Cooperation Agreement of 2012 and 2013. The Assembly may also wish to encourage the two countries to sustain the rapprochement to ensure that they are two viable states, living side by side in peace and harmony. The Assembly may further call on the two countries to address the outstanding issue of the final status of Abyei in order to further enhance their common border security. Assembly may wish to encourage the two countries to continue cooperating with the AUHIP to resolve the outstanding issues as outlined in the Cooperation Agreement relating to their common border, especially the issue of Abyei and other disputed areas between the two

countries, and to continue working together to implement the foresaid agreements signed between the two countries.

46. During the reporting period, the general situation in **South Sudan** has shown improvement, particularly in the security sector. On 20 June 2018, President Salva Kiir Mayardit had a face-to-face meeting with Dr. Reik Machar Teny. Subsequently, on 21 June 2018, the 32nd Extraordinary Summit of the IGAD Heads of State and Government, in Addis Ababa, mandated President Omar Al Bashir to convene succeeding sessions of the peace process in Khartoum. Following this decision, President Salva Kiir and Dr. Reik held follow up sessions in Khartoum between June 26 and 27, 2018, under the auspices of President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, together with the Republic of Uganda. The meeting led to the signing of the Khartoum Declaration on 27 June 2018, which, inter alia, agreed on: (a) complete cessation of hostilities by the SPLM/A-IG and SPLM-IO forces across the country in 72 hours; (b) a revised Bridging Proposal to be agreed by the parties following which a pre-transitional period of 120 days, and a transitional period of thirty six (36) months would commence toward national elections; and (c) the resumption of oil production and transportation activities between Sudan and South Sudan, with a joint protection of oil fields by the two, as needed. The meeting also discussed the rehabilitation of the South Sudanese economy through bilateral cooperation between South Sudan and Sudan. The representatives of the opposition groups also signed the Khartoum Declaration, thus giving hope for the restoration of peace.

47. Further consultations and negotiations continued in Khartoum and Kampala under the guidance of President Omar Hassan Al Bashir and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda on the outstanding issues in the Revised Bridging Proposal, focusing on the power sharing, as provided for in the 2015 Agreement. Subsequently, the parties initialed the power sharing agreement on 5 August 2018, which stated that Dr. Riek Machar would be reinstated as the First Vice President. Additionally, they agreed on four (4) positions for vice presidents to be divided amongst the opposition parties. They agreed on 35 cabinet ministers and 550 Members of Parliament. They also agreed to defer the resolution of the issue of the 32 States, to the Independent Boundary Commission (IBC) which would be appointed on the basis of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (A-RCRSS). It is to be recalled, with appreciation, the efforts undertaken by IGAD and C5 countries, as well as Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda amongst others, that contributed to a conducive environment for peace and security and led to the signing of the R-ARCSS.

48. On 12 September 2018, the South Sudanese parties signed the R-ARCSS. On 25 September 2018, President Salva Kiir constituted the National Pre-Transitional Committee [NPTC]. The NPTC, among other functions, is to produce a Roadmap, as well as oversee the implementation of the R-ARCSS during the eight (8) months pre-transition period. President Salva Kiir also issued an Order for the implementation of the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements as provided for in the R-ARCSS on 27 September 2018. In compliance with the Presidential Order, the Chief of

Defence Forces (CDF) released prisoners of war and detainees who were registered and handed them to the third parties. Recruitment into the SPLA was to be stopped and all SPLA-Government commanders were ordered to direct their forces to refrain from revenge attacks and retaliations. These actions helped to restore confidence and trust among other South Sudanese stakeholders of R-ARCSS.

49. In demonstrating their commitment, the opposition parties ratified the Revitalized-Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) without any reservations in September 2018 followed by the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) in October 2018. The board of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM) was also reconstituted on 27 September. Furthermore, according to Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), the TROIKA Countries (Norway, United Kingdom and United States), which had earlier expressed reservations over the R-ARCSS, confirmed full support for the Agreement. Meanwhile, in September 2018, H.E. Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana, stepped down as Chairperson Revitalized-Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (R-JMEC).

50. In furtherance of the peace process, the South Sudan National Constitution and Amendment Committee (NCAC) wrapped up its deliberations on a Constitutional Amendment Bill to incorporate the Revitalized Peace Agreement into the National Constitution in November 2018. Meanwhile, the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC) and the Technical Boundaries Commission (TBC), which are tasked to address the matter of the number and boundaries of States, have now been established. The AU C5 namely, Algeria, Chad, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa, visited South Sudan from 1 to 5 December 2018 and met various stakeholders in Juba. The AU C5 was informed that there was progress in the implementation process and the new agreement was to be translated and produced in large quantities for country-wide dissemination to ensure better appreciation of its contents. The AU C5 pledged Africa's support to the peace process and undertook to nominate members for the IBC. Subsequent to its visit, the Committee briefed the PSC on 25 January 2019, and underscored the need for concerted support to the implementation of the peace agreement in order to avert return to war. Furthermore, it should be noted that the members of the AU High Level ad Hoc Committee on South Sudan (AU C5) signed the Revitalized Agreement on 21 November 2018. The decision to sign was inspired by the determination to support the peace process in South Sudan.

51. On a related note, the Steering Committee of the National Dialogue process completed its consultations in all the states and the diaspora, except in the rebel-held areas in the States of Akobo and Pagak. The Committee is working on convening regional and national conferences during the first quarter of 2019. Five hundred (500) delegates, in each state, are expected to participate in the conferences to be held in Greater Upper Nile, Greater Bar Al Gazal and Greater Equatoria. The Committee has continued its efforts to reach out to the rebel-held areas in Akobo and Pagak ahead of the planned regional and national conferences. The Committee has underlined the need for AU support in order to have a successful National Dialogue.

52. From 7 to 9 October 2018, the UN and AU undertook a joint mission, co-led by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, H. E. Ambassador Smail Chergui and the Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, to South Sudan. The mission expressed solidarity with people of South Sudan and underscored the necessity to fully implement the Revitalized Agreement. On 10 October 2018 the joint AU/UN Team briefed the AUPSC and the UN Security Council during which they appealed for international support for the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

53. In October 2018, UNMISS reported that, even though clashes continued immediately following the signing of the R-ARCSS in violation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement [COHA] of December 2017, the security situation in the country improved significantly. While CTSAMVM reported fighting, and some violations of the COHA particularly in the Yei River State, and the restless States of Akobo, Pagak, Wau, and Unity, general insecurity, remained relatively low. Notwithstanding these improvements in the security situation, the humanitarian situation remained precarious during the review period.

54. The IGAD Joint Technical Assessment Team (JTA) presented a report on the general security situation in the Republic of South Sudan to the IGAD Chiefs of Defence on 22 October 2018. This report was produced and submitted in line with the decisions of the 33rd IGAD Extra-Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government, which called for full deployment of the Regional Protection Force (RPF), and a possible review of its mandate to allow Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Djibouti and Somalia to contribute forces with the view to enhancing protection and security of civilians during the implementation of the R-ARCSS. This undertaking was made within the context of implementing the UNSC resolutions 2304/16 and 2406/18, and with a view to securing the endorsement of the AU PSC and the UNSC for the full deployment of an expanded RPF.

55. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to commend the IGAD Heads of State and Government in securing the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic South Sudan. The Assembly may also wish to commend the South Sudanese stakeholders for leadership that they have demonstrated since the signing of the R-ARCSS and furthermore call on the opposition groups that have not signed the agreement, to sign it without any preconditions. The Assembly may wish encourage the South Sudanese parties to faithfully implement the R-ACRSS and commit resources to its implementation, and encourage the international community to provide both financial and political support to the peace process, especially the security arrangements implementation. The Assembly may wish to call on all non-signatories of the R-ACRSS to sign the Peace Agreement and abandon military engagements in order to give chance to peace process. The Assembly may wish to urgently call on the AU Member States, as well as the international community to support the AU Mission in South Sudan in order to ensure that the AU effectively supports the peace process. The Assembly may also wish to encourage the African Union High Level Ad Hoc Committee to sustain its support to the peace process, including through backing to the

Independent Boundary Commission (IBC). Assembly may wish to commend and thank H.E. Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana, for efficiently leading the JMEC since inception, and IGAD to appoint a substantive Chairperson of R-JMEC expeditiously. The Assembly may further wish to commend the continued work of the AU High Representative for South Sudan and call on the AU Commission to continue facilitating the discharge of his mandate.

56. During the 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held from 1 to 2 July 2018, in Nouakchott, Mauritania, the Assembly commended the Governments of the Federal Democratic Republic of **Ethiopia and Eritrea** for their positive engagement towards opening a new chapter of cooperation in the spirit of upholding good neighborliness and renormalization of relations. In line with the above spirit, Ethiopia and Eritrea took steps to renormalize their relations in July 2018, resulting among other things, in the two countries re-opening their borders, resuming cross-border air transport, restoring diplomatic relations at full ambassadorial levels, re-establishment of telephone communication and resumption of economic cooperation including a plan of development cooperation around Eritrea's Red Sea ports.

57. Following the normalization of relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Eritrea signed an agreement with Somalia in the same month to restore diplomatic relations, and with Djibouti in September 2018, paving the way for ending political tensions that had characterized Eritrea's relations with Djibouti since June 2008 over disputes on their common border along the Red Sea. The normalization of relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea has had positive ripple effects on cooperation between the various states in the Horn of Africa and enhanced the prospects of consolidating peace and stability and post-conflict reconstruction and development in the region.

58. On 22 November 2018, the PSC, at its 810th and 811th meetings held on 22 November 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, welcomed the sustained positive developments in the Horn of Africa marked by the improved diplomatic relations between and among the countries of the region, particularly between Ethiopia and Eritrea; Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia through the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation signed in Asmara on 5 September 2018, as well as between Djibouti and Eritrea through their bilateral engagement. The PSC commended the decision of the UN Security Council 2444 (2018) to lift the sanctions against Eritrea in response to these positive developments in the region. The PSC also reiterated its request to the AUHIP to intensify its engagement within the Horn of Africa, in pursuit of a holistic approach to the issues of peace, security, and development in the region. In order to sustain the momentum, the PSC called for the enhancement of the partnerships between the AU, IGAD, UN and inter-state organizations in the Arabian Peninsula, most notably, the League of Arab States (LAS) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

59. With regard to the relationship between **Djibouti and Eritrea**, it should be noted that in September 2018, Presidents H.E. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh of Djibouti and H.E. Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea held a historic meeting in Saudi Arabia, whereby both Presidents underlined the importance of continuing efforts towards the normalization of

relations between the countries. Furthermore, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution 2444 (2018) on 14 November 2018, and among others, urged Eritrea and Djibouti to engage on the issue of the Djiboutian combatants missing in action, including through the mediation of any relevant party of their own choosing, and further urged Eritrea to make available any further detailed information. Additionally, the UN Security Council urged the two parties to continue efforts to settle their border dispute peacefully in a manner consistent with international law by conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement, or by any other means of pacific dispute settlement identified in Article 33 of the Charter upon which they agree.

60. The Assembly may wish to commend the leaders in the region for the positive developments witnessed in the Horn of Africa as critical steps towards consolidation of peace and stability in the region. The Assembly may also wish to reiterate the AU's commitment to support the ongoing process between Ethiopia and Eritrea in order to fully implement the Algiers Agreement, working closely with the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundaries Commission; the Joint Declaration between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia; the Agreement between Eritrea and Djibouti, and encourage the AU member states to support the region's efforts to consolidate peace. The Assembly may also wish to commend Presidents H.E. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh of Djibouti and H.E. Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea for their efforts and commitments to normalize the relations between the two countries and appeal to them to continue efforts to settle their border dispute peacefully. The Assembly may also wish to encourage the PSC to continually engage on the changing dynamics in the Horn of Africa and underscore the need to intensify discussions at multilateral levels and convene the agreed upon Conference on Peace, Security, Stability Cooperation and Development in the Horn of Africa (CPHA) in order to promote a proactive relationship that ensures the sustainability and the durability of outcomes from implementation of the agreements.

61. It should be recalled that, in recognition of the scale and significance of the challenges in the Horn of Africa, the AU Commission convened a Strategic Consultation in Khartoum from 8 to 10 October 2017. Subsequently, on 22 November 2018 the PSC received briefings from the AU Commission and the AUHIP on the situation in the Horn Africa. The PSC underscored the need for continued engagement by Africa to ensure that an appropriate approach is given to the search for peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa. The Council further encouraged the AUHIP to continue with its plan to develop a strategy for engagement in the Horn of Africa, working with the AU commission and the IGAD region as well as with partners in the Middle East given the 'shared space' of the Red Sea Arena.

