

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

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

**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Thirty-Second Ordinary Session
10 - 11 February 2019
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

Assembly/AU/7 (XXXII)
Original: English

**FOURTH REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF
THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN
UNION MASTER ROADMAP OF PRACTICAL STEPS TO
SILENCE THE GUNS IN AFRICA BY THE YEAR 2020**

**FOURTH REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN
UNION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION MASTER
ROADMAP OF PRACTICAL STEPS TO SILENCE THE
GUNS IN AFRICA BY THE YEAR 2020**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) is submitted pursuant to the decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII), adopted during the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 – 31 January 2017, by which the Assembly endorsed the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the year 2020 (AUMR). In its decision, the Assembly requested the PSC to submit a report on the status of the implementation of the AUMR to each ordinary session of the Assembly till 2020, which is the deadline set by the Assembly in 2013 for ending wars/silencing the guns in Africa. It should also be recalled that the Assembly called on all Member States and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), civil society organizations and institutions, as well as partners and other relevant stakeholders, to redouble their efforts to ensure strong political and financial commitment in the implementation of the AUMR, with a view to scaling up Africa's efforts to end conflicts and promote a conflict-free dispensation in the Continent.

2. The present Report covers the period from the last AU Summit¹ held in, Nouakchott, Mauritania, in July 2018 to the 32nd ordinary session of the Assembly taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 10 and 11 January 2019. It provides, among the key aspects, the efforts deployed by the PSC, all AU Member States, RECs/RMs in the implementation of the AUMR, an overview of the major challenges being encountered in the implementation of the AUMR, the steps taken by various stakeholders to implement the AUMR, and the progress made thus far, as well as recommendations on how to further enhance efforts to silence the guns in the continent.

3. It should be recalled that the AUMR comprises five categories, namely political, economic, social, environmental and legal aspects, with various actions which need to be taken by AU Member States, RECs/RMs, AU Organs, civil society and African instructions/organizations, as well as the United Nations and other partners. Indeed, in this context, the AUMR lays emphasis on tangible achievements being made on national territories of AU Member States in enhancing democratic institutions and practices; curbing/eradicating illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, as well as advancing issues of disarmament, demobilization and integration together with security sector reform; addressing illicit financial flows, corruption and other malpractices, while at the same time enhancing socio-economic development and

¹ 31st Ordinary Session, held from 1 – 2 July 2018 in Nouakchott, Mauritania

resilience; reducing impact of climate change and accelerating domestication of AU instruments and policies on peace and security.

II. EFFORTS DEPLOYED BY THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL, THE RECs/RMs AND THE AU COMMISSION IN CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU MASTER ROADMAP (AUMR)

4. Below are the efforts deployed by the PSC, and the AU Member States through their respective RECs/RMs, as well as the AU Commission to implement the AU Master Roadmap during the period under review, guided by the fundamental notion in the Roadmap that silencing the guns in Africa requires ownership by Member States:

A. Efforts of the PSC:

5. During the period under review, the PSC, which is assigned a locomotive and coordinating role in the implementation of the AUMR, in line with the decisions of the Assembly and its Protocol, continued to deploy efforts in the implementation of the Roadmap, within the broad context of executing its mandate of promoting peace, security and stability in the Continent. The PSC has carried out several activities, with a view to ensuring that the conditions necessary to achieve the goal of silencing the guns by 2020 are created throughout the Continent. The PSC has made silencing the guns in Africa a cross-cutting issue in its efforts to resolve conflict/crisis situations and through open sessions on thematic issues, as well as through its communiqués and press statements.

6. The PSC took advantage of its annual joint consultative meetings with the UN Security Council in July 2018 and the European Union Political and Security Committee in October 2018, respectively to discuss the issue and challenges of silencing the guns in Africa and mobilize the UN and EU to continue to provide support to the AU to ensure that the AUMR activities are sufficiently funded for effective implementation. The PSC and the UN Security Council, during their 12th Annual joint Consultative Meeting in July 2018, agreed on exploring possible cooperation in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap by strengthening coordinated efforts in conflict prevention. During its 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting with the AU political and Security committee, the PSC appealed to the EU to also continue to support Africa in implementing the flagship Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020.

7. The PSC, with the participation of all AU Member States, other international organizations/institutions and partners, observed the African Amnesty Month at its 793rd meeting held on 4 September 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During the meeting, 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. In this context, the PSC agreed that the next year Africa Amnesty Month

by the PSC should be celebrated on a rotational basis at the regional level, with the full participation of local civil society and institutions/organizations, with a view of publicizing the month and bringing the initiative closer to those concerned.

8. Given the main challenges confronting Africa's efforts to become conflict-free, including the slow pace in the implementation of the AUMR, while the deadline of the year 2020 to silence the guns is impending, there is urgent need for the Member States and the RECs/RMs to accelerate their efforts in implementing the Roadmap in its five aspects as highlighted above. In this context, the Assembly may wish to commend the PSC for its lead efforts in implementing the AUMR and urge all Member States to redouble their efforts towards the goal of silencing the guns in Africa. The Assembly further may wish to endorse the PSC proposal of celebrating the African Amnesty Month on a rotational basis at the regional level, with the RECs/RMs leading the process, with the full participation of local civil society and institutions/organizations, with the view of publicizing the month and bringing the initiative closer to those concerned. The Assembly may also wish to appeal to the RECs/RMs, civil society organizations, the private sector and the UN, as well as the larger international community to ensure that, beyond theories and slogans, they collectively and in a practical way, contribute towards the realization of the goal of silencing the guns in Africa by the Year 2020. Therefore, the Assembly may further wish to welcome the initiatives of the Equatorial Guinea, in its capacity as the President of the UN Security Council for the month of February 2019, in including in the Council's agenda for February 2019 an open debate on the 'AU initiative on silencing the guns in Africa'. In this context, the Assembly may wish to urge the African Members of the UN Security Council (A3) and entire membership of this Council to provide their full support to Equatorial Guinea and accelerate efforts towards adoption of the envisaged outcome.

B. Observance of the Africa Amnesty Month:

9. It should be noted that during the period under review, several AU member States approached the AU Commission for technical and financial support for undertaking activities relating to the implementation of the Africa Amnesty Month (September of each year till 2020). It was in this context that, the Commission offered assistance to the requesting Member States in designing and implementing national initiatives. In this respect, five Member States were supported by the Commission in their efforts, namely; Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali, Sudan and Zambia. Assistance to the aforementioned countries addressed various national priorities, including media campaigns; workshops to sensitize and engage civil society; sensitization and training for artisanal firearms manufacturers; review of national legislation on firearms possession and amnesty; and training on arms collection, management and disposal. Below are details of some of the national activities conducted:

- i) **Burkina Faso**, through the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation of Small Arms (CNLPAL) implemented two activities during the month of December. An awareness campaign and training workshop were held on 4 and 5 December 2018 in Dedougou targeting local communities,

CSOs and defense and security forces and defense in the Mouhoun Region. The campaign and workshop raised awareness among 60 representatives of local communities and CSOs on the dangers of illicit circulation of arms, promoted collaboration between communities and security forces in the region and laid the foundation of the Observatory of Armed Violence (OVA) in the region.

A second training workshop was held on 19-20 December in Bobo Dioulasso, targeting 50 artisanal manufacturers of firearms. In the Hauts-Bassin Region. The workshop provided an opportunity to sensitize and educate manufacturers on the legislative and regulatory provisions governing their area of activity and legislation governing ownership, possession, manufacture and use of explosives and firearms. Artisanal manufacturers were also trained on compliance with structures and mechanisms of monitoring the implementation of relevant provisions of national law. The workshop provided an opportunity to set the framework for transparency and collaboration between the CNLPAL and traditional manufacturers on licensing, marking and record keeping, and to explore and develop alternative sources of livelihoods. Activities in Burkina Faso were support by the AU SAFGRAD.

- ii) In **Zambia**, and with the support of the AU Peace and Security Department, the government engaged a range of national stakeholders. On 25-26 September in Lusaka, a workshop brought together 60 representatives of the Zambia Police, Armed Forces and other law enforcement agencies to raise their awareness on the AU master Roadmap and the regional /international framework on illicit arms control. The workshop allowed the national stakeholders to develop a common assessment of the threat of illicit arms flows in the country, draw lessons learned from the national amnesty program, and identify measures and modalities to enhance and sustain interagency collaboration and execution of the amnesty in the coming years.

A second workshop was held on 27 September in Lusaka, targeting the Chiefs and chieftainess of Zambia and 40 representatives of the media as well as faith-based and civil society organizations. The workshop helped raise awareness among the media and civil society on the Africa Amnesty Month and allowed for interaction between civil society and law enforcement agencies, in order to share views and perspectives of civil society on issues relating to arms possession and previous iterations of voluntary disarmament programs. The workshop explored the role and identified measures through which community leaders can contribute to disarming their respective communities, as well as the confidence-building measures required among the police, the media and civil society to ensure effective voluntary disarmament programs.

- iii) In **Madagascar**, and through the AU Liaison Office, the government established an inter-ministerial committee to organise the Africa Amnesty Month called the CIOMA. Celebrations started on the 14th of September 2018 and the major focus was on capacity building for officers in charge and the media, as well as raising awareness to the mass population. CIOMA produced TV adverts, televised debates and documentaries which were screened in the major countries' TV and radio stations. Additionally, posters and billboards were displayed in the capital. The commemorations were also marked by a major symbolic event attended by dignitaries, high officers and the public which saw the destruction of 850 firearms. Due to mass sensitisation campaigns the country extended the commemorations till the month end of October.
- iv) In **Mali**, and with the support of MISAHEL, the Permanent Secretariat for the fight against the proliferation of SALW organized a national sensitization campaign on the Africa Amnesty Month from 22 October to 5 November 2018. The campaign was undertaken in 5 major localities in Mali and targeted craft producers of firearms, CSOs, religious authorities and the Defense and Security Forces. 300 persons were sensitized and trained while 70 craft arms were voluntarily surrendered to the Peace Commissions established in the target regions. The Permanent Secretariat further convened a workshop on 24-26 October in the Bamako in which 60 artisanal manufacturers of firearms from the different regions participated. The aims of the workshop were to sensitize and train artisanal manufacturers on national legislation and controls regarding arms production and acquisition. A peace caravan was also conducted between 20 and 28 December 2018 to reach out to communities and raise awareness about the dangers of arms proliferation and promote the amnesty.

C. Efforts by the AU Commission

10. The AU Commission, on its part, has been playing its role in implementation of the AUMR. Through the High Representative for Silencing the Guns of the Chairperson of the Commission, H.E. Amb Ramtane Lamamra, the Commission has provided support to the peace processes in Comoros and Madagascar. The Commission, also, through the High Representative, organized a two days High-Level Workshop, on 11 and 12 October 2018, that brought together leading specialists in peace-making from institutions active in the promotion of peace in Africa to reflect on how best to expedite the implementation of flagship projects of Agenda 2063 on Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020. Among others, the Workshop emphasized the need to concentrate, even more than in the past, on prevention of violent conflict by addressing root causes, and strengthening the Union's efforts towards structural prevention of conflict.

11. The Commission, during the period under review, has continued to provide support to Member States on the implementation of the AUMR. The Commission

provided financial and technical support to Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali, Sudan and Zambia to implement initiatives relating to the Africa Amnesty Month. Activities executed at the national level focused on voluntary collection and destruction of firearms, sensitization of local communities and artisanal arms producers, training on arms registration, management and destruction, as well as media and outreach campaigns. All activities were executed in line with the principles and recommendations put forward by the PSC in its Press Statement [PSC/PR/BR.(DCCXCIII)] adopted at its 793rd meeting held on 4 September 2018.

12. Furthermore, the Commission is in the process of developing technical and operational guidelines aimed at enhancing national and regional efforts in observing the Africa Amnesty Month and to produce a compendium of African experiences and good practices in implementing voluntary disarmament programs. Additionally, the Commission in collaboration with the RECs, continued its efforts towards developing the Silencing the Guns Continental Plan of Action on SALW, which aims to translate the priorities contained within the AU Master Roadmap, pertaining to illicit arms control, into concrete activities. The Western Africa and Eastern Africa regions plans were validated by meeting of the members of the respective regions on 16-17 May and 1-2 November 2018 in Dakar and Addis Ababa, respectively.

13. The AU Commission organized a validation Workshop for the Eastern Africa Chapter of the Silencing Guns Plan of Action, from 1 to 2 November in Addis Ababa, in which Member states from the Eastern Region participated. The workshop contributed to dissemination of the AUMR and various actions that need to be taken to achieve the goal of silencing the guns in Africa.

14. During the reporting period, the African Union for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) focused on supporting the establishment of the AFRIPOL National Liaison Offices in the Member States. So far, 44 Member States have established their Liaison offices. AFRIPOL also provided orientation for the Heads of the National Liaison Offices and training for the African Police Communication system (AFSECOM) to the Information Technology experts for them to be able to use the system. At the end of the trainings, equipment for AFSECOM was provided to the Police agencies of the above-mentioned Member States. AFSECOM enables ease and secure communication between and among the police agencies, including sharing of data and documents.

15. It is to be recalled that police experts of the AU Member States recommended the establishment of Working Groups in the three areas of i) Combating Transnational Organized Crime, ii) Combating Cybercrime, and iii) and Preventing and Combating Terrorism identified in the workshop “Capacity Building in the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime, Cybercrime and Terrorism” that was held in Algiers, in October 2017. As a follow-up, the workshop on establishing the AFRIPOL Working Groups on Combating Cybercrime was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 10-11 December 2018. The Working Group is drawn from experts from Member States, considering regional representation. The Working Group adopted an Action Plan intended to provide advice to AFRIPOL Secretariat on technical, legal, policy,

institutional and related matters in preventing and combating cybercrime. It will guide activities in fighting cybercrime in the Continent.

16. The AFRIPOL Secretariat will now pursue the establishment of the Working Groups on Combating Transnational Organized Crime and Preventing and Combating Terrorism. On the other hand, the AFRIPOL Steering Committee held its second and third meetings in July and October 2018. The meetings reviewed the implementation of AFRIPOL activities in line with the AFRIPOL 3-year action plan adopted at the first AFRIPOL General Assembly in May 2017. The Steering Committee also provided guidance on areas for further action. The second AFRIPOL General Assembly that was held on 15 and 16 October 2018 reviewed AFRIPOL activities and made recommendations for action by the Member States, AFRIPOL Secretariat and the AU Commission.