62. The Assembly may wish to commend the continued close collaboration between the AU Commission and the AUHIP to develop an all-encompassing strategy for AU engagement in the Horn of Africa and encourages the AU Commission, through the AUHIP, to work together with the IGAD region, as well as the partners in the Middle East given the 'shared space' of the Red Sea Arena. The Assembly may wish to urge the AUHIP to conduct further research and consultation to ensure that its proposals towards a comprehensive and inclusive approach of the complex dynamics in the Horn

are firmly grounded in credible analysis which will inform the exposition of a genuinely African perspective on the challenges of the Horn

iv) Great Lakes Region

63. During the period under consideration, the situation in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, was marked by the organisation of the elections of 30 December 2018, the control of the Ebola epidemic and the recurrent security challenges in the Provinces of North Kivu and Ituri. In its judgment of 3 September 2018, the Constitutional Court confirmed the 21 candidates for the presidential election, 15355 for the national legislative elections and 19640 for the provincial elections. Throughout the preparations for the elections, the introduction of the voting machine and other related issues severely divided the Congolese political and social actors.

64. It was in this context that Amb. Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security, together with Ms. Catherine Samba-Panza, former Head of State of the Transition in the Central African Republic and Co-Chairperson of FemWise, paid a visit to Kinshasa, from 8 to 10 November 2018, to consider the evolution of the electoral process, the larger situation and to hold consultations with the authorities of the country, particularly with the then President Joseph Kabila and the representatives of the opposition.

65. The mission of the Commissioner made it possible to address the issue of the use of the voting machine, the security of the various candidates in the presidential election and their access to the public media, the participation of women in the polls of 30 December 2018, as well as the determination of the Congolese authorities to finance the elections from the DRC resources.

66. The security and health situation in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu, and particularly in the Beni territory where the Ebola epidemic was prevailing, remained the greatest source of concern during the period under consideration. The repeated deadly attacks by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) thwarted the control of the Ebola epidemic by the Congolese health authorities, supported by medical teams from the Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC) of the African Union and the World Health Organisation (WHO). In addition to this security situation, the expulsion of several thousands of Congolese from the Angolan territory in October 2018 gave rise to another humanitarian front on the border between the two countries at the Kamako crossing point.

67. At its 808th meeting held on 19 November 2018, devoted to the situation in the DRC, the AU PSC took note of the outcome of the mission of the Commissioner for Peace and Security and of all the briefings about the situation in the DRC. Council thus congratulated the Congolese authorities on all the measures taken to take up the challenges related to the electoral process.

68. The Commission dispatched an election observer mission to the country to observe the proceedings of the three polls on 30 December 2018. The provisional results announced by the CENI, on 10 January 2019, declared Mr. Félix Antoine Tshilombo Tshisekedi the winner, with 38.57% of the votes cast ahead of Martin Fayulu, 34.83%, and Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary, 23.84%. On 20 January 2019, the Constitutional Court of the DRC, which had been seized of an electoral dispute, proclaimed the final results of the national presidential and legislative and provincial elections of 30 December 2018. It confirmed Felix Tshisekedi, as the winner of the presidential election and President of the DRC. On 24 January 2018, President-Elect Felix Tshisekedi, was sworn in as the President of the DRC. It should be noted that on 10 January, the Chairperson of the Commission issued a Statement in which he underscored, among others, the imperative to ensure that all issues are addressed peacefully, by resorting to national legal procedures of the country.

69. Following the consultations between the Chairperson of the Assembly of the Union, H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, the leaders of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), a High-Level Consultative Meeting was held in Addis Ababa, at AU Headquarters, on 17 January 2019. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Union and several Heads of State and Government or their representatives from SADC, ICGLR, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, EAC, African Members of the UN Security Council, the AU Troika and the Chairperson of the AU Commission participated in it. The initiative was part of the African-led efforts, in the spirit of continental solidarity, to assist the DRC political stakeholders and people to successfully conclude the electoral process and preserve peace and stability in their country. The High Level Consultative Meeting on the electoral process in the DRC was preceded by the meeting of the SADC Double Troika Summit, held on 17 January 2019, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the DRC.

70. The Assembly may wish to welcome the peaceful organisation of the elections under satisfactory conditions, encourage all the Congolese stakeholders to give priority to national interests and to work together to strengthen peace, security and stability, as well as to engage in the socio-economic development of their country. The Assembly may wish to congratulate H.E. Felix Tshisekedi for his election as President of the DRC and commend the DRC for a landmark peaceful power transition. The Assembly may also wish to appeal to the AU Member States and the international community to support the new authorities in the DRC with the emphasis on the continued respect for the sovereignty of the country. The Assembly may wish to reiterate its request to the EU to immediately lift the targeted sanctions imposed against some Congolese political actors.

71. The general situation in the **Central African Republic (CAR)** continues to be marked by clashes between armed groups, attacks on populations, peacekeepers, as well as humanitarian agents and property. Throughout the period under consideration, the AU continued to support the efforts of the Central African Republic authorities, in coordination with other bilateral and multilateral partners of the CAR, through the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic. The

Chairperson of the Commission visited Bangui on 18 September 2018 to reiterate the solidarity of the AU with the Government and the people of the Central African Republic, as well as its determination to continue providing the necessary support in their quest for peace and security, in cooperation with other international actors concerned, including the United Nations.

72. The numerous attacks during the period under consideration, including the one of 15 November 2018, against the displaced persons in Alindao, with an unconfirmed report of at least 60 deaths, created a stir in the Catholic community and a widespread condemnation in the country.

73. In the meantime, Ambassador Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security, led, from 8 to 10 January 2019, a Joint Mission with the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, as well as with Ministers representing the countries of the Region. Following consultations held with the highest authorities of the Central African Republic, including the President of the Republic, it was agreed to organise, under the auspices of the AU and with the support of the United Nations, a Direct Dialogue between the Central African Government and the armed groups in Khartoum, the Sudan, on 24 January 2019. The Dialogue, led by Commissioner Smail Chergui and in the presence of leaders of all the armed groups and the Government, concluded with the signing of an Agreement by the parties on 6 February 2019, in Bangui, CAR.

74. The Assembly may wish to welcome the outcome of the meeting of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR. It should also encourage the Commission, the countries of the Region and the partners to provide material and financial support for the Political Dialogue in Khartoum, as well as for the African Initiative. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to call upon all stakeholders to put the interest of their country above any other consideration and to commit to respecting and implementing the outcome of the Dialogue, with the understanding that this Dialogue represents a unique opportunity to restore peace, security and stability in the country. The Assembly may wish to recognize the efforts of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, and particularly the Kingdom of Morocco, as chair of the UN Configuration of the CAR, as part of its initiatives, including field missions, continues to steer the affairs of the CAR Configuration. The Assembly may also call on the AU Member States and the international community to support and strengthen the Central African Republic National Recovery and Peace Building.

75. The political situation in **Burundi**, since the 31st session of the African Union Summit, held on 1 and 2 July 2018, in Nouakchott, Mauritania, has continued to be a concern for the African Union, which pursued its efforts, in cooperation with the East African Community, to support the Burundian parties with a view to considering how to make the Dialogue a success after the persistent stalemate. In this regard, the Chairperson of the Commission urged all Burundian actors to display the spirit of compromise that the current situation demands. He stressed that the Inclusive Dialogue

remained the only way likely to enable Burundi to sustainably overcome the current challenges.

76. It is in this context that, from 5 to 7 November 2018, the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smaïl Chergui and H.E Catherine Samba Panza, former President of the Transition of the Central African Republic, visited Burundi to explore the best ways and means for the AU to assist Burundi in the preparations for the elections scheduled for 2020.

77. H.E President Yoweri Museveni, Mediator in the Burundian crisis, convened an EAC Summit in December 2018, to address the issue of Inclusive Dialogue. The Chairperson of the Commission was to participate in the meeting. However, the meeting did not finally take place due to the lack of a quorum.

78. The Assembly may wish to, again, express its appreciation to President Yoweri Museveni, in his capacity as the Mediator and to former President Benjamin Mkapa, Facilitator of the Inter-Burundian Dialogue, for their efforts. The Assembly may also wish to commend the patience and commitment with which they worked to assist the Burundian parties to find a consensual and lasting solution to the situation prevailing in their country and to agree on a Roadmap for the organisation of credible elections in 2020.

79. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to take note of the statement issued by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, on 2 December 2018, calling on "all the stakeholders concerned" to refrain from taking any measures, including "judicial" measures, that would complicate the search for a solution to the crisis. At the security level, it should be recalled that the situation remained stable on the overall, even if the media and political space is not yet sufficiently accorded.

80. At the humanitarian and socio-economic level, it should be noted that there has been a gradual return of refugees and internally displaced persons under the supervision of the authorities in the country, due to increase of relative stability, though the country continues to face humanitarian challenges compounded by economic recession, food insecurity and the malaria epidemic. On 12 September 2018, 1034 Burundians were voluntarily repatriated from the Nduta and Mtenderi camps in Tanzania crossing the Burundian-Tanzanian border of Gisuru in Ruyigi Province, with 298 families composed of 523 men and 511 women, all from the province of Ruyigi.

81. The Assembly may wish to congratulate the Government of Burundi on initiating the preparatory process for the elections, especially the establishment, on 31 August 2018 of an Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), according to the Burundian Electoral Code, and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of 13 members, according to the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, signed on 28 August 2000. In this regard, the Assembly may further wish to welcome the statement made by President Pierre Nkurunziza not to stand as candidate for the presidential election in 2020, while urging the Government and the political parties to work together

for the smooth conduct of the next elections. The Assembly may wish to reiterate its call to the European Union to the lifting for sanctions imposed by the European Union on Burundi, in order to create the opportunity for socio-economic recovery in the country.

v) West Africa and the Sahel

82. During the period under review, **Guinea Bissau** has been embroiled in a political and institutional crisis which led to a paralysis of the country's institutions and the normal functioning of the Government, including the People's National Assembly (*Assembleia Nacional Popular* (ANP). Guinea Bissau recorded positive developments with regard to the implementation of the October 2016 Conakry Agreement and the 2016 Bissau Roadmap. Efforts deployed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the P5 (AU, ECOWAS, CPLP, EU, UN), the international community at large and the national political stakeholders who were able to reach consensus in Lomé, Togo, during the 53rd Summit of the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, convened in July 2018. These efforts led to the appointment of a consensual Prime Minister, formation of an inclusive government, agreement on 18 November 2018 as the date for the legislative elections; the appointment of President of the National Electoral Commission (*Comissão Nacional de Eleições* (CNE), reopening of the ANP to function normally and the approval of the Government's plan and budget.

83. The PSC undertook a field mission to Guinea Bissau from 27 to 28 July 2018. The mission took place within the framework of implementation of various decisions of the PSC on the situation in Guinea Bissau, particularly the decision adopted at its 699th meeting held in Addis Ababa on 11 July 2017. The visit was undertaken as a fact-finding mission with a view to getting first-hand information on the ground. The PSC also used the opportunity to express support and solidarity with the people and Government of Guinea Bissau as they prepared for the legislative election then scheduled to take place on 18 November 2018.

84. The Chairperson of the Commission visited Guinea Bissau on 5 October 2018, as part of his tour of West Africa. During his visit, the Chairperson met with Government officials during which he stressed the need for all stakeholders to ensure that the parliamentary election of 18 November 2018 should be held under the required conditions of transparency, freedom and credibility, in order to strengthen the gains made in the country.

85. It should be noted that the legislative elections which were scheduled for 18 November 2018 did not hold due to the delay in the voter's registration process caused by logistical difficulties and political disputes over the registration process. The legislative elections had to be scheduled for March 2019.

86. The security situation in the country, particularly in the capital Bissau, remained peaceful during the period under review. The questionable neutrality of the security forces in the country's political crisis, the limited progress achieved in the security sector reform and the potential danger that the neglected and marginalized armed forces may

cause to the country's stability need to be addressed expeditiously. The ECOWAS at its 53rd Summit of the Heads of State and Government held on July 2018 in Lomé, Togo, renewed the mandate of ECOMIB from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018.

87. Despite the positive developments made during the period under review which resulted in the implementation of some of the key provisions of the 2016 Conakry Agreement, several challenges still need to be addressed in order to bring lasting peace and stability to Guinea Bissau. These include concerns over preparations for the legislative elections; the reform of the Constitution; reform of the defence and security sector; reconciliation, as well as economic and social recovery.

88. Given the above context, the Assembly may wish to support the on-going efforts in Guinea Bissau led by ECOWAS and the mediation process led by H.E. President Alpha Conde of the Republic of Guinea and assure all stakeholders of the AU's readiness and determination to continue supporting Bissau Guineans to overcome the challenges they are currently facing, while preparing for the legislative elections. The Assembly may wish to encourage the Government and parties in Guinea Bissau to develop and ensure the adoption of a Code of Conduct to ensure that the elections are underpinned by shared values and relevant instruments of the AU, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to commend all multilateral and bilateral partners for their support for the organization of the planned elections and call on all AU members States and the larger international community to continue extending the necessary logistical and financial support to Guinea Bissau in this crucial phase of its democratic construction. The Assembly may also wish to commend the important role being played by ECOMIB in stabilizing the country despite the operational and financial difficulties it faces, and emphasize the need for continuation of the financial support for the maintenance of ECOMIB operations, until the necessary capacitation of the national security forces is accomplished.

89. The political situation in **Mali** continues to be dominated by the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, emanating from the Algiers process. In this context, progress has been made in the implementation of the said Agreement, especially the approval, on 22 November 2018, by the Malian National Assembly of the Draft Organic Law which extended the term of the Members of the Assembly, by 6 months and which paved the way for the adoption of institutional and constitutional reforms recommended by the Agreement, the continuation of the DDR process, the pursuit of the electoral process, etc. It should be noted that presidential elections were held on 29 July and 12 August 2018, respectively. The incumbent President Boubacar Keita was subsequently re-elected with 67% of the vote.

90. However, there are still challenges to be addressed in this process, particularly the implementation of the new institutional and constitutional architecture of the country, which has been delayed by the postponement of the revision of the Constitution, the intensification of terrorist attacks and assassinations, the intercommunal violence between Fulanis and Dogons, as well as between Fulanis and Daoussaks, etc. Despite

the large number of casualties, there is as yet no notable initiative both in the centre and in the east to put an end to the intercommunal clashes. It is important to point out that the parties to the Agreement are continuing their consultations with a view to resolving the outstanding issues in the implementation of the Agreement.

91. With regard to the **Sahel Region**, this part of the African continent is witnessing a deterioration of the security situation, particularly in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. It should be noted that Burkina Faso, during the period under review, experienced an increase of insecurity following several attacks perpetrated by terrorist groups, which caused a lot of casualties.

92. It is within this framework that the AU contributes to the efforts to operationalize **the G5 Sahel Joint Force**. In this regard, progress has been made in this area, including the actual launch by the Joint Force, from November 2017 to July 2018, of several joint operations in cross-border areas to limit the freedom of action of terrorist groups. It should be noted that the Joint Force is slow in becoming fully operational, partly due to lack of sustainable funding, equipment and logistical support. For the resource mobilisation for the G5 Sahel countries and their Joint Force, a Coordinating Conference of Partners and Donors for the financing of the Priority Investment Programme (PIP) 2019-2021 of the G5 Sahel, was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 6 December 2018, at which the AU Member States participated, as well as the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smail Chergui, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission. The Conference pledged EUR 414 million to support the G5 Sahel Joint Force, established in 2017.

93. For its part, the AU Commission organised, on 10 September 2018, a meeting in Addis Ababa on the Review of the AU Strategy for the Sahel. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a Revised African Union Strategy for the Sahel Region. The AU continues to support politically, technically and materially the G5 Sahel Joint Force, contributes also to regional security as part of the Nouakchott Process, participates in the campaign to prevent radicalization and violent extremism in the Region, supports projects on decentralisation and Security Sector Reform Programme (SSR), participates in the coordination of the Sahel strategies within the framework of the Ministerial Coordination Platform (MCP).

94. Furthermore, within the framework of the strengthening of the Regional Mechanism for the security of the Sahel, the Commission organised the 5th meeting of the Nouakchott Process, at ministerial level, in Ouagadougou, from 26 to 27 November 2018. The participants agreed to adopt several measures to reactivate the Nouakchott Process, including the appointment of a rotating annual Chairman, the organisation of an annual ministerial meeting and the convening of a meeting of the Heads of Intelligence Services every 3 months under the auspices of the MISAHÉL.

95. Within this framework, the Assembly may wish to congratulate H.E. Boubacar Keita, for his election as President of the Republic of Mali; encourage the Malian parties to continue implementing the Agreement and to expedite this process; to faithfully

engage in dialogue and to seek the widest possible consensus around the institutional and constitutional reforms envisaged to avoid the resurgence of the conflict in Mali. The Assembly may further wish to strongly condemn the recent terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso and encourage the Commission to continue its efforts aimed at addressing the fragility of the security situation in the Sahel, in close collaboration with countries of the region and partners including through effectively addressing the root causes. The Assembly may wish to reiterate its appeal to the international community to support the G5 Sahel Joint Force, make good the pledges made in Nouakchott and congratulate the Commission on organising the ministerial meeting in Ouagadougou and to call for enhanced synergy of the efforts aimed at supporting security and development in Sahel through the Nouakchott Process and the Ministerial Coordination Platform (MCP), to appreciate the contributions of African States, in providing support to capacity building and confronting terrorist and extremist though in the Sahel region. The Assembly may wish to call for the scaling up of strategic support by the AU Member States and the AU Commission towards the full operationalization of the G5 Sahel force in order to effectively combat terrorism and violent extremism in the region.

IV. THEMATIC ISSUES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

i) Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy issues

96. Following the adoption of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.710(XXXI) adopted during the 31st Ordinary Session held in Nouakchott, Mauritania in July 2018 on the establishment of an **African Union Center for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development** to be hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Commission has taken several initiatives during the reporting period. The Commission, in consultation with the Arab Republic of Egypt, has finalized the Host Agreement, in accordance with the AU Rules and Regulations, and is in the process of developing and finalizing the mandate, structure and other aspects for the establishment of the Center. This process includes elaborating comprehensive financial and technical requirements for consideration by the relevant AU Policy Organs. The Centre is expected to further enhance the efforts of the Inter-departmental Task Force on PCRD in the Commission, which ensures that the various departments of the AU Commission coordinate their efforts on PCRD issues in Africa.

97. Following consultation processes within the framework of the **Inter-departmental Task Force on PCRD** which commenced in March 2018, three key policy documents; *Five-year Results-based Framework on PCRD*, *the Guidelines Note for the Implementation of the African Union Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy* and a *Policy Brief on African Union's Quick Impact Project implementation: Lessons learned from Somalia* were developed and launched on 20 November 2018 in Addis Ababa.

98. The Commission and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) met in Libreville, Gabon, from 23 to 25 October 2018, to discuss the draft

ECCAS Policy and Strategy on PCRD. The objective of the working session was to analyze the draft ECCAS PCRD Policy and Strategy. At the end of the discussions, the meeting adopted a series of recommendations aimed at re-launching the process of finalizing and adopting the documents in 2019. The finalization of these documents will contribute significantly to scaling up PCRD interventions in the ECCAS region thereby consolidation peace and forestalling relapse.

99. As may be recalled, the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) of August 2015 assigned the Commission a set of critical responsibilities. Among these are mobilization of resources and provide support to governance and security sector reforms, humanitarian assistance, transitional justice, reconciliation and healing. These tasks were reiterated in the September 2018 in the Revitalized ARCSS (R-ARCSS), which reaffirmed the AU'S role on key aspects of the agreement and the imperative for the Commission to support the implementation process.

100. In view of the foregoing, and in light of the recent commencement of the activities related to the Pre-Transitional period, the AU Inter-departmental Task Force on PCRD undertook a three-day consultative mission to Juba, South Sudan, from 7 to 9 November 2018. The key objective of the mission was to discuss and ascertain the areas of responsibility of the AU, as well as identify other priorities that the Commission could pursue towards the effective implementation of the R-ARCSS to restore sustainable peace and development in South Sudan. The mission also identified the capacities of the AU on the ground, particularly the strengths of the AU Mission in South Sudan (AUMISS), and areas of interventions by the AU that would contribute to enhancing the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement.

101. Pursuant to the request by the Government of **The Gambia** to the AU Peace and Security Council in March 2017, and as directed by the 695th meeting of the PSC held on 15 June 2017, the AU Commission deployed the first batch of a Ten-member African Union Technical Support Team to the Gambia (AUTSTG) at the end of September 2018. The batch comprised the Senior Defence Reform Advisor, Advisor on Policy Development – Plans, advisor on Policy Development, Advisor on Civil Military Cooperation, Advisor on Personnel Management and Administration, and Advisor on Operations and Training. Similarly, on 12 December 2018, the African Union Commission deployed two additional members of the AUTSTG, namely: Senior Rule of Law Expert; and the Human Rights Expert (Human Rights Commission). On both occasions, the members of the AUTSTG were received by the Vice President, HE Ousainou Darboe, on behalf of the Government.

102. The AUSTSG Military Advisors have been embedded in the Offices of the National Security Advisor (NSA), Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, and the Chief of Defence Staff of the Gambian Armed Forces (CDS-GAF) and are delivering effectively on their mandate. For instance, are supporting the Gambian Armed Forces (GAF) in developing Operations and Training programs. They have partnered with GAF to develop a robust Civil-Military Cooperation strategy to help the Gambia to rebrand its

army and restore public confidence in the Army as an institution of Rule of Law. Furthermore, they supported the National Security Advisor's multi-stakeholder team in finalizing the National Security Policy and organising a national workshop that validated the Policy in October 2018. After adoption of the National Security Plan, the Military Advisors, in partnership with other members of the International Advisors Group on SSR, will support the Office of the National Security Advisor in developing a National Security Strategy to define the country's strategic vision and c steps necessary for the operationalisation of the National Security Policy.

103. The deployment of the AUTSTG, has been warmly embraced by the Government. There are high expectations on the AUTSTG in supporting the Government to re-organize and professionalize its security sector institutions and operationalize the Human Rights Commission as well as the TRCC to be capable of meeting the security, justice, human rights and rule of law needs of the Gambian people.

104. In light of the above, the Assembly may wish to commend the Government of The Gambia for the progress made in consolidating democracy and good governance following the transition in January 2017. The Assembly may wish to encourage the Commission to continue its support to The Gambia through the AUTSG and other mechanisms.

105. During the period under review, the **Lake Chad Basin** has witnessed environmental changes which contributed to the conflict in the region, resulting in the expanding desertification causing the lake to recede by approximately 90 per cent. The disappearance of water a critical resource, which is the basis of survival for millions of people, has helped nurture the rise of Boko Haram in the area. Boko Haram uses the drying lake as a recruiting base, and deploys brutal tactics of abduction, sexual slavery, killing and looting to terrorize the population. It should be recalled that the 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Nouakchott, Mauritania from the 25 June to 2 July 2018, welcomed progress and gains registered by the MNJTF in the fight against the Boko Haram Terrorist group and commended the efforts of the AU Commission and the **Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)** in the development of a Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy to stabilize the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin.

106. To end the consequences of Boko Haram crisis and address its root causes, such as underdevelopment, poverty, and climate change, the Lake Chad Basin Countries (LCBC), in collaboration with the Commission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including other partners, convening a Ministerial Conference in Abuja on 30 August 2018, which adopted a regional strategy for the stabilization, recovery and resilience of areas in the Lake Chad Basin. The Ministerial Conference, which was in-line with the UN Security council resolution 2349, among other things, cemented the ongoing efforts by the region to ensure the revitalization of the Lake Chad through the inter-basin water transfer initiative.

107. In its part, the PSC, at its 816th meeting held on 5 December 2018, endorsed the Regional Strategy and urged the LCBC to significantly accelerate the implementation of the strategy noting that further delay would be detrimental to the gains achieved by the MNJTF in the region and renewed the mandate of the MNJTF for another period of twelve (12) months, effective from 31 January 2019. The PSC also urged the Commission to continue supporting the LCBC in the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy, by scaling up its strategic engagement with the LCBC to operationalize the Strategy implementation mechanisms and structures. Following its adoption, the LCBC with the support of the Commission, commenced the process of operationalizing the structures for the implementation of the Strategy. This includes the establishment of key institutions to provide strategic oversight and policy guidance to the implementation process.