17. In its efforts to end conflicts on the continent and to support the AU's endeavours to silence the guns; the Commissioner for Peace and Security visited Burundi to consult with the Burundian highest authorities on how to revitalize the peace talks under the EAC mediation and to create the conditions for credible elections in 2020. The AU's support to the Government aims at fostering conducive conditions for the 2020 election. The EAC, in December 2018, organized a Summit of Heads of State and Government in December 2018 on the situation in Burundi, in which the Chairperson of the Commission was to participate. However, the meeting was later on postponed to February 2019.

18. Furthermore, during the period under review, the Chairperson of the Commission travelled from 3 to 5 October 2018 to the Gambia and Guinea Bissau. In Gambia, he commended and encouraged the state authorities for the progress made in the area of governance. He pledged the full support of the AU Commission in areas of security sector reform and transitional justice, among others. In Guinea Bissau, the Chairperson reaffirmed AU support to the facilitation efforts of the ECOWAS, and pledged support to the constitutional review process and the upcoming legislative elections in Guinea Bissau.

19. The AU Commission remained seized with the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Commissioner for Peace and Security and Commissioner for Political affairs travelled on several occasions to the DRC and met with the high authorities, including the President of the Republic, in support of efforts to organize a credible and transparent electoral process.

20. The AU Chairperson and the Commissioner for Peace and Security continued consultations with various stakeholders in the Central African Republic (CAR) in order to revitalize the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR. The Chairperson held engagements with the highest authorities of the Government of the CAR in Bangui in September 2018 with a view to assisting them in overcoming the challenges facing the country. In early January 2019, the Commissioner for Peace and Security, the UN Under-Secretary General in charge of peace keeping operations and

Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the region also held consultations with the highest authorities of the Government of the CAR in Bangui to exchange views on a date and venue for the direct talks between the Government of CAR and the 14 armed groups. The direct talks under the facilitation of the Commissioner for Peace and Security begun on 24 January 2019 in Khartoum, Sudan with the support of the region and the United Nations. The Talks were concluded with the signing of an Agreement by the Parties on 6 February 2019, in Bangui, CAR.

21. In an effort to enhance regional security cooperation mechanism in the Sahel, the AU Commission organized the 5th ministerial meeting of the Nouakchott process in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 26 to 27 November 2018. The participants agreed on several measures to reactivate the Nouakchott Process, including the establishment of an annual chair; the obligation of holding an annual ministerial meeting and the convening of a quarterly meetings of chiefs of intelligence and security services under the auspices of MISAHEL. As part of the efforts to institutionalize the Djibouti Process for the East African region, the Eastern Africa Fusion and Liaison Unit based in Entebbe, Uganda, has begun putting in place the necessary human and technical resources. The Unit is now operational following the deployment of intelligence officers from Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, in addition to those from the host country Uganda, which also provided other resources.

22. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to commend the AU Commission for its efforts to continue providing support to the Member States in the implementation of the AUMR to launch national programs and undertake activities in line with the objectives of the AU Master Roadmap and the Africa Amnesty Month. The Assembly may wish to encourage Member States to continue to implement the AUMR. The Assembly may also wish to welcome the development of the technical and operational guidelines by the Commission aimed at informing national and regional efforts aimed at observing the Africa Amnesty Month and a compendium of African experiences and good practices in implementing voluntary disarmament programs. The Assembly may further wish to request the AU Commission to speedily finalize these products and avail them to all AU Member States to strengthen their implementation efforts. The Assembly may wish to commend Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali, Sudan and Zambia for their efforts in undertaking activities to observe the Africa Amnesty Month in September 2018 and appeal to all other Member States to emulate these good examples as the continent strives towards achieving the goal of silencing the guns in Africa.

i) Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)

23. It should be noted that the Commission, in consultation with countries emerging from conflicts, has provided technical and also financial support to such countries. Within the framework of the Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Strategy, the Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations, convened and facilitated national consultations to discuss and agree on modalities and requirements to implement the processes and principles agreed to under the Regional Stabilization Strategy pertaining to screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons associated with Boko Haram.

National consultations have so far been held in Niamey and Yaoundé on 19-21 November and 11-13 December, respectively. The Commission is also supporting the MNJTF in developing Standard Operating Procedures to streamline the disarming and processing of surrendered and apprehended Boko Haram elements. In Somalia, the Commission assisted in developing an integrated database to facilitate storing, retrieval and analysis of all information related to screening under the national defector rehabilitation program. In this respect, a workshop was held on 21-22 November 2018 in Mogadishu to launch and train national practitioners on the application of the database.

24. Furthermore, and in order to assist Member States deal with the emerging challenges of contemporary conflicts, the Commission developed Operational Guidance Notes on Foreign Fighters and Countering Violent Extremism in DDR contexts. Both notes were validated by member States experts on 9-10 July 2018 in Cairo and are now being prepared for wider dissemination. The Commission also undertook consultations with African Centres of Excellence, on 1-2 November 2018 in Addis Ababa to assess DDR training needs across the continent and agree on an integrated project to improve the delivery and scope of DDR training programs currently available to Member States.

25. The Assembly may wish to welcome the development of an integrated framework to guide the handling of persons associated with terrorist groups in the Lake Chad Basin and call upon the concerned Member States to spare no effort in executing the procedures and principles outlined therein as part of the overall stabilization efforts in the region. The Assembly may also wish to encourage Member States to take ownership of the operational guidance notes developed by the Commission in response to growing complexities in the field of DDR.

ii) Security Sector Reform (SSR)

26. On the basis of consultation with countries emerging from conflicts, the commission has continued to provide support to such countries to assist them in undertaking their SSR programmes. The Commission has continued to accompany Madagascar in its SSR process. On 16-18 July 2018, the Commission facilitated consultations in Addis Ababa among the Malagasy stakeholders with the presence of the Minister of Defense and Speaker of Parliament. The workshop addressed the challenges to operationalizing the national framework on SSR and agreed on the scope of the legal decrees required in this respect. The Commission also deployed a technical expert to Mali as of 4 November 2018 to support MISAHEL in executing its mandate and facilitate the development of the national strategic vision towards the implementation of the relevant provisions and principles of the Peace Accord.

27. Furthermore, the Commission organized a training workshop for Member States, from 25 to 26 September 2018, on the development of national codes of conduct for security institutions to enhance their efficiency and professionalism. Most notably, and in promoting full ownership of the SSR agenda in the continent, the Commission organized the 2nd Africa Forum on SSR on 22-24 October 2018 in Addis Ababa. The

Forum offered a platform for inclusive dialogue among Member States and considered the challenges and opportunities to sustainable SSR initiatives in Africa, SSR in the context of Peace Support Operations and the role of the Council in advancing the implementation of the AU SSR Policy Framework. The Forum resulted in several action points, including the establishment of a Steering Committee on SSR, the development of the 3-year Strategic Plan on SSR, and the revision of the OAU Convention against Mercenarism to strengthen its implementation mechanism and address contemporary challenges to regulating private military and security companies.

28. In line with the principles and objectives of the Livingstone Formula on Interaction of the Civil Society organizations with the PSC on Peace and Security issues, the Commission, in collaboration with ECOSOCC, the Africa Security Sector Network and Oxfam, organized two training workshops for CSOs on 5-7 September and 3-5 December 2018 in Addis Ababa. The trainings enhanced the capacity of grass-root civil society organizations in countries emerging from conflict to engage meaningfully in the formulation and implementation of SSR policies and develop influencing strategies.