108. During the reporting period, a strategic review of UNAMID co-led by the Commission and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and other UN entities was undertaken. Following the review, the PSC and subsequently, the UNSC decided to reconfigure UNAMID along two lines, namely, peacekeeping in central Darfur and stabilization/peacebuilding in north Darfur during the transitional period which ends in June 2020. At the request of the Government of Sudan, the Commission plans to undertake an assessment mission to Darfur with a view to identifying specific areas in which the AU and its Member States could support stabilization efforts in the region. The Assembly may wish to encourage Member States, the UN system and other bi-lateral and multilateral partners of Sudan to support reconstruction and stabilization of the Darfur region.

109. It should also be noted that, earlier in February 2018 Nigeria in collaboration with the LCBC and the United Nations Education and Socio-Cultural Organization (UNESCO), held an International Conference on “Saving the Lake Chad Basin”. The Conference, among other aspects in its declaration, called on the AU to endorse the Inter-Basin Water Transfer (IBWT) initiative as a pan-African project to rehabilitate the Lake as part of the efforts to boost peace, security in the region and to promote navigation, industrial and economic activities.

110. The Assembly may wish to commend the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Commission for their active role in efforts to operationalize the AU Centre for PCRD, and call for acceleration of work on the Host Agreement for the Centre. In this context, the Assembly may wish to commend Egypt for availing land and other facilities for the Centre. The Assembly may further wish to encourage Member States to provide the necessary resources, particularly funding, to support the full operationalization of the Centre. The Assembly may also encourage the ongoing consultations between ECCAS and the Commission for the process of finalizing the ECCAS Policy and Strategy on PCRD, and urge the Commission to ensure the finalization of these documents in a timely manner.

111. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to commend the Government of The Gambia for the progress made in consolidating democracy and good governance,

following the transition in January 2017. The Assembly may wish to encourage the Commission to continue its support to The Gambia through the AUTSG and other mechanisms.

112. With regard to the revitalization of the LCB, including the rehabilitation of the Lake Chad the Assembly may wish to welcome the outcome of the Ministerial Conference of the LCB Member States in collaboration with the AU Commission and the UNDP held on 30 August 2018, in Abuja, Nigeria, which validated and adopted the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the region, in-line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2349. The Assembly may wish to call upon the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to support the development of a clear roadmap and a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the Strategy. The Assembly may also wish to call on the newly established African Union Development Agency (AUDA/NEPAD) to play a leading role in the implementation of the Strategy by, among other things, contributing to the elaboration of the implementation and resource mobilization plan. The Assembly may further wish to reiterate its call on all AU Member States, RECs/RMs and the larger international community to extend the necessary assistance, financial and technical, to support the implementation of the strategy, including additional support for the MNJTF so as to consolidate on the security gains thus far made. The Assembly may further wish to commend the convening of an International Conference on Saving the Lake Chad by Nigeria in collaboration with LCBC and UNESCO, which drew attention to the multifaceted socio-economic crisis and increased insecurity caused by the shrinkage of the Lake over the last three decades, underscoring the need for concerted efforts to resuscitate the Lake, and endorse the outcome of the conference (Abuja Declaration), in particular the Inter-Basin Water Transfer (IBWT) Initiative as a pan-African project to restore the Lake Chad and to promote navigation, industrial and economic development.

ii) Early Warning and Conflict Prevention:

- Continental Early Warning System (CEWS)

113. During the period under review, the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) provided a Horizon Scanning Briefing and an update on the status of implementation of the Continental Structural Conflict Prevention Framework (CSCPF), to the PSC, in October 2018. As part of the implementation of the CSCPF Framework, the Commission supported the Republic of Ghana in the conduct of the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) and the Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy (CSVMS). The CSVRA and CSVMS report of the Republic of Ghana was launched in Accra Ghana, on 24 October 2018 and in the presence of H.E President Nana Akufo Addo and Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui.

114. In furtherance of the conflict prevention efforts, the Commission launched the “Youth for Peace” program as part of concerted efforts to implement Article 17 of the

African Youth Charter (2006), which urges the active engagement and collaboration with youth on peace and security. The PSC at its 807th meeting, held on 8 November 2018, held an open session on youth, on the theme: “Youth, Peace and Security” in commemoration of the Africa Youth Day, as a follow-up of the Consultative Meeting with Youth Organizations held from 4 to 6 November 2018 in Lagos, Nigeria. The PSC, among other things, urged the Commission to conduct a continent wide study on the role of youth in peace and security. Moreover, due to the increased number of pastoralist conflicts on the continent and its growing threats and linkages to other transnational organized crimes, the Commission organized a meeting on Farmer-Herders Conflict in Africa: Towards a Continental Conflict Transformation Mechanism from 18 to 19 September 2018 in Addis Ababa. This meeting was held with the objective of interrogating factors that instigate violent conflicts between farmers and herders and developing a sustainable policy alongside action-oriented strategies.

115. In addition, and in line with the Constitutive Act and Article 23 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, which acknowledges the incontrovertible link between human rights and conflict prevention, the Commission conducted a Bilateral Technical Desk Review with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights from 16 to 17 September 2018 in Addis Ababa with the objective of refining the existing human rights indicators in the Continental Early Warning System (AU-CEWS) and sharing information to strengthen the overall integration of a human rights-based approach to data.

116. The Assembly may wish to encourage Member States to fully take advantage of the structural conflict prevention tools developed by the Commission, including the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) and the Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy (CSVMS), and to enhance the capacities of youth to meaningfully participate in peace and security issues at the national, regional and continental levels.

- African Union Border Program (AUBP)

117. The African Union Border Program (AUBP) has continued to support Member States in their delimitation/demarcation exercises and in the promotion of cross border cooperation. During the reporting period, the AUBP has undertaken assessment missions in Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia, in order to determine the human and institutional capabilities of the Member States to delimit, demarcate, and reaffirm their common international boundaries. In addition, the Commission has facilitated meetings of the Joint Demarcation Committee of South Sudan and Sudan and the Joint Technical Committee of the Riparian States of Lake Tanganyika, and the Joint Demarcation Committee of South Sudan and Sudan. The purpose of the meetings were to assess the progress made and address any challenges in the delimitation/demarcation of their common boundaries. On cross-border cooperation, AUBP is pursuing advocacy efforts for the signing and ratification of the AU Convention on Cross Border Cooperation. In this regard, the Commission has supported the meeting on the establishment of local cross border committee between Malawi and

Tanzania. The Commission also organized the 4th AUBP-RECs/RMs Coordination Meeting in September 2018, in Arusha, Tanzania, following which the 2018-2022 AUBP-RECs/RMs Roadmap and the proposed Terms of Reference for the RECs/RMs Border Focal Points was adopted, and best practices on border management were shared.

118. The Assembly may wish to reiterate its call to Member States to sign, ratify and domesticate the AU Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention) and implement decisions of the Declaration on the African Union Border program and measures for its consolidation.

- Panel of the Wise (PoW)

119. During the reporting period, the PoW held two statutory meetings during which they reviewed their activities and expressed their concern over delays in granting access for consultations by some Member States to members of the PoW. They further expressed concern about the growing threats on the continent, including the increasing militarization of parts of the Continent by foreign entities. They also took note of the findings of the thematic study conducted on improving the mediation and resolution of natural resource-related conflicts across Africa; and took note of the activities of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa). The Commission organized the annual High Level Retreat of Mediators and Special Envoys, in Accra, Ghana, in October 2018, with the participation of the Commissioner for Peace and Security, members of the PoW, AU High Representatives and Special Envoys. During the Retreat, the Panel expressed its appreciation to H.E. former President Hifikepunye Lucas Pohamba for his leadership as the chair of the PoW for the year 2018 and elected Dr. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe as the new Chair of the Panel.

120. Moreover, as part of the implementation of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa) initiative, the Steering Committee of Fem-Wise) met twice during the reporting period to discuss key issues pertaining to the operationalization of the network. As of December 2018, there were 207 accredited members with strong regional representation from East and West, followed by Central Africa. It should be noted that 100 women, across the continent, were also trained on preventive diplomacy and mediation, in addition to two induction trainings held at the AU Headquarters. Moreover, FemWise-Africa co-chairs participated in missions to Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan, while others participated in other relevant areas, including on border related issues.

121. The 2nd General Assembly of FemWise-Africa was held in December 2018, focusing on the scourge of natural resource-based conflicts across Africa. In doing so, FemWise-Africa is reinforcing and driving further the most recent debate introduced by the African Union's Panel of the Wise on improving efforts at prevention and mediation of natural resource-related conflicts in the continent.

122. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to encourage Member States to assist and support the work of the Panel in its contribution to peace efforts within the Continent. Moreover, the Assembly may wish to encourage member states to enhance the capacities of women to participate in conflict prevention and mediation efforts at the national, regional and continental levels.

iii) Activities of the ASF:

123. During the period under review, the Commission has commenced, efforts to finalize the draft AU-RECs/RMs Memorandum of Understanding on the Employment of the African Standby Force as directed by the meeting of the AU Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security, (STCDSS) held on 12 October 2018, in Addis Ababa.

124. There is also continuing efforts in enhancing the operationalization of the ASF Continental Logistics Base (CLB). AU Member States continue to provide additional support to the CLB via seconding personnel at own costs. The Commission has also commenced a programme to conduct the Training of Trainers for the CLB. This is in areas related to asset management, equipment maintenance and others relevant to the operations of the CLB.

125. The African Union Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSOs and the African Union Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for PSOs were adopted by the PSC at its 813th meeting held on 29 November 2018. These two policies highlights the AU's commitment to ensuring that its PSO personnel implements the mandates in accordance with the highest standards of conduct and discipline, and respect for international humanitarian and human rights law. The Commission is continuing with efforts to finalize the draft African Union Peace Support Operations Doctrine. This is to ensure synergy in AU's response to management of conflicts.

126. Additional efforts are being undertaken by the Commission to finalize the African Standby Force Command, Control, Communication and Information Systems (ASF C3IS). It is envisaged that the contract between the AU and the service provider will be finalized in 2019 for the roll out of the system to commence.

127. Pursuant to AU Assembly Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.679(XXX), adopted at its 30th Ordinary Session 28 –29 January 2018 and Assembly/AU/Dec.695(XXXI) adopted at its 31st Ordinary Session 1-2 July 2018, on the harmonization of African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis (ACIRC) within the African Standby Force (ASF) Framework, the PSC held a series of working sessions on the ACIRC and the ASF. At its 795 meeting held on 20 September 2018, the PSC adopted communique PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCXCV), in which is, among other things, requested the Commission to expedite the process of harmonization of ACIRC within the ASF, in full compliance with the letter and spirit of Assembly Decisions 679 and 695. In this respect, the PSC stressed the imperative for the Commission to exclusively devote all available resources for the ASF activities with a view to expediting the harmonization process. In

this respect, the PSC reiterated the importance for the RECs/RMs to fully participate in this exercise, taking into account the successful deployment, within the Framework of ASF, in Lesotho (SAPMIL) by the SADC, in the Gambia (ECOMIG) and in Guinea Bissau (ECOMIB) by the ECOWAS. In this context, the Commission was further requested to ensure the active involvement of the RECs/RMs in the development of the legal framework to guide the employment of the ASF.

128. The Assembly may wish to commend the PSC for its continued efforts in the further enhancement of the ASF including the steps taken to facilitate the harmonization of ACIRC within the ASF Framework. The Assembly further commends the Commission for the efforts deployed to ensure that Continental Logistic Base is fully operational and that the ASF Regional Logistic Depots are launched. In this context, it is recommended that the Assembly requests the Commission to fast-track the implementation of the provisions of the PSC Communique [PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCCXXI)], including the matrix adopted at the 821th PSC Meeting on 9 January 2019 with regard to the harmonization of ACIRC within the ASF Framework. In this context, the Assembly may wish to request the commission to develop and submit to the PSC for its consideration, a comprehensive report on the harmonization process in January 2020.

iv) The AU Peace Fund

129. The revitalization of the Peace Fund is a key part of the AU's Financing the Union agenda and is intended to ensure predictable and sustainable financing of the AU's operational peace and security activities. The Peace Fund was established in 1993 as the principal financing instrument for the peace and security activities of the Organization for African Unity. Following the establishment of the African Union, the Peace Fund became one of the five pillars of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

130. Historically the AU's operational peace and security activities have been financed from the regular and programme budget. These activities have created a great deal of volatility in the AU's finances, this was the case in 2015 when the AU had to deploy two peace support operations in Mali and CAR and pre-financed these activities but never recouped the pledges from donors.