29. The Assembly may wish to commend the Commission for convening the 2nd Africa Forum on SSR as an important platform to reflect on progress and challenges to the implementation of the AU Policy Framework on SSR. The Assembly may also wish to welcome efforts undertaken by the Commission to support Member States in articulating and executing SSR processes, and to promote active and constructive engagement of civil society in SSR. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to underscore the need to streamline SSR in the AU's conflict prevention and resolution efforts, as well as in post-conflict reconstruction and development initiatives, in accordance with the relevant practical steps outlined in the AU Master Roadmap.

iii) Controlling the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons

30. The Commission provided financial and technical support to Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali, Sudan and Zambia to implement initiatives relating to the Africa Amnesty Month. Activities executed at the national level focused on voluntary collection and destruction of firearms, sensitization of local communities and artisanal arms producers, training on arms registration, management and destruction, as well as media and outreach campaigns. All activities were executed in line with the principles and recommendations put forward by the Council in its working paper adopted at the 793rd meeting held on 4 September 2018.

31. Additionally, and within the framework of the Ammunition Safety Management Initiative, a training course was held on 3-14 December in Nairobi at the International Peacekeeping Training Centre. The training course benefited 24 personnel from Member States and enabled building practical skills in implementing the international ammunition technical guidelines.

32. The process of developing the AU Policy for the Management of Recovered Arms and Ammunition in PSOs has been completed following its validation by Member States' experts on 5 November 2018 in Addis Ababa. The draft policy is expected to be adopted by the 12th Ordinary Session of the STCDSS in 2019 and will lead to effective and harmonized practices in mission areas and prevent the diversion of weapons and their entry into illicit circulation. Additionally, the process of developing the continental mapping study on illicit arms flows was completed following its validation by RECs and international experts on 19-20 September 2018 in Addis Ababa. The study will be presented to the Council and disseminated in 2019.

33. Furthermore, and in collaboration with the RECs, the Commission continued its efforts towards developing the Silencing the Guns Continental Plan of Action on SALW, which aims to translate the priorities contained within the AU Master Roadmap, pertaining to illicit arms control, into concrete activities. The West Africa and East Africa regions plans were validated on 16-17 May and 1-2 November 2018 in Dakar and Addis Ababa, respectively.

34. The Assembly may wish to commend the PSC, supported by the Commission, for the guidance and assistance provided to Member States in observing the Africa Amnesty Month, and to encourage consistent and effective implementation by Member States in the years to come. The Assembly may also wish to welcome the development of the Draft AU Policy for the Management of Recovered Arms and Ammunition in PSOs and look forward to its timely adoption by the STCDSS. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to call upon Member States to intensify their efforts, in line with the AU Master Roadmap, to prevent the diversion, illicit circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, including through ratifying and effectively implementing the relevant regional and international instruments.

iv) Mine Action and Countering the threat of Improvised Explosive Devices

35. On 6 December 2018, the Commission convened a consultative meeting among RECs, troop contributing countries, international partners and Member States impacted by the threat of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The meeting assessed the current trends in IEDs use, as well as the approaches to countering associated risks in mission and non-mission contexts. The meeting discussed options for improving mitigation approaches including standardization, interoperability coordination platforms, political and material support needs. Action points were agreed upon in the areas of coordination and intelligence exchange, as well as developing a policy framework for standardization and strengthening the criminal justice response to IEDs. The meeting further clarified to participating Member States the legal implications of IEDs pursuant to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

36. The Assembly may wish to recall decision AHG/Dec.135 (XXXV) of the 35th Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU, and call on Member States with outstanding clearance obligations, pursuant to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban

Convention, to intensify their efforts in line with the Maputo 2025 Commitment. The Assembly may also wish to welcome the dialogue initiated by the Commission among Member States and partners, towards developing coherent and coordinated approaches to countering the growing threat of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and to promote institutional capacity building to mitigate their risk. The Assembly may wish to take note of the holding of the 4th Review conference of the Mine Ban Convention in Oslo, in November 2019, and request the Commission, with the support from the PSC, to review the existing continental frameworks and develop an African common position ahead of the review conference.

v) Weapons of Mass Destruction and Non-proliferation

37. The Commission continued to promote ratification and implementation of the disarmament and non-proliferation multilateral instruments in line with the decisions of the Assembly and Council. On 14-16 August 2018, and in partnership with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Commission convened the first training course for 1540 national Points of Contact of French-speaking Member States. The training courses provided the Points of Contact with an in-depth knowledge of the resolution and built skills on strengthening national coordination and implementation. In promoting adherence to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) across the continent, the Commission, in collaboration with the BWC Implementation Support Unit, convened a sensitization meeting for non-parties on 12-13 December 2018 in Addis Ababa to improve states' understanding of the BWC and the benefits of joining the convention, including on bio-safety, bio-security, and international cooperation and assistance.

38. With regard to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) the Commission facilitated the convening of the 1st Extraordinary Session of the Conference of States Parties, on 14 June 2018 in Addis Ababa, which elected by acclamation 11 members of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE). The Commission also provided financial and technical support for convening of the 9th Ordinary Session of AFCONE on 8-9 October 2018 in Addis Ababa. This was followed by the assumption of duties by the interim Executive Secretary of AFCONE on 26 November 2018 in Pretoria.

39. The Commission has commenced the process of developing a model law on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) security. The model law will assist Member States, with both common and civil law systems, in setting up legislation in full compliance with the regional and international instruments to strengthen national controls and prevent access and acquisition by criminals and terrorists. It will be tailored to the African context and will serve as a working tool to understand the full scope of obligations, and assess and address the gaps in domestic legislation. The scope of the model law was defined in consultations with the mandated regional and international organizations at a workshop held on 13-14 December 2018 in Vienna.

40. The Assembly may wish to express its concern regarding the global challenges to the multilateral regimes against Weapons of Mass Destruction and reaffirm that they remain a critical pillar of the global peace and security architecture, calling upon Member States that have not yet done so to speedily ratify the Pelindaba Treaty, as well as the biological and chemical weapons conventions. The Assembly may also wish to welcome the efforts undertaken by the Commission to support the development of institutional capacities for the full and effective implementation of the regional and international instruments against WMD. The Assembly may wish to request the AU Commission and the AFCON to provide annual briefing to the PSC on the status of implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty and the activities of the AFCONE.

D. Efforts by the RECs/RMs:

41. During the period under review, the various RECs/RMs have continued with their efforts to implement the AUMR, building on their previous activities to this effect. Below are synthesized contributions of the respective RECs/RMs as elaborated on the basis of inputs provided by the respective RECs/RMs:

i) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

42. During the reporting period, the ECOWAS Region has continued to address the issues related to the proliferation, illicit circulation and trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). Currently, Documentation and Tracing of Weapons and Ammunition is both a regional and national priority. Pursuant to the experimentation of the implementation of the Article 19 of the ECOWAS Convention on SALW, funding has been secured and the implementation of a Project on Weapons Documentation and Tracing is presently ongoing in four (4) ECOWAS Member States.

43. Furthermore, high level consultations have ensued in Member States where by the National Commissions on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NATCOMs) have not been functional, namely in The Gambia and Guinea Bissau with the aim to reactivate the NATCOMs. Concrete interventions to include consultation workshops, sensitization and advocacy have been undertaken in both countries.

44. With the support of partners, the implementation of a five-year project which aims to enhance physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) has commenced in ECOWAS Member States. The project is largely the establishment of a Regional Training Centre in Jaji, Nigeria to train security agencies of ECOWAS Member States on PSSM. The project will engender a pool of experts on PSSM in the ECOWAS Region.