131. The Addis Ababa January 2015 Assembly/AU/Dec.561(XXIV) and Johannesburg June 2015 Assembly decisions on Financing Assembly/AU/Dec.578(XXV) directed that Member States would fund 25% of the peace and security activities. In July 2016, the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government decided to endow the Peace Fund with \$400m in Member State contributions and as part of the overall African Union budget. This \$400m endowment figure represents the cash value of the Assembly's 25% commitment. Following the Committee of Finance Minister's decision to designate 2017 as a transitional year, the full endowment level will be reached in 2021.

132. The AU Assembly, in its decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII), adopted at its 27th Ordinary Session of the Union in July 2016, decided to structure the Peace Fund around three thematic windows, namely:

- Window 1: Mediation and Preventive Diplomacy;
- Window 2: Institutional Capacity;
- Window 3: Peace Support Operations.

133. Member States were assessed \$65m in 2017 and \$65m in 2018 and will be assessed \$65m in 2019. Since 2017, the Fund has received **\$80.6m in Member State contributions**. This represents the highest level of Member State contributions since the establishment of the Fund in 1993. So far **48 Member States have contributed to the Peace Fund**, the payment of outstanding contributions for 2017 and 2018 from all the tiers is to bring the Peace Fund financing level to \$102.2m. More progress is expected, once the issue of the scale of assessment to be used for the Peace Fund is addressed by the AU Assembly at its 32nd Ordinary Session to be held in Addis Ababa on 10-11 February 2019.

134. Regarding Governance and Management Structures, the Board of Trustees held its inaugural meeting on 16 November 2018. Initial terms of reference for the remaining governance and management structures were presented to the Board during their inaugural meeting along with the zero draft Peace Fund Financial Rules and Regulations. The AU High Representative presented the same to the Permanent Representatives Committee on 20 November 2018. The revised terms of reference will be reviewed during the Board's next meeting in the margins of the February 2019 Summit and will also be presented to the F15 Ministers, who have the mandate to oversee the implementation of the Kigali Financing Decision, for their review on 6 February 2019. The revised documents will also be shared with the Permanent Representatives Committee.

135. As far as the Scale of Assessment is concerned, the 2016 Kigali decision determined that the \$400m endowment should be raised through equal contributions from the AU's five regions. This means that each region would have to raise \$80m. The decision did not, however, provide clarity on how this amount would be apportioned within regions. In the absence of guidance on this matter the Commission is applying the general scale of assessment to assess Member State contributions.

136. It should be noted that options for how to assess the Peace Fund were considered by the Joint Sitting of the Ministerial Committee on Contributions and the Committee of Finance Ministers Experts in November 2018 and in January 2019. The Ministerial level Joint Sitting held on 6 February 2019 reviewed the options and made recommendations on the scale of assessment to the Executive Council for its consideration to forge the way forward.

v) Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism

137. Pursuance of its Communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.(CDLV) adopted by the PSC at its 455th meeting held at the level of Heads of State and Government in Nairobi, Kenya, on 2 September 2014, the PSC has been actively seized with the matter and receiving regular briefings on counter-terrorism and violent extremism from the Commission and CISSA.

138. Terrorism continues to persist as a threat to state and human security on the Continent, undermining development. During the period under review, the Continent has witnessed a geographical increase of terrorism threats in the countries and regions affected. The Sahelo-Sahara, the Lake Chad Basin, the Horn of Africa and recently Central Africa are the most affected regions. The situations in these regions would require that the AU play a more central role in the planning and delivery of time bound responses in order to enhance resilience. This will contribute to stemming the looming spread of the threat to neighbouring countries and regions. This calls for a holistic approach integrating political, security and socio-economic development.

139. On the other hand, there is growing links between terrorism and transnational organized crime is a cause of concern. This calls for enhanced cooperation between the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) and the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) in order to identify the active alliances and dismantle them.

140. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to welcome the efforts made by the Member States to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism, through enhanced legislation, operational capability and coordination among relevant national structures and acknowledge the contribution of CISSA, in particular the provision of counter-terrorism early warning. The Assembly may wish to expresses concern that, despite the progress made in developing a comprehensive normative and operational counter-terrorism framework, serious gaps continue to exist in terms of implementation and follow-up, thus undermining the effectiveness of Africa's response to the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. Accordingly, the Assembly may wish to stress the urgency for an action-oriented approach to give concrete expression to the commitment made by the Member States to combat terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations and encourage Member States to develop comprehensive national counter-terrorism strategies covering prevention, response and reconstruction. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to reiterate its strong condemnation of all acts of terrorism committed on the continent by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes and further reiterate the AU's determination to rid Africa of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, which cannot be justified under any circumstances. The Assembly may wish to express the AU's full solidarity with the affected countries and the victims of terrorism.

vi) Women, Peace and Security

141. The Continental Results Framework for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda was validated on 29 March 2018 by Member States and Regional Economic Communities who adopted Action Plans on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. The Framework was subsequently adopted by the Peace and Security Council on 16 May 2018. During the reporting period and pursuant to the adoption, the Office of the Special Envoy conducted country visits to roll out the use of the Framework by Member States in monitoring deliveries on commitments spelt out in the action plans. Consultative missions were hence conducted in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Senegal and Uganda. At the regional level, the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security convened a consultative meeting with the East African Community (EAC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes region (ICGLR) on the use of the Framework. ICGLR has developed its Regional Action Plan on WPS and adopted the AU Continental Framework as its monitoring instrument. The period under report has also seen an increase in the number of countries that have adopted National Actions on WPS. There are presently 23 AU Member States that have National Action Plans for the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

142. A key undertaking of the African Union on Women, Peace and Security is to enhance the role and leadership of women in peace processes, at all levels. It is in this perspective that a joint AU-UN Solidarity Mission was conducted in South Sudan, Chad and Niger and stressed the role played by women in rebuilding communities and in particular, the importance of taking into consideration the nexus between peace, security and development efforts. Moreover, the PSC dedicated its 803rd meeting, held on 19 October 2018, to an Open Session on the theme: “The Role of Women in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding at Community Level”. During this session, Member States underlined the importance of harnessing and further strengthening women’s national platforms and regional networks on peace and security and stressed the importance of institutionalizing the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and the provision of necessary resources to enable the Office to discharge more effectively its mandate.

vii) Protection of children in situations of Conflict in Africa

143. During the reporting period, the number of armed conflicts in Africa has reduced significantly, thanks to AU and RECs/RMs efforts, with the support of partners. However, Africa remains the continent most affected by armed conflicts and disruptive crises. Thus, ensuring peace and security in Africa is at the heart of the AU’s vision to silence the guns in the continent. Increasingly, therefore, the AU is intensifying its role in the areas of conflict prevention, peace-making, peace support operations and intervention, peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction. In light of the growing number of peace support operations, the Commission has been a key entry point for mainstreaming child protection into the continental peace and security agenda of the AU.

144. On its part, the PSC, at its 789th meeting held on 14 August 2018, held an open session on the theme: “Ending Child Marriage in Africa”. During the session the PSC underscored the important role of legal frameworks in transforming norms and protecting the rights of children as a sign of the commitment of Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of ending Child Marriage by 2030. In this respect, the PSC encouraged Member States to enact national laws that set the minimum legal age of marriage at 18 for both girls and boys. The PSC also stressed the fact that promulgation of legislation alone is inadequate for ending child marriage, and urged Member States to endorse the Safe Schools Programme and implement its Declaration, as well as to the need to ensure compulsory education for all children, both boys and girls.

145. To meaningfully address the challenges of ineffective coordination, weak implementation of policies, and inadequate capacity with respect to protection of children in situations of armed conflicts, the Assembly may wish to endorse the decision of the PSC to request the Commission, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to explore ways to strengthen the existing AU and RECs/RMs mechanism on child protection, and on that basis develop a child protection architecture for the Continent as a sub-aspect of APSA, and submit to the PSC for its consideration. The outcome would serve as a convening platform to co-ordinate the existing AU initiatives in the realm of protecting children’s rights, thereby prompting an integrated continental response to the multi-dimensional challenges children in conflict situations face. In addition, the Assembly may wish to call upon RECs/REMs to designate focal points on protection of children affected by armed conflicts to facilitate effective coordination with and efficient functioning of the Child Protection Architecture. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to endorse the request of the PSC for the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a Special Envoy on Children in Situations of Conflict to serve as a high level political interface between children in Africa and the AU. The Assembly may further wish to endorse the decision of the PSC for the Commission to establish a continental reporting and monitoring mechanism to provide the AU with accurate, reliable and up-to-date data on the plights of children in situation of conflict. The Assembly may wish to request the AU Commission to continue to mobilize resources for and support Member States to better protect children affected by armed conflicts.

viii) Climate change and peace and security in Africa

146. During the period under consideration, the link between climate change, peace and security in Africa has remained as major concern in the Continent and the PSC has been actively seized with the matter. This transversal theme has been raised and discussed in several PSc meetings.

147. Climate change constitutes a real threat to the international peace and security that no country or region can face by itself. In the context of the implementation of the APSA, the PSC has requested the AU Commission, through its Communiqué [PSC/PR/BR. (DCCLXXIV)] adopted during its 774th meeting held on 21 May 2018, to

establish a comprehensive study on climate change, peace and security in the Continent, with special attention being given to Island Member States. The PSC also requested the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint an AU special envoy for climate change and peace and security in Africa. The link between climate change, natural disasters and other causes of displacement is henceforth undeniable, since conflicts are not the only factor of displacement and insecurity. Competition over scarce resources and the extreme poverty are contributing factors that overlap, causing more waves of refugees and internal displaced persons (IDPS).

148. Given the very alarming situation of refugees in Africa, the Assembly may wish to request the AU Commission to include the climate change factor in all of its policies addressed to refugees and IDPs, and to proceed to their census and registration, taking into consideration the numbers submitted by the relevant international organization, notably UNHCR, WFP and OCHA, in order to determine, precisely, the needs in terms of humanitarian aids. The Assembly may also wish to urge Member States hosting refugees to demilitarize the camps of refugees and enhance their resilience. The Assembly may also wish to recall the PSC Communique [PSC/PR/BR. (DCCLXXV)] adopted at its 775th meeting held on 22 May 2018, and underline the importance of protecting the camps of refugees and IDPs, and to maintain their civilian character to ensure that they are not diverted from their original objectives. The Assembly may wish to endorse the PSC decision and request the AU Chairperson to appoint an AU special envoy for climate change and peace and security in Africa.

V. CONCLUSION

149. Since the last reporting period, the Continent has witnessed some progress made on peace and security landscape aiming at bringing to an end the crises and conflicts facing the Continent. At the same time, there are still challenges that need to be addressed. The Continent is still facing peace and security threats such as terrorism and violent extremism, in addition to the persisting and emerging conflicts. Moreover, the Continent is confronted by the effects of climate change have extended their violent grip on some parts of the Continent, undermining economies and communities. Indeed, the terrorist attacks have resulted in more losses in human lives and injuries, as well as destruction and increase in the number of displaced persons and refugees. Overall, these persistent threats to peace and security continue to severely hamper the Africa's efforts towards socio-economic development.

150. The imperative to improve governance cannot be over emphasized, given the problems linked to deficits in this area. The Continent continues to face election-related crises, despite sustained efforts by the AU and the RECs/RMs. In this regard, there is need for the Assembly to reaffirm the centrality of prevention in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa. It is important, in this regard, that Member States facilitate the efforts of the PSC, with the support of the Commission, aimed at preventing, managing and resolving crises and conflicts, as well as advancing post-conflict reconstruction and development within the overall efforts to build a conflict-free Africa.

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
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**CONCLUSIONS OF THE SIXTH HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR
ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA**

**«Assisting Incoming African Members on the UN Security Council in
Preparing to Address Peace and Security Issues on the Continent»
Nairobi, Kenya, 13 to 14 December 2018**

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SIXTH HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

**«Assisting Incoming African Members on the UN Security Council in
Preparing to Address Peace and Security Issues on the Continent»,
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. From 13 to 14 December 2018, the Peace and Security Council (PSC), in collaboration with the Commission of the African Union (AU), the Government of the Republic of Kenya and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), organized the *Sixth High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa: Assisting Incoming African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) in Preparing to Address Peace and Security Issues on the Continent*, in Nairobi Kenya. The Seminar was held within the context of the implementation process of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) as well as in line with the communiqué of the PSC adopted at its 397th meeting held at the level of Heads of State and Government in New York, on 23 September 2013, which reviewed the partnership between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) in the area of peace and security, and decided, inter alia, on the need for “greater consultations between the Peace and Security Council and the African members of the Security Council, to ensure that decisions adopted by Council are effectively promoted and defended in the Security Council.”