45. The ECOWAS-EU Small Arms Project is presently being implemented in seven (7) ECOWAS Member States for about three (3) years. It is a Practical Disarmament project that aims to mop up illicit weapons and ammunition in circulation in the beneficiary Member States in exchange for community micro development project and alternative livelihood (to include vocational training and start up equipment for individual

beneficiaries). The community development projects that were implemented included but not limited to construction of football field, organization of football match, provision of bore holes, renovation of clinic, renovation of community schools, provision for rice milling machine for women farmers group and provision and canopy and plastic chairs for social events among others. Within the framework of the project, over three hundred and fifty eight (358) locally manufactured guns, twenty three thousand five hundred and eighteen (23,518) ammunition of different caliber, one thousand six hundred and fifty two (1,652) industrial made assault rifles of different models, seventy three (73) grenades, thirty (30) unexploded ordinance and twenty eight (28) rockets were collected from across the target beneficiary ECOWAS Member States of the Project.

46. ECOWAS Member States are continually being encouraged to review their legal and normative frameworks related to combatting proliferation, trafficking and illicit circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The ECOWAS Commission gives technical support to Member States to review their legal and normative frameworks to incorporate the ECOWAS Convention on SALW as minimum standard. Prior to this intervention, the legal and normative frameworks in use in many Member States were promulgated at the time when the States did not face the nature of contemporary scourge of SALW Proliferation, thus, there existed critical gaps in those frameworks to combat contemporary challenges related to arms proliferation. Review of national legislations on arms have now been undertaken in most of ECOWAS Member States, thus, legal provisions have been revised and have incorporated both the ECOWAS Convention on SALW and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as minimum standards.

47. In May 2018, the ECOWAS Commission convened a Regional Meeting of the National Commissions on Small Arms and Light Weapons with a view to assessing the effectiveness of implementation of the existing regional, African and international instrument in order to identify challenges and pave the way forward in line with the spirit of silencing the guns in Africa.

ii) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

48. COMESA has implemented a wide range of activities resulting in various outcomes that will support the objectives of silencing the guns by 2020.

49. On conflict prevention, COMESA developed an early warning system that forecasts the structural factors that can lead to vulnerabilities in the peace and prosperity of the respective country. It is expected that if countries enhance their resilience and address their vulnerabilities structurally, then conflicts will be prevented at the earliest stages of conflict prevention, which is more desirable than resolving conflicts.

50. In 2018, COMESA presented Structural Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) forecasts to technical officers and policy makers in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Madagascar. Because structural vulnerabilities cut across a wide range of stakeholders, the dissemination was made to government officials of key government

ministries as well as civil society. In all the countries the stakeholders proposed establishing a mechanism to respond to the SVAs. This will take different forms for the different countries such that in some countries, existing early response mechanisms will be strengthened to also address the outputs of the COMWARN SVA reports. The consultations were carried out in Zambia on 2 – 6 September 2018; Zimbabwe on 17 – 20 September and Madagascar on 22 – 25 October 2018.

51. During all the consultations, COMESA provided a platform for AU to present its Country Structural Vulnerability Assessments (CSVRA) and Country Structural Vulnerability and Mitigation Strategy (CSVMS). The three countries agreed to officially request AU to support these processes. During the consultations, COMESA also provided the SADC Desk Officer to explain the role of SADC early warning in order to exploit synergies between the two early warning systems.

52. To further strengthen the early warning, COMESA convened experts from COMESA Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 6 – 8 November 2018 to review the progress made in the implementation of COMWARN. All countries that have committed to establish response mechanisms for COMWARN were provided an opportunity to share their experiences. The meeting agreed on the importance of establishing response mechanism and agreed on possible minimum standards for such response mechanisms.

53. Noting the increase of electoral related violence over the last few years, COMESA deployed efforts to support peaceful elections and the consolidation of democracy through pre-elections assessment missions as well as the observation of elections. The pre-elections assessment missions were carried out by members of the COMESA Committee of Elders, who held discussions with a wide range of stakeholders to identify any contentious issues that can lead to violence if not addressed as well as areas that need strengthening to ensure the longer-term consolidation of democracy.

54. It should be noted that COMESA undertook a pre-election assessment mission was the DRC in May 2018 ahead of the July 2018 election. Also, COMESA Committee of Elders engaged with the Government of Zimbabwe with regard to the election held in July 2018 in that country. COMESA also deployed an elections observer mission for the 31 July 2018 election. COMESA and ECCAS also held a joint pre-elections assessment mission to the DRC on 11 – 16 November 2018 and provided valuable comments to the electoral body, to support peaceful elections in the DRC.

55. With regard to crisis management, COMESA has worked in collaboration with EASF on a fact-finding mission ahead of the referendum in The Comoros held in August 2018. This was done in July 2018, following the crisis that threatened to escalate. Comprehensive reports were submitted to the Secretary General including recommendations for longer term stability of Comoros.

56. COMESA continued to provide support to countries that have emerged from long conflicts to ensure their long term stability. This was done by supporting border

communities to strengthen the cross-border regimes, including trade. COMESA has held six border workshops at the borders between DRC and Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. These meetings have resulted in various commitments by the respective border officials to improve relations as well as trade at the border areas. The workshops were held at the Ishasha -Ishasha border between DRC and Uganda in April 2018; Bugarama-Kamanyole between DRC and Rwanda in July 2018; Mukambo – Mukambo between DRC and Zambia.

57. During the last half of 2018, COMESA has also continued to implement the Regional Maritime Security Programme (MASE) including support to Financial Intelligence units of Kenya and Madagascar through the provision of analytical software and to Tanzania through the development of guidelines for Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions. COMESA has also continued to support countries, Ethiopia and Madagascar towards joining the Egmont Group of FIUs. Several trading courses were convened for law enforcement agencies on strategic analysis as well as financial investigation and asset recovery. It is expected that strengthening the Anti-Money laundering regimes in the member states will result in higher stability for the region.

iii) Southern African Development Community (SADC)

58. During the period under review, SADC has undertaken several practical steps in the southern region to achieve the goal of silencing the guns in Africa by 2020. SADC deployed Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) Pre-election Assessment Missions to DRC and Madagascar. It also deployed Electoral Observer Missions (SEOM) to observe the elections in Madagascar and DRC. The SADC Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) on Small Arms and Light Weapons reviewed implementation of the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other related materials in Malawi. The SARPCCO Regional Coordinating Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Small Arms Survey met in Zambia from 11 to 12 September 2018 to broker regulation governing management of recovered weapons.

59. On operations, SADC conducted Operation BASADI VI from 7 to 9 January 2018, with the aim of confiscating illegal firearms that are mainly used for poaching, car theft, murder and other acts of violence. Operation TEMBO, which was a continuation of Operation BASADI was conducted from 24 to 25 January 2018. SARPCCO and EAPCCO Member States conducted joint simultaneous Operation USALAMA V on 27 September 2018, targeting priority crimes such as people smuggling, trafficking of persons, narcotic drugs, environmental crime, theft of motor vehicles and copper cables, illicit proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and to apprehend fugitives.

60. During the reporting period, SADC also deployed the SADC Preventative Mission in Lesotho (SAPMIL), to support stabilization efforts, given the recurrence of challenges in the security institutions of the country. Having carried out its mandate, the mission was phased out on 20 November 2018.