II. PARTICIPATION

2. The Seminar brought together the following countries: the 15 Members of the PSC, Ethiopia (outgoing A3 Member and Equatorial Guinea (sitting A3 Members), as well as South Africa (incoming A3 member). Cote d'Ivoire, a sitting A3 Member, due to its presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of December 2018, as well as the Permanent Representatives of other A3, did not participate in the Seminar. Her Excellency Ambassador Monica Juma, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, presided over the opening ceremony of the High-Level Seminar. The State Ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, H.E. Hirut Zemen Kassa and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Djibouti, H.E. Mohamed Ali Hassan attended the Seminar. The Seminar was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Osama Abdelkhalik Permanent Representative of Egypt to the African Union, in Egypt's capacity as the Chair of the Peace and Security Council for the month of December 2018.

3. The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui, accompanied by officers from the AU Commission, attended the High-Level Seminar and made an opening statement. The United Nations (UN) delegation, including officials from UNITAR, was led by, the Special Representative designate of the UN Secretary-

General and Head of the UN Office to the AU, H.E Hanna Serwaa Tetteh. The High-Level Seminar was also attended by AU partners namely, Belgium, Norway, Germany and Switzerland and the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council.

III. OBJECTIVE

4. The main objective of the 6th High-Level Seminar was to further strengthen the foundation laid by the Inaugural Seminar of December 2013, in Oran, Algeria for the effective articulation, coordination, promotion and defense of common African positions on peace and security issues concerning the continent and its people, within the decision-making process of the UN Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

5. The High-Level Seminar provided an opportunity for participants to discuss and exchange views on the state of peace and security on the continent, as well as to have an overview on challenges facing the A3 with respect to discharging its Africa-given mandate in the UN Security Council. The High-Level Seminar also provided an opportunity for participants to review the status of implementation of the recommendations of the previous High-Level Seminars. Participants exchanged views on additional steps that are required, towards achieving effective coordination and robust A3 action within the UN Security Council, in promoting African common positions on peace and security issues.

6. The agenda of the Seminar included broad thematic issues, which will allow the A3, the PSC and partners to widely reflect on how peace and security issues can be jointly addressed effectively and facilitate the smooth implementation of the AU's flagship agenda of Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020. The following is the outcome of the discussions of the agenda items of the Seminar.

(a) On Consolidation of Peace in Africa:

7. Participants exchanged views on steps required to manage complex peace and security challenges facing the Continent, including best ways and means of consolidating peace where it has been already achieved and agreed on the following:

- i) Took note of the encouraging progress being made in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, particularly in the Horn of Africa. In this regard, Participants emphasized the importance of Africa's ownership of the achievements made and the need to put in place appropriate mechanisms for ensuring that the achievements made facilitate the development of the continent;
- ii) While noting that in the Year 2020, the UN will be commemorating 20 years of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security adopted on 31 October 2000, recognized the progress made in inclusion of women in peace processes in the continent, including provision of training

for women mediators and emphasized the importance of facilitating the full participation of women in peace consolidation efforts. Participants welcomed the operationalization of the Network of African Women in Mediation (FemWise);

- iii) Recalled that the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA) are mutually reinforcing tools for the effective prevention, management and resolution of conflicts/crises, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD) in Africa. In this context, the Participants stressed the need for simultaneous implementation of APSA and AGA;
- iv) Stressed the need to prioritize preventive diplomacy and mediation, as well as PCRD efforts, as preventive tools against relapses into conflict;
- v) Underlined the need to further enhance the Continental early warning capacity and address denialism by Member States to early warning signs of looming crises. In this regard, Participants called for greater synergies and cohesion among Member States, Regional Economic Communities and AU in preventive diplomacy efforts;
- vi) Underlined the critical role of the RECs/RMs in the consolidation of peace and stability, taking into consideration their relative comparative advantages and the fact that RECs/RMs are usually the first respondents and guarantors of most peace agreements. Participants agreed that the AU Summit to be held in Niger, in June/July 2019, which will bring together the AU Heads of States and Government, and RECs/RMs, could also be seized as an ideal opportunity for the development of a mechanism on how the PSC and RECs/RMs can work together in better addressing peace and security challenges on the continent, within the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity between the Union and the RECs/RMs;
- vii) Emphasized the critical importance of taking additional measures to ensure that Africa's peace efforts are well coordinated and capitalized in realizing and implementing the AU's flagship project of Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020;
- viii) Stressed the need to strengthen PCRD in the Continent, in particular, in those countries emerging from conflicts/crises, with a view to consolidating peace and stability. In this context, Participants stressed the need to expedite the operationalization of the AU PCRD, in Cairo, Egypt, and appealed to all Member States and partners to support the Centre, including financially, in order to enable this important AU institution to effectively discharge its mandate and provide the anticipated added value in this regard;
- ix) Agreed on the need to prioritize the revitalization and strengthening of the PCRD components of APSA, and create necessary conditions for

development activities in Africa. Participants also emphasized the need for the AU PCRD to work closely with the UN Peacebuilding Commission. In this regard, they requested the A3 to ensure that the UNSC uphold PCRD issues on the top of its agenda;

- x) Acknowledged the critical role of partnerships in the consolidation of peace and stressed the importance of ensuring coordination, harmonization and coherence of efforts. In this regard, it was emphasized that any foreign assistance should be streamlined within Africa's needs and priorities, and does not compromise African ownership. Furthermore, Participants emphasized the need to ensure a genuine partnerships where both sides have the same understanding of issues on the ground.

(b) On Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 – Progress made and challenges still to be addressed:

8. For a very long time Africa have been affected by armed conflicts and disruptive crises. Even if the number of conflicts have significantly reduced, violence is now compounded by the rise and spread of a deadly combination of terrorism, extremism, radicalization and networks of organized crime affecting various parts of our continent. The net result is disruption of socio-economic activities in the affected areas, loss of life and material destruction and severe violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this regard, the AU decided to take actions to ensure that guns are silenced in Africa by 2020. The PSC, on its part, developed a Master Roadmap containing practical, time-bound implementable steps to be taken to Silence the Guns in Africa by 2020. Following the discussion, the Participants agreed on the following:

- i) Noted the significant progress in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap on Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the year 2020, including the launching, by the PSC, of September as the Amnesty Month, in line with Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.645(XXIX) adopted by the 29th Ordinary Session of the AU held from 3 to 4 July 2017, of the Month of September of each year as Africa Amnesty Month for the voluntary surrender of illegally possessed arms/weapons;
- ii) Emphasized the importance of all AU Member States to observe the Africa Amnesty month each year and, in this regard, called for public awareness raising campaigns. Participants urged Member States to report on the status of implementation of the Amnesty month;
- iii) Acknowledged that there are sufficient tools for achieving the goal of silencing the guns in Africa, and steady progress are being recorded to this end. Though, Participant emphasized the need for Africa and its partners to redouble efforts in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap on Silencing the Guns in Africa by Year 2020. Participants highlighted that the AU Master Roadmap clearly identify critical issues, which constitute serious

threats to peace and security in Africa and the commitment of AU Member States, the UN and other partners is critical in addressing those identified challenges;

- iv) Commended the progress made in revitalizing the AU Peace Fund and stressed the importance of ensuring that the AU peace support operations (PSO) are well capacitated and funded to enable them to discharge their mandated. Participants also underscored the importance for Africa to access the UN assessed contributions as a sustainable and predictable source of funding for AU-PSOs;
- v) Recalled that the APSA and AGA are still relevant architectures for Africa to effectively address the structural root causes of armed conflicts. They stressed the need for the PSC and the A3 to be more innovative on how best to utilize the two mechanisms to silence the guns in Africa;
- vi) Acknowledged that the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is one of the best mechanisms for the AU member states to evaluate themselves in an objective and non-politicized manner, and share experiences and lessons learnt on strengthening their national institutions. Participants highlighted the importance of reinvigorating the APRM and ensuring universal membership by all AU Member States, as well as predictable funding from the AU Budget, as it is an effective mechanism for addressing some of the structural root causes of conflicts in the Continent. Participants took note of the decision adopted by the 11th Extraordinary Assembly of the AU at which the APRM was integrated into the statutory budget funded by Member States;
- vii) Underscored the importance of sufficient attention to be given to the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap, monitoring progress and addressing any challenges in this regard. Participants also underscored the need for the UN and other partners to continue to provide support in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap;
- viii) In addressing the structural and developmental root cause of conflicts in Africa, Participants emphasized the need to also take into consideration external influences which contribute to the eruption of conflicts in Africa including illicit flow of weapons into the Continent. In this regard, Participants encouraged all countries to take effective measures to prevent and combat illicit flow of arms and weapons in accordance with their respective obligations under international law;
- ix) Emphasized the need to make use of all available tools of conflict prevention, including the full involvement of youth and women, as well as African religious and community leaders, at all stages of the conflict cycle, namely, in prevention, management, resolution and PCRD, as well as in peacebuilding efforts in the continent.

(c) **On Climate Change and its Effect on Peace and Security in Africa:**

9. The increasing impacts of climate change and natural disasters are resulting significant reduction of food production, diminishing grazing pastures and insecurity in local communities. These are causes for social unrest and resources competition which lead to conflicts and crises in the Continent. Participants, after extensive deliberations, agreed on the following:

- i) Welcomed the outcome of the Conference on the Sustainable Blue Economy that took place from 26 to 28 November 2018, in Nairobi, Kenya which emphasized the importance of the economic use of the blue economy, ranging from sustainable fisheries to ecosystem health to pollution;
- ii) Emphasized that no continent is immune to the effect of climate change. In this regard, Participants underscored the importance of coordinated approaches in addressing the negative effects of climate change according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Participants also emphasized the importance of treating the symptoms of climate change, as well as its root causes;
- iii) Emphasized the need to continue mobilizing a united African front at the global level to mitigate the effects of climate change at the regional and continental levels, as well as to develop a continental framework to proactively respond to the security repercussions of climate change-related conflicts. Furthermore, Participants encouraged Member States to develop climate change resilience national policies and related implementation mechanisms. Furthermore, they encouraged Member States to share experiences and best practices, as well as capacity building in promoting cross border cooperation;
- iv) Underlined the need to use African preventive tools to take initiatives to prevent the eruption of armed conflicts and political crises in the areas most affected by climate change in the continent and to increase investment in agricultural sector, as a preventive measure to ensure food security, with emphasis the areas most affected by the impacts of climate change;
- v) Called for sharing experiences and best practices in order to promote cross-border cooperation and capacity building;
- vi) Called upon all Member States and partners to mobilize necessary resources for the revitalization of the ecosystem of the Lake Chad and the Sahel region, as one of the mechanisms for mitigating the negative effects of climate change in these regions. Participants also called on all Member States to consider similar efforts in other parts of the continent that are prone to adverse effects of climate change such as drought, particularly in

parts of the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions. Furthermore, they underscored the need to combat environmental degradation and its effects on the continent, coupled with political, economic and social insecurity, that have become major drivers of migration and refugee movements;

- vii) Urged all Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Paris Agreement and expedite its implementation and to adhere to the outcomes of the Africa Action Summit held in Morocco in 2016.