61. On Training Exercises to keep forces fit for purpose, SADC Member States conducted the multidimensional Exercise UMODZI from 1 to 16 October 2018 in Malawi. The Exercise aimed at enhancing the full operational capability of the SADC standby forces and prepare them to be an African Standby Force by 1 January 2019. The SADC Standby Force conducted Exercise PABALERO in Botswana, from 12 to 29 November 2018, to enhance the capability of the Medical Health Service component skills.

iv) Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

62. The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has been implementing the regional peace and security strategy designed for 2016-2020, which covers the entire major strategic pillars of the APSA Roadmap 2016-2020 and broadly, the AUMR. The ending of the no-war no-peace situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea, the initiatives towards resolving the outstanding issues between Eritrea and Djibouti, and the agreement between Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia to boost cooperation followed by the lifting of the UN sanctions on Eritrea have positive ramifications to the wider IGAD region.

63. During the period under review, the Horn of Africa has continue to witness positive development on the peace and security landscape. The peace processes in Somalia has been marked, inter alia, by efforts to bridge the gaps between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States with a view to strengthening the efforts to fully stabilize the country. With regard to South Sudan, the commitment of the parties to implement the Revitalized-Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan has continued to help in paving the way for South Sudanese to rebuild their country. Whereas, the national dialogue process in Sudan has continued to gather momentum, thanks to the commitment of the Government and all other stakeholders. Broadly, all the peace promotion and building efforts by the IGAD countries represent important steps towards creating conditions that would facilitate efforts towards silence the gun in the Horn of Africa.

64. With regard to specific contributions, IGAD has been engaged in facilitating and mediating peace processes in the region that is South Sudan and Somalia. On South Sudan, following a face-to-face meeting held in Addis Ababa, between President Salva Kiir and Dr. Riek Machar, facilitated by the IGAD Chairperson, H.E Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the IGAD Summit decided that further rounds of talks be held in Khartoum and Nairobi. Decisive Agreements have been signed including on the outstanding Transitional Security Arrangements and Governance issues. The IGAD Envoy has been coordinating and working closely with the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) and Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM) and with the Parties and Stakeholders in nominating their representatives to the various Agreement institutions/mechanisms. These Agreement institutions will be important to help implement the revitalized peace agreement of 2015

and to build trust among the various parties signatory to the agreement. This process is hoped to bring peace for South Sudan.

65. Regarding Somalia, IGAD has been working closely with the Federal Government of Somalia through its Special Mission and the Special Envoy. The IGAD contribution in Somalia covers areas of state formation, national reconciliation and, security arrangements. More emphasis has been given to facilitating talks between the regions of Somalia's Puntland and Somaliland authorities. Somaliland and Puntland are locked in a standoff over some areas, which has led to deadly clashes since the start of 2018 after both sides mobilized soldiers in the contested areas. IGAD believes that if this dispute continues, it could create another violence where armed conflict can reverse the peace and harmony that existed between the two sides. The confrontation could also create wider risks of destabilization in the region if it falls into the hands of Al Shabaab insurgency. Considering the risk, a joint delegation of the IGAD and the United Nations have met relevant authorities from both sides and efforts are continuing towards brokering peace agreement.

v) Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

66. During the reporting period, the Economic community of Central African States (ECCAS) has continued championing to the implementation of the AUMR in support of its Member States.

67. It should be recalled that during the First Conference of States Parties to the Kinshasa Convention, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 11 to 13 June 2018, the ECCAS General Secretariat appealed to Member States and all organisations and entities that participated in the Conference on the need to implement the proclamation of the African Union making September the "Month of Amnesty" in order to promote the voluntary surrender of illegally owned weapons. The ECCAS General Secretariat also took advantage of the convening of the 46th and 47th Ministerial Meetings of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Peace and Security in Central Africa, held respectively in Brazzaville, Congo, from 27 May to 2 June 2018 and in Ndjamena, Chad, from 3 to 7 December 2018 to sensitize the Member States about the measures to be taken to promote the voluntary surrender of weapons by civilians and armed groups.

68. The Republic of the Congo set up a weapons collection programme in the Pool region. In September 2018 alone, more than 10,000 weapons were recovered by the Office of the High Commissioner for Disarmament. Similarly, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, some rebels, members of armed groups from the eastern part of the country, surrendered to the authorities of the National Army and handed over weapons and ammunition.

69. The region is redoubling its efforts to put in place suitable institutional mechanisms to curb/stop the illicit proliferation of SALW in the ECCAS member states. As such, at the Community level and on the basis of the Implementation Plan of the "Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their

ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair and assembly", signed by the majority of ECCAS Member States, on 19 November 2010, in Brazzaville and which entered into force on 8 March 2017, the Secretariat has already established for some time now, as requested by the Ministers of the Member States of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, a "SALW Unit", which is responsible for the management of all matters related to disarmament and arms control, including SALW in the sub region of Central Africa.

70. At the same time, most ECCAS Member States have started to establish National Institutional Mechanisms called "National Commissions" or "National Focal Points" to combat the uncontrolled circulation of SALW within their own respective boundaries. In July 2018, the Republic of Chad received technical assistance from the ECCAS General Secretariat to set up its National Arms Control Commission. The Central African Republic completed the process of setting up its National Commission bringing to five ECCAS Member States having a National SALW Commission. In the same perspective, other ECCAS Member States have appointed National Focal Points on SALW and are moving towards their institutionalisation as National Commissions (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe and Chad).

71. Following the AU Commission request, the ECCAS General Secretariat, with the support of the ECCAS Member States, set up the ECCAS Border Programme (BP/ECCAS). Within this framework, a multitude of initiatives and informative documents have been developed, aiming, inter alia, at better border management and control, including putting an end to the illegal entry of illegal products and materials. More importantly, the BP/ECCAS made it possible to begin to fill the gaps found in the delimitation and demarcation of borders in the geographical area of ECCAS, as well as in transborder cooperation on the basis of the participation of local communities. Furthermore, the BP/ECCAS takes into account the emergence of new security problems such as terrorism, violent extremism, human trafficking, illegal exploitation of natural resources, poaching, the degradation of environment, drug trafficking, the entry of illicit small arms into the Central African sub-region, etc. To this end, the ECCAS Border Programme receives financial and technical assistance from the African Union to carry out appropriate activities in the Member States for a period of four years (2019-2022).

72. During the second half of 2018, the General Secretariat fielded Election Observation Missions in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, the Republic of Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A Representational Office of ECCAS was opened in Kinshasa, DRC, for a close follow-up of the electoral process underway in that country. The ECCAS Electoral Observation Missions worked closely with the Election Observer Missions of the African Union and other sister Regional Economic Communities.

73. Within the framework of the rationalisation of actions between ECCAS and CEMAC, particularly with regard to police cooperation in the sub region, work has been

initiated to consolidate the legal, normative and administrative framework with a view to, inter alia, curbing the illicit financial flows linked in particular to the proliferation of SALW and terrorism in the sub-region. To this end, technical meetings and seminars of Central African Police Chiefs are organised regularly to enhance cooperation, exchange information and good practices.

74. As the main legal mechanism for the control of small arms and light weapons in the Central Africa Region, the Kinshasa Convention is now ratified by seven (7) ECCAS Member States namely, Angola, Cameroon, Congo, the CAR, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe and Chad. In December 2018, the Democratic Republic of the Congo ratified the Kinshasa Convention internally. The current deposit of its instrument of ratification with the General Secretariat of the United Nations will bring to eight the number of States which have ratified this Convention. Gradually, the sub-region is moving towards the universal implementation of this Convention at the sub-regional level.