(d) **On Enhancement of Cooperation Between the African Members of the UN Security Council (A3) and the Peace and Security Council – Progress and Lessons Learnt in 2017/2018 and Future Prospects (Closed Session For PSC and A3):**

10. Since the launch of the High Level Seminar in 2013, in Oran, Algeria, participants have been discussing and exchanging views on how best the A3 and the PSC could work together with a view to enhancing capacity and visibility of the A3 in championing and promoting common African positions in the UN Security Council decision-making process. Through the High-Level seminars, significant gains has been achieved, such as the establishment of the A3 coordination and modality of interaction between the PSC and the A3. These achievements have greatly enhanced the coordination of the activities of a A3 in the UN Security Council with close cooperation with the PSC. During the 6th High Level Seminar, Participants reviewed the implementation of the previous conclusions and agreed on the following:

- i) Acknowledged the challenging global context in which the A3 Members are operating which is characterized, among others, by the current wave of onslaught against multilateralism, lack of cohesion within the UNSC. In this Context, Participants noted with deep concern the challenges facing the A3 in promoting and defending the African common positions within the UN Security Council and called all AU Member States to enhance their support to the A3 with a view to contributing to ensure greater coordination and unity among them and speak with one African common voice within the UN Security Council;
- ii) Noted with appreciation the enhanced coordination and collaboration in the activities of the A3 in the UN Security Council. In this respect, participants commended the A3 for drafting and tabling the draft resolution on financing of the AU peace and security Agenda for its consideration and adoption by the UN Security Council;
- iii) Stressed the need for the A3 to reach out to other members of the Non-Aligned Movement caucus in the UN and also create strategic mechanisms with other partners, in order to mobilize more political support in

championing the African peace and security agenda in the UN Security Council;

- iv) Noted the challenges facing the A3 in promoting and defending the African common positions decided by the African Union Policy Organs, in the UN Security Council and called AU Member States to extend their support to the A3 with a view to ensure that they enhance their coordination and unity and speak with one African common voice in the UN Security Council;
- v) A3 need to be more capacitated to better effectively addressed the complexity of peace and security challenges in the continent, in line with the decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 598 adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in January 2016;
- vi) Welcomed the announcement of the A3 intention to organize an open session of the UN Security Council on silencing the guns in Africa in February 2019, under the presidency of Equatorial Guinea, with a view of mobilizing support in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap to Silence the Guns in Africa by Year 2020, and called upon all AU Member States and partners to extend their support, in this regard;
- vii) Emphasized the importance of conducting a joint field missions between the PSC and the members of the UN Security Council, in line with the previous decisions contained in the Joint Communiqués of their Joint meetings, with a view to enhancing cooperation and harmonization in the area of peace and security in Africa. The modalities for such joint field missions shall be mutually agreed by the two Councils;
- viii) Reiterated the need for the AU PSC to synchronize its provisional monthly programme of work with the UN Security Council programme, in order to allow A3 ample time for necessary preparations. In this respect, it would be highly beneficial if the PSC Chair and African Presidents of the UNSC could consult on African peace and security issues in drafting their respective monthly programmes of work. The participants underscored the value of PSC communiques, decisions and press statements, as well as the decisions of the AU policy organs as frame of reference for the A3 at the Security Council;
- ix) Emphasized the need for the PSC to indicate, where necessary, in its communiques or press statements, the steps that are expected to be taken by the A3 and to timely transmit PSC decisions to the A3, ahead of UN Security Council meetings, in order to allow them sufficient time for necessary preparations;

- x) Stressed the need to continue enhancing the capacity of the experts, both, at the AUPSC and the A3, to coordinate their activities, collaborate and work together, including during the preparation of annual joint consultative meetings between the AUPSC and the UNSC;
- xi) Commended the outgoing member of the A3, Ethiopia, for the exemplary role it played during its tenure in the UN Security Council and congratulated South Africa for its election as a non-permanent member in the UN Security Council and looked forward to its unwavering commitment to articulate, defend and promote AU's common positions on peace and security issues relating to the continent, during its term in the UNSC. Participants stressed the need for the A3 to continue enhancing coordination in promoting common African positions in the UNSC, as well as to regularly brief the PSC on their activities within the UNSC in line with the relevant communiqués of the PSC;
- xii) Underlined the need to build from the achievements made so far by the previous five seminars, and to innovate with regard to cooperation and coordination in consolidating those gains. In this regard, they underscored the importance of the High-Level Seminar and agreed to consider changing the timing with a view to ensuring greater participation at the appropriate level. They requested the Commission to make proposals to be considered by the PSC. They also agreed that the AU Commission should organize an induction of the experts of the A3 in New York, at technical level, after the election of the new A3 and before they take their seats within the UN Security Council;
- xiii) Reiterated the commitment of the PSC to ensure that the draft UNSC resolution on financing of AU Peace support Operations, tabled by the A3, be urgently considered by the UNSC for adoption. In this regard, Participants called upon all African countries and partners, including the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to co-sponsor the draft resolution;
- xiv) Reiterated the need for the A3 to more efficiently discharge the mandate given to them by the AU Assembly through the above-mentioned decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.598 (XXVI)]. Participants emphasized the importance for enhanced cooperation and coordination between the A3 and the African Group in New York, in order to more effectively mobilize the required support for promoting African common positions and interests in the UN Security Council decision-making process;
- xv) Encouraged the A3 to redouble their efforts in playing a leadership role on peace and African security agenda within the UN Security Council. In this respect, they stressed the need for A3 to be penholders/ co-penholders in decisions concerning African peace and security issues;

- xvi) Stressed the need to ensure that, once elected, the A3 should consider reinforcing the capacities of their respective missions in New York, with a view to ensuring that they have the required capacity to effectively shoulder the responsibilities entailed in their membership to the UNSC
- xvii) Stressed the need to further strengthen the capacity of the AU Permanent Observer Mission, within the context of the on-going AU Reform process, in particular the designating of the new structure;
- xviii) Commended Algeria and Nigeria for seconding officers to the AU Permanent Observer Mission with a view to further enhance the capacity of the Office and, in this regard, encouraged other Member States, in a position to do so, to also second staff to the Office. They also reiterated the urgent need to address the multifaceted capacity challenges facing the Office.

IV. VOTE OF THANKS

11. Participants thanked the Government of the Republic of Kenya, under the leadership of H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic, as well as the people of Kenya, for the generous hospitality and the excellent conditions put in place to ensure the successful organization of the Sixth High Level Seminar. Participants further expressed their gratitude to the partners, particularly Norway and Switzerland, for the support they extended to the organization of the Seminar.

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DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON ITS
ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

Doc. Assembly AU/6(XXXII)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the continued efforts made towards finding a lasting solution to the crisis in **Libya**, including those of the neighbouring countries and the AU High-Level Committee on Libya, as well as the Conference held in Palermo, Sicily in November 2018. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite efforts aimed at convening in Addis Ababa, in 2019, an international conference on reconciliation in Libya under the auspices of the AU and UN. The Assembly **TAKES NOTE** of the efforts exerted towards finding a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Libya, in line with provisions of the Agreement signed by the Libyan parties in 2015, in Skhirat, Morocco. The Assembly **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting of the neighbouring countries of Libya held in Khartoum on 29 November 2018. The Assembly **REITERATES** the AU's continued commitment to continue to work with Libyan stakeholders, neighbouring countries, regional and international organizations with a view to bringing lasting peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Libya;
2. **COMMENDS** the Malagasy people and stakeholders for the smooth and peaceful conduct and conclusion of the presidential election process. The Assembly **CONGRATULATES** President Andry Rajoelina for his election and **REAFFIRMS** to him the commitment of the AU to continue accompanying Madagascar in its journey towards enhancing democracy and development. The Assembly **PAYS TRIBUTE** to the AU Commission, in particular the High Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Silencing the Guns in Africa, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra for his tireless efforts towards stability and reconciliation in Madagascar, as well as the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Madagascar, Madame Hawa Ahmed Yousouf;
3. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to peace and stability in **The Comoros**, recalling that the AU is the Guarantor of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in The Comoros, signed in Fomboni, on 17 February 2001. In this regard, the Assembly **URGES** all parties to exert utmost restraint and continue the search for durable solution to their differences, through dialogue and consultation, in particular with regard to the modalities for the implementation of the constitutional and institutional reforms and the future elections. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the Chairperson of the Commission to initiate without delay intensive consultations with the AU partners, particularly the UN, SADC, IOC, the League of Arab States and, where appropriate, other international partners, with a view to coordinating their actions in The Comoros to give the opportunity for the widest possible consensus before the elections in the course of 2019;

4. **COMMENDS** the Federal Government of **Somalia** for the continued progress made in implementing the Somali Transition Plan (STP). The Assembly **ALSO COMMENDS** the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for its critical role in degrading the capacities of Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups in Somalia, as well as in the implementation of the STP. The Assembly, **ONCE AGAIN, PAYS TRIBUTE** to the AMISOM Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs), for the immense sacrifices made in the promotion of peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Somalia. The Assembly **URGES** the Federal Government and the Federal Member States of Somalia to do the utmost towards finding durable solutions to their differences, pending the finalization of all aspects relating to the Federation in the new constitution to be designed and that will facilitate the implementation of the National Security Architecture and the electoral processes, in 2020-2021, particularly the need for universal suffrage that will allow the Somali people to express its will on the future of their country;
5. **COMMENDS** the Government of Sudan and United Nations-African union Hybrid Operation in **Darfur** (UNAMID) for their collaborative efforts that facilitated the continued implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 2429 on the drawdown of the Mission. The Assembly **UNDERScores** the need for durable peace in Darfur through investment in sustainable development projects. In this regard, the Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the Commission, together with the UN, to undertake appropriate initiatives with a view to ensuring mobilization of adequate funds for post-conflict reconstruction and development in Darfur. The Assembly **URGES** the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-N, with the support of the AU High Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP), to continue working towards finding a lasting solution to the issue of the **Two Areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile**, including creating conducive conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the population in need, and **COMMENDS** the continued engagement of the Government of Sudan in this regard;
6. **WELCOMES** the commitment of Presidents Omar Hassan Al Bashir and Salva Kiir Mayardit to secure peace between their two countries through the Cooperation Agreements of 2012 and 2013, and **ENCOURAGES** the two countries to sustain their efforts towards promoting good neighbourliness that will contribute in ensuring the building of two viable states, living side by side in peace and harmony. The Assembly **CALLS ON** the two countries to address the final status of Abyei in order to further enhance their common border security and **ENCOURAGES** them to also continue cooperating with the AUHIP to resolve the outstanding issues as outlined in the Cooperation Agreement relating to their common border, including Abyei and other disputed areas;
7. **WELCOMES** the signing of the Revitalized–Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic South Sudan (R-ARCSS) on 12 September 2018. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the South Sudanese stakeholders for the leadership

demonstrated since the signing of the R-ARCSS and **CALLS ON** the opposition groups that have not yet done so to join the Agreement without any preconditions. The Assembly **ALSO CALLS ON** the South Sudanese parties to faithfully implement the R-ACRSS, in order to give chance to this renewed peace process and **ENCOURAGES** the international community to provide both political and financial support to the peace process, especially the implementation of the security arrangements. The Assembly **PAYS TRIBUTE** to the Heads of State and Government of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for their tireless efforts aimed at bringing lasting peace, security and stability in South Sudan. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the African Union High Level Ad Hoc Committee to sustain its support to the peace process, including through supporting the Independent Boundary Commission (IBC). The Assembly **CALLS ON** AU Member States, as well as the international community to support the AU Mission in South Sudan, with a view to ensuring AU's effective support to the peace process. The Assembly **PAYS TRIBUTE** to H.E. Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana, for his illustrious leadership of the JMEC since its inception, and **CALLS ON** the IGAD to expedite the designation of his successor;

8. **COMMENDS** the leaders of the Horn of Africa region for the positive developments witnessed in the region, which are critical steps towards consolidating peace and stability in this part of the continent. The Assembly **REITERATES** the AU's commitment to support the ongoing process between Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as the Joint Declaration between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia, the Agreement between Eritrea and Djibouti, and **ENCOURAGES** the AU Member States to support the region's efforts to consolidate peace and facilitate effective regional integration as part of the overall Continental integration effort. The Assembly **ALSO COMMENDS** Presidents H.E. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh of Djibouti and H.E. Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea for their efforts and commitments to normalize the relations between the two countries, in the framework of relevant PSC Communiqués and UN Resolution 2446 (2018). The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the PSC, with the support of the Commission, including through the AUHIP, to continuously engage on the changing dynamics in the Horn of Africa. In this regard, the Assembly **UNDERScores** the need for intensified consultations at various levels for the early convening of the Conference on Peace, Security, Stability Cooperation and Development in the Horn of Africa (CPHA), pursuant to its Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.472 (XX) adopted at its 20th Ordinary Session held on 27-28 January 2013.
9. **WELCOMES** the peaceful organisation of the elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and **COMMENDS** the people and the leadership of the **DRC** for a landmark peaceful transition. The Assembly **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Felix Antoine Tshilombo Tshisekedi for his election as President of the DRC and **REAFFIRMS** AU's commitment to continue working with the DRC Government and all other Congolese stakeholders towards peace, security, stability and socio-economic development in the DRC. In this respect, the Assembly **ENCOURAGES** all Congolese stakeholders to uphold their country's

supreme interests above all other considerations and work together. The Assembly **APPEALS** to AU Member States and the international community to support the new authorities in the DRC in their efforts to consolidate peace, security and stability in their country and the region. The Assembly **REITERATES** its request to the European Union to immediately lift the targeted sanctions imposed against some of the Congolese political actors;

10. **WELCOMES** the signing on 6 February 2019 of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic between the Government and the armed groups of the **Central African Republic**, under the auspices of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the Commission and the Commissioner for Peace and Security, working together with countries of the region and the United Nations, for their renewed efforts and initiatives that made it possible to conclude this Agreement negotiated during the direct Political Dialogue in Khartoum, Sudan. The Assembly **URGES** all CAR stakeholders to place the interests of their country above all other consideration and uphold their commitment and work together, in good faith, in the implementation of the Agreement. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the Commission, the countries of the region and the partners to provide the necessary support to the effective implementation of the Agreement that should go a long way in contributing to the restoration of sustainable peace, security, stability and reconciliation in CAR. The Assembly **RECOGNIZES** the efforts of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, and particularly the Kingdom of Morocco, Chair of the UN Configuration of the CAR, in its efforts and commitment as it continues to mobilize support for the peace efforts in the CAR. The Assembly **CALLS ON** AU Member States and the international community to support and strengthen the Central African Republic National Recovery and Peace Building Program.
11. **CONGRATULATES** the Government of **Burundi** on initiating the preparatory process for the elections, especially the establishment, on 31 August 2018 of an Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), according to the Burundian Electoral Code, as well as a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), in line with the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, signed on 28 August 2000. In this regard, the Assembly, **ONCE AGAIN, WELCOMES** the statement made by President Pierre Nkurunziza not to stand as candidate for the presidential election in 2020, and **URGES** the Government and the political parties to work together for the smooth conduct of the next elections. The Assembly **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the East African Community, in particular, to President Yoweri K. Museveni of Uganda, the Mediator, as well as to the Facilitator, former President Benjamin Mkapa, and **STRESSES THE NEED** for renewed initiatives, with the support of the AU, to accompany Burundians in their efforts for consolidating peace and security in their country. The Assembly **REITERATES** its request to the European Union to immediately lift the unilateral sanctions imposed on the Republic of Burundi.

12. **EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT** to the on-going efforts in **Guinea Bissau**, under the leadership of ECOWAS and **ENSURES** all stakeholders of the AU's readiness and determination to continue supporting Bissau Guineans to overcome the challenges they are currently facing, while preparing for the legislative elections to be held in March 2019. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the Government and parties in Guinea Bissau to develop and ensure the adoption of a Code of Conduct, in line with the shared values and relevant instruments of the AU, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. The Assembly **COMMENDS** all multilateral and bilateral partners for their support for the organization of the planned elections and **CALLS ON** all AU members States and the larger international community to continue extending the necessary logistical and financial support to Guinea Bissau in this crucial phase of its democratic construction. The Assembly **ALSO COMMENDS** the important role being played by ECOMIB in consolidating peace in Guinea Bissau, despite the operational and financial challenges, and **UNDERScores THE NEED** for continued financial support for the maintenance of ECOMIB operations, until the necessary capacitation of the Guinea Bissau national security forces is accomplished.
13. **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Boubacar Keita, for his election as President of the Republic of **Mali**, and **ENCOURAGES** the Malian parties to the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers Process, to redouble efforts towards more effective and expedited implementation of their commitments. The Assembly **REAFFIRMS, ONCE AGAIN**, the centrality of the Algiers Agreement in stabilization efforts with the support of MINUSMA and the fight against terrorist groups that will be more and more isolated through a better implementation of the Agreement. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** all Malian stakeholders to faithfully engage in dialogue and build the largest consensus possible around the institutional and constitutional reforms envisaged in line with the Agreement and the deepening of democracy in the country. The Assembly **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** all terrorist attacks in Mali and **STRESSES THE NEED** for efforts to stop the spill over of terrorist attacks in central Mali. The Assembly **ALSO STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the recent terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso and **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to continue its efforts aimed at addressing the fragility of the security situation in the Sahel, in close collaboration with countries of the region, through the Nouakchott Process, and the partners including through effectively addressing the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism. The Assembly **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to the international community to lend the necessary support to the **G5 Sahel Joint Force**, including appropriate, predictable and durable funding that will allow the Force to conduct its heavy mandate consisting in fighting terrorism and transnational organized crime and **CALLS** for the scaling up of strategic support by the AU Member States and the AU Commission towards the full operationalization of the G5 Sahel force in order to effectively combat terrorism and violent extremism in the region. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the outcome of the G5 Sahel Summit held in Ouagadougou, on 6 February 2019. The Assembly

14. **TAKES NOTE** of continued efforts by the countries of the Lake Chad Basin to neutralize the Boko Haram terrorist group, through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and **CALLS ON** the Commission to continue and intensify AU's support to the countries of the region in their fight against Boko Haram. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the outcome of the Ministerial Conference of the Lake Chad Basin Member States in collaboration with the AU Commission and the UNDP held on 30 August 2018, in Abuja, Nigeria, which validated and adopted the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the region, in-line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2349. The Assembly **CALLS UPON** the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to support the development of a clear roadmap and a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the Strategy. The Assembly **ALSO CALLS ON** the newly established African Union Development Agency (AUDA/NEPAD) to play a leading role in the implementation of the Strategy by, among other things, contributing to the elaboration of the implementation roadmap and resource mobilization plan. The Assembly **REITERATES ITS CALL** on all AU Member States, RECs/RMs and the larger international community to extend the necessary financial and technical assistance to support the implementation of the Strategy, including additional support for the MNJTF so as to consolidate the security gains thus far made. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the convening of an International Conference on Saving the Lake Chad by Nigeria in collaboration with LCBC and UNESCO, from 26 to 28 February 2018, which drew attention to the multifaceted socio-economic crisis and increased insecurity caused by the shrinkage of the Lake over the last three decades, underscoring the need for concerted efforts to resuscitate the Lake, as called for by the PSC in the communiqué PSC/PR/BR. (DCCLXXIV) of its 774th meeting held on 21 May 2018. In this regard, the Assembly **ENDORSES** the outcome of the Conference (Abuja Declaration), in particular the Inter-Basin Water Transfer (IBWT) Initiative as a pan-African project to restore the Lake Chad and to promote navigation, industrial and economic development.
15. **COMMENDS** the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Commission for their active role in efforts to operationalize the AU PCRD Centre, and **CALLS FOR** the expeditious conclusion the Host Agreement for the Centre. In this context, the Assembly **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to Egypt for availing land and other facilities for the Centre. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** Member States to provide the necessary resources, particularly funding, to support the full operationalization of the Centre. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the ongoing consultations between ECCAS and the Commission for the process of finalizing the ECCAS Policy and Strategy on PCRD, and **URGES** the Commission to ensure the finalization of these documents in a timely manner, in order to facilitate implementation of PCRD initiatives in the region.
16. **REAFFIRMS ITS DETERMINATION** to reinforce its efforts towards better and more effective conflict prevention action in Africa. In this respect, the Assembly

ENCOURAGES Member States to take full advantage of the structural conflict prevention tools developed by the Commission, including the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) and the Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy (CSVMS), and to enhance the capacities of youth to meaningfully participate in peace and security issues at the national, regional and continental levels. The Assembly **ALSO ENCOURAGES** Member States to continue supporting the work of the Panel of the Wise in its contribution to peace efforts within the Continent, and **UNDERScores THE NEED** for Member States to enhance the capacities of women to participate in conflict prevention and mediation efforts at the national, regional and continental levels;

17. **COMMENDS** the PSC for its continued efforts in the further enhancement of the African Standby Force (ASF), including the ongoing steps to facilitate the harmonization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) within the ASF Framework and to ensure that the Continental Logistic Base, in Douala, Cameroon, is fully operational and that the ASF Regional Logistic Depots are established. In this context, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the Commission to expedite the implementation of the provisions of the PSC Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCCXXI)], including the matrix adopted at the 821st PSC Meeting held on 9 January 2019 with regard to the harmonization of ACIRC within the ASF Framework;
18. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** at the increasing terrorist attacks in parts of the continent and **REITERATES ITS CONDEMNATION** of all acts of terrorism committed on the continent by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes and **ALSO REITERATES** the AU's determination to rid Africa of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, which cannot be justified under any circumstances. The Assembly **EXPRESSES THE AU'S FULL SOLIDARITY** with the affected countries and the victims of terrorism. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the efforts made by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism, through enhanced legislation, operational capability and coordination among relevant national structures and **ACKNOWLEDGES** the contribution of African Institutions dedicated to support Member States in their fight against terrorism, namely CISSA, ACSRT and AFRIPOL particularly in the provision of counter-terrorism early warning, analysis and capacity building. The Assembly **EXPRESSES CONCERN** that, despite the progress made in developing a comprehensive normative and operational counter-terrorism framework, serious gaps continue to exist in terms of implementation and follow-up, thus undermining the effectiveness of Africa's response to the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. In this respect, the Assembly **STRESSES THE URGENT NEED** for an action-oriented approach to give concrete expression to the commitment made by the Member States to combat terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations and **ENCOURAGES** them to develop comprehensive national counter-terrorism strategies covering prevention, response, reconstruction and socio-economic development. The

Assembly **CALLS ON** the Member States to promote exchange of experience in the field of countering violent extremism and hate speech;

19. **ENDORSES** the decision of the PSC to request the Commission, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to explore ways to strengthen the existing AU and RECs/RMs mechanism on child protection and on that basis develop a child protection architecture for the Continent as a sub-aspect of APSA, to be considered and adopted by the PSC. In addition, the Assembly **CALLS UPON** the RECs/REMs to designate focal points on protection of children affected by armed conflicts to facilitate effective coordination with and efficient functioning of the existing mechanisms for child protection. In this context, the Assembly **ENDORSES** the PSC request for the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a Special Envoy on Children in Situations of Conflict, to serve as a high level political interface between children in Africa and the AU. The Assembly **FURTHER ENDORSES** the decision of the PSC for the establishment of a continental reporting and monitoring framework to provide the AU with accurate, reliable and up-to-date data on the plight of children in situations of violent conflict and crisis.
20. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to mainstream responses to the effects of climate change in its policies on refugees and IDPs. The Assembly **RECALLS** Communiqué [PSC/PR/BR. (DCCLXXV)] adopted by the PSC at its 775th meeting held on 22 May 2018, and **UNDERLINES** the importance for Member States to protect IDPs and refugee camps, against any form of militarization and to maintain the civilian character of these camps. The Assembly **ENDORSES** the PSC decision and **REQUESTS** the AU Chairperson to appoint an AU special envoy for climate change and peace and security in Africa. The Assembly **CALLS ON** the AU Commission, in close coordination with the International Organization (UNHCR, OCHA, PAM) as well as the hosting countries, to proceed to the census and registration of refugees and IDPs, taking in consideration the figures submitted by the these relevant international Organisations.
21. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the PSC in convening, in Cairo, Egypt from 29 to 31 October 2018, a Retreat dedicated to assessing the status of implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA), with a view to laying a solid foundation for the reform of the PSC, as called for in Decision Assembly/AU.Dec.635 adopted in January 2017. In this regard, the Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the PSC, working with the RECs/RMs, to continue its efforts and **LOOKS FORWARD** to receiving the final outcomes of the ongoing efforts, particularly concrete proposals on the reform of the PSC.
22. **ENDORSES** the Conclusions of the 6th High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 13 to 14 December 2018. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the efforts made by the African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) in promoting and defending African common

positions and concerns, decided by AU Policy Organs, within the Security Council. In this respect the Assembly **PAYS TRIBUTE** to Ethiopia for its invaluable contribution, in particular, with regard to efforts aimed at advancing the AU position on the Financing of African Peace and Security Agenda through predictable and sustainable funding to be secured from UN assessed contributions. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the election of the Republic of South Africa as a non-permanent member of the Security Council and **LOOKS FORWARD** to South Africa's contribution in advancing African peace and security Agenda in the UNSC. The Assembly **COMMENDS** Côte d'Ivoire for having tabled a draft resolution, following its endorsement by the PSC, to the Security Council and **REQUESTS** the A3 to continue to effectively articulate, defend and promote the African position on this issue. The Assembly **ALSO COMMENDS** Equatorial Guinea for having tabled a draft resolution on Silencing the Guns by 2020, and **CALLS ON** all the A3 and the African Group in New York to work together , with a view to facilitating the adoption of this landmark resolution. The Assembly **TAKES NOTE** of all challenges facing the A3 in their efforts to defend and promote African common positions within the Security Council and **REQUESTS** the PSC, working with the Commission to find best ways and means for further enhancing support to the work of the A3 in New York.

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Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa

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