75. Concurrently, with the efforts made for the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention, the Secretary General of ECCAS is making efforts for the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), adopted on 2 April 2013 and entered into force on 24 December 2014, to which three ECCAS Member States are now States Parties to the ATT namely, Chad, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Cameroon. Some States stated during the Fourth Conference of States Parties, their intention to ratify the Treaty.

76. The Assembly may wish to commend the efforts deployed by the RECs/RMs in the implementation of the AUMR and urge them to continue providing support to their Member States. The Assembly may also wish to request the RECs/RMs to closely work with the Commission, towards appointing their respective focal points and communicate names to the Commission, to participate in the development of a comprehensive Report on the implementation of the AUMR to be submitted to the Assembly in January 2020.

III. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

77. Indeed, despite the slow pace of implementation of AUMR, notable progress has been achieved since the last reporting period. Various RECs/RMs and Member States, as well as African institutions/organizations and partners have reported, through PSC open sessions on observance the Africa Amnesty month, on the implementation various activities as outlined in the AUMR with a view to silencing the guns in Africa. A number of challenges have been revealed that impede the rate at which progress is being made in Africa's efforts towards meeting the deadline of 2020 for Silencing the Guns, within the overall vision of building a conflict-free continent in line with the aspirations in AU's Agenda 2063. Some of the challenges are the existence of ungoverned spaces which leave room for illegal activities; continued inflow of weapons into the continent and their illicit circulation and use in some parts of Africa; weak mechanisms or their absence in some cases, as needed in curbing illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons; inadequate border monitoring and control; persistence of corruption and illicit financial flows which facilitate funding for illicit weapons and conflicts; illegal exploitation of

natural resources which contribute to funding insurgencies and rebellions, to mention a few. These challenges point to the imperative for the AU and RECs/RMs, with their Member States, to redouble efforts in implementing the AUMR and create the requisite conditions on the ground for silencing the guns in the Continent.

78. Furthermore, there is also the challenge of slow provision of inputs to both the AU Commission and RECs/RMs Secretariats by various stakeholders involved in the implementation of the AUMR. The effect here is that there is often little time left before the session of the Assembly for the PSC, with the support of the AU Commission, to fully document and provide a full profile report to the AU Assembly. In this context, there are various activities conducted by the Member States in the implementation of the AUMR, but they are not reported by the concerned Member States. This limits the capacity of the Commission and the PSC to compile a comprehensive report which reflects the activities implemented by Member States. In the same vein, this also poses some difficulties for the Commission to be adequately familiar with the challenges the Member States, RECs/RMs and institutions/organizations are facing in implementing the AUMR in order to design tailored approaches and responses.

79. There has been low response or visibility from Member States regarding observance of the African Amnesty Month. For example, for the year 2018, only a few AU member States organized activities to observe the African Amnesty Month and reported on them. There is need for the Member States to organize activities during the amnesty month to sensitize their populations, popularize the month and encourage citizens to voluntarily surrender the illegally owned weapons.

IV. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

80. It should be recalled that in January 2017, during the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, when the Assembly endorsed the AUMR, it was directed that the AUMR will be implemented until the year 2020, the deadline set in the Declaration of the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Organization of African Unity/African Union for silencing the guns in Africa. Since the first report to the Assembly, it is clear that all concerned stakeholders, under the mobilisation of the PSC and the Commission, continue to implement the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the year 2020. In itself, this sustained commitment and the concurrent practical engagements on the ground are unique opportunities which should continue to be fully utilized. Progress continues to be made in enhancing democratic institutions and practices, as well as in strengthening inclusive public policies with a view to extending opportunities to citizens. Also, the will being demonstrated by AU partners, particularly the UN to support Africa's efforts in this context is another window of opportunity to be fully utilized. Furthermore, peace enhancing leadership is being demonstrated in various parts of Continent, producing the expected peace dividends.

81. There is need to continue to mobilize Member States to redouble their efforts in demonstrating more political and financial commitment to ensure the creation of

requisite conditions for silencing the guns in Africa. There is an urgent need for the AU Member States to widely publicize the observance and execution of the Africa Amnesty Month, September each year, until the year 2020, with the view to mobilizing civilians/citizens to voluntarily surrender illegally owned weapons. The observance of the Africa Amnesty Month is one of the many steps in the right direction that will contribute to peace and security on the Continent.

82. There is imperative for Member States, the Commission and RECs/RMs to enhance preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention as part of the efforts to silence the guns and realize a conflict-free Continent.

83. Member States should be encouraged to submit their reports on the implementation of the AUMR in its five key aspects, namely political, social, economic, environmental and legal aspects. This approach would enable the PSC and the Assembly to see the actual trends in the AUMR implementation process and address gaps where they appear.

84. As the 2020 deadline approaches, it is critical for the Member States to review the implementation of the AUMR, with a view to assessing the progress made and the challenges facing its implementation in order to find a way forward and accelerate the on-going efforts. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to request the PSC, with the support of the Commission, to initiate steps for the elaboration of a comprehensive report on the status of implementation of the AUMR, in close coordination with the Member States and the RECs/RMs, to be submitted to the Assembly in January 2020.

85. Given the constraints in terms of financial and human resources impacting on the activities of the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa, there is need for mainstreaming funding for these activities from the AU regular budget, in line with the legal procedures of the Union. In this context, the Assembly may wish to encourage Member States to volunteer resources, within their means, to facilitate the work of the High Representative, whose role complements that of the PSC in enhancing coordination of activities aimed at silencing the guns within Africa.

V. CONCLUSION

86. It should be recalled that during the OAU/AU 50th Anniversary, in Addis Ababa, on 25 May 2013, at which was adopted the Solemn Declaration, the Heads of State and Government, among others aspects, pledged not to bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by 2020. This was followed by the adoption of the AUMR by the Assembly in January 2017. Notably, to date, significant progress has been made, taking into consideration the fact that most involved stakeholders have taken some concrete steps to create conditions and upscale the momentum towards achieving the goal of silencing the guns in Africa and continue to do so. It should be reiterated that the effective implementation of the silencing the guns AU flagship project, is the collective task of all AU Member States and RECs/RMs, at the top layer, with support of civil society, African institutions/organizations, and

international players, such as the UN. Also, provision of financial and human resources support by Member States remains critical for the success of this flagship project.

87. As highlighted in the report and as the December 2020 deadline to end wars in Africa approaches, it is essential to bear in mind that there are still major challenges and constraints which need to be overcome in order to place the Continent in a better posture to be able to demonstrate real gains by the deadline set in the Declaration of the OAU/AU 50th Anniversary, in Addis Ababa, on 25 May 2013. In this respect, given the realities in the Continent, it is desirable for the Assembly to provide advance guidelines for further actions to be taken towards building a conflict –free Africa beyond December 2020.

88. In a nutshell, the steps to be taken by the PSC towards developing a comprehensive report on the implementation of the AUMR, to be presented to the Assembly in January/February 2020, will provide the opportunity for the Assembly to lay down the pillars for the way forward to continue undertaking the important task of silencing the guns and ending wars in Africa.

DRAFT**ASSEMBLY DECISION ON THE FOURTH REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION MASTER ROADMAP OF PRACTICAL STEPS FOR SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA BY THE YEAR 2020**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Fourth Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) on the Implementation of the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;
2. **RECALLS** the Organization of African Unity/ African Union (OAU/AU) 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2013, in Addis Ababa, in which the Assembly of the Union pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020, as well as decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII) by which the 28th ordinary session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 – 31 January 2017, adopted, following submission by the PSC, the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;
3. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** the progress made, so far, on the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap, in all its aspect namely, political, economic, social, environmental and legal. In this context, the Assembly **COMMENDS** all AU the Member States, the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict, management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), civil society organizations and the private sector, as well as the United Nations (UN) and other partners for their unwavering engagements towards implementation of the AU Master Roadmap, which contributes to creating conditions for realization of a conflict-free Africa;
4. **COMMENDS** the efforts deployed by the PSC in championing and steering forward the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap. The Assembly further **COMMENDS** the RECs/RMs, particularly the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for providing inputs on their activities in implementing AU Master Roadmap. In this regard, the Assembly **APPEALS** to all the stakeholders to deploy the required efforts to ensure that there is full coverage on the efforts being deployed in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap and **LOOKS** forward to more detailed report to be submitted to the ordinary session of the Assembly in January/February 2020. In the same vein, the Assembly **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for the support that it continues to provide to the Member States in undertaking national programs and initiatives in line with the objectives of the AU Master Roadmap;

5. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the slow pace in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap, given the impending December 2020 deadline for ending wars in Africa. While calling for the acceleration of the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap, the Assembly further **EXPRESS DEEP CONCERN** over the persistence of threats to peace and security in the continent, especially election-related crisis; the existence of ungoverned spaces which leave room for illegal activities; continued inflow of weapons into the continent and their illicit circulation and use in some parts of Africa; weak mechanisms or their absence in some cases, as needed in curbing illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons; inadequate border monitoring and control; persistence of corruption and high rate of unemployment, particularly among the youth; illicit financial flows which facilitate funding for illicit weapons and conflicts; illegal exploitation of natural resources which contribute to funding insurgencies and rebellions; the effects of climate change and increase in desertification; and slow processes in the ratification of AU instruments and policies. In the context, the Assembly **APPEALS** to all AU Member States, RECs/RMs and civil society, as well as the UN, and other partners to redouble their efforts to ensure that the AU flagship project of silencing the guns is effectively implemented;
6. While **COMMENDING** those countries which undertook activities in observance of the Africa Amnesty Month, namely, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali, Sudan and Zambia for their commitments towards the goal of silencing the guns in Africa, the Assembly **URGES** all other Member States to emulate these efforts and give more visibility to the Africa Amnesty Month, September each year. The Assembly further **STRESSES** the need for Member States and other stakeholders to contribute to the sensitization of its citizens with regard to the Africa Amnesty Month, in order to facilitate the voluntary surrender the illegally owned weapons;
7. Given the significant potential of the observance of the Africa Amnesty month to contribute to curbing illicit circulation and use of weapons, the Assembly **ENDORSES** the PSC decision to the effect that the marking/commemoration of the Africa Amnesty Month is conducted on a rotational basis in the five geographic regional, with the RECs/RMs leading the process, with the full participation of local civil society and institutions/organizations, with the view of publicizing the month and bringing the initiative closer to those concerned;
8. **WELCOMES** the development of the technical and operational guidelines by the Commission aimed at informing national and regional efforts in conducting activities under the Africa Amnesty Month and a compendium of African experiences and good practices in implementing voluntary disarmament programs. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to speedily finalize these products and avail them to all AU Member States to strengthen their implementation efforts in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap;

9. **WELCOMES** the initiatives of the Equatorial Guinea, in its capacity as the President of the UN Security Council for the month of February 2019, in including in the Council's agenda for February 2019 an open debate on the 'AU initiative on silencing the guns in Africa'. In this context, the Assembly **APPEALS** to the African Members of the UN Security Council (A3) and the entire membership of this Council to provide their full support to Equatorial Guinea and accelerate efforts towards adoption of the envisaged outcome;
10. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the development of an integrated framework to guide the handling of persons associated with terrorist groups in the Lake Chad Basin and **CALLS UPON** the concerned Member States to spare no effort in executing the procedures and principles outlined therein as part of the overall stabilization efforts in the region. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** Member States to take ownership of the operational guidance notes developed by the Commission in response to growing complexities in the field of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR);
11. **COMMENDS** the Commission for convening the 2nd Africa Forum on Security Sector Reform (SSR) as an important platform to reflect on progress and challenges to the implementation of the AU Policy Framework on SSR, and **WELCOMES** the efforts deployed by the Commission to support Member States in articulating and executing SSR processes, and to promote active and constructive engagement of civil society in these processes. In this context, the Assembly **UNDERScores** the need to streamline SSR in the AU's conflict prevention and resolution efforts, as well as in post-conflict reconstruction and development initiatives, in accordance with the relevant practical steps outlined in the AU Master Roadmap;
12. **WELCOMES** the development of the Draft AU Policy for the Management of Recovered Arms and Ammunition in peace support operations (PSOs) by the AU Commission and **LOOKS FORWARD** to its timely adoption by the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS). Furthermore, the Assembly **CALL UPON** Member States to intensify their efforts, to prevent the diversion, illicit circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, including through ratifying and effectively implementing the relevant African, regional and international instruments;
13. **RECALLS** decision AHG/Dec.135(XXXV) of the 35th Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU, and **CALLS ON** Member States with outstanding clearance obligations, pursuant to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, to consolidate their engagements in line with the Maputo 2025 Commitment. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the dialogue initiated by the Commission among Member States and partners, towards developing coherent and coordinated approaches to countering the growing threat of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and to promote institutional capacity building to mitigate the risk. The Assembly **LOOKS FORWARD** to the holding of the 4th Review Conference of the Mine Ban

Convention in Oslo, in November 2019, and **REQUESTS** the Commission, with the guidance of the PSC, to review the existing continental frameworks and develop an African common position ahead of the review conference;

14. **EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** over the global challenges to the multilateral regimes against Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), yet such regimes constitute a critical pillar of the global peace and security architecture. In this regard, the Assembly **URGES** Member States that have not yet done so, to ratify the Pelindaba Treaty, as well as the biological and chemical weapons conventions. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the steps taken by the Commission to support the development of institutional capacities for the full and effective implementation of the regional and international instruments against WMD. Furthermore, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the AU Commission and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) to provide annual briefings to the PSC on the status of implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty and the activities of the AFCONE;
15. **UNDERScores** the imperative for Member States, RECs/RMs and the Commission to enhance preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention, as part of the efforts to silence the guns with a view to realizing a conflict-free Continent. The Assembly **STRESSES** the importance of participation of women and youth in the full cycle of peace processes in the Continent with a view to ensuring that the need for women and youth are fully included in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap;
16. **ENCOURAGES** all AU Member States to submit, in a timely manner, their reports on their implementation of the AU Master Roadmap in its five key dimensions, namely political, social, economic, environmental and legal aspects, to enable the PSC and the Assembly to have a comprehensive sight in to the actual trends in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap;
17. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to volunteer resources, within their means, to facilitate the work of the High Representative, whose role complements that of the PSC in enhancing coordination of activities aimed at silencing the guns within Africa;
18. **REQUESTS** the PSC, with the support of the Commission, to take steps for the elaboration of a comprehensive report on the status of implementation of the AU Master Roadmap, in close coordination with the involved stakeholders, which will be submitted to the ordinary session of the Assembly in January/February 2020, with a view to take stock of progress and the challenges in view of the December 2020 deadline for silencing the guns in Africa.

2019-02-11

Fourth Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the Implementation of the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020

African Union

DCMP

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/8997>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository