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**THIRD 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**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present Draft 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, which endorsed the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the year 2020 (AUMR). By 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 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), as well as other relevant stakeholders, to redouble their efforts to ensure strong responses, especially to governance challenges; the scourges of illicit weapons and their proliferation in the continent; illicit financial flows; production and movement of dangerous drugs and trade in all types of illicit goods; and illegal exploitation of natural resources, 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 Summit in January 2018 to-date. It provides, among the key aspects, 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 the implementation of the Roadmap.

II. EFFORTS DEPLOYED BY STAKEHOLDERS IN CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU MASTER ROADMAP (AUMR)

3. Below are the efforts deployed by various stakeholders to implement the AU Master Roadmap during the period under review, guided by the fundamental notion in the Roadmap that the campaign to silence the guns is a multifaceted and multidimensional task to be carried out in various domains as outlined in the Roadmap itself:

A. Efforts of the PSC

4. During the period under review, the PSC, in line with the decisions of the Assembly for it to play a locomotive role in implementation of the AUMR, and in executing its mandate of promoting peace, security and stability in the Continent, has carried 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. In its meetings, as expressed in the communiqués and press statements, has placed the

issue of silencing the guns in Africa as a cross cutting issue. At its 761st meeting held on 5 April 2017, on the prevention of ideology of hate, genocide and hate crimes in Africa, the PSC underscored the need for embracing the culture of peace, reconciliation, healing and justice in a manner that promotes interconnection among these four fundamental elements of social cohesion and stability, and to prevent conflicts and mass atrocities such as genocide, in line with Assembly decision Assembly/AU/Dec.501 (XXII) and Declaration Assembly/AU/Dec.2(XXX), in which the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government declared the 2014 - 2024 period as the Madiba Nelson Mandela Decade of Reconciliation in Africa.

5. Also at its 766th meeting held in open session on 24 April 2018, on Africa's Peace and Security Landscape by the Year 2023 (End of First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063): A Prospective Analysis of Peace and Security Challenges, among others, the PSC recalled the AU Vision of achieving an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena. Furthermore, the PSC stressed the importance of Member States continuing to effectively implement the AUMR within the aspiration number four (4) of AU Agenda 2063 on building a peaceful and secure Africa, in line with the 50th OAU/AU Anniversary Solemn Declaration on Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020.

6. Furthermore, at its 777th meeting held on 1 June 2018, also in open session, the PSC emphasized the need for effective management of borders and border regimes to address three essentials, namely the geo-political, which relates to the peace, security, and stability necessary to prevent conflict; well-managed borders which enable economic exchanges that benefit all stakeholders, in particular, border populations; and the socio-economic initiatives, in which local cross-border initiatives may proliferate, deepening integration.

7. In a more strategic thrust to implement the AUMR, the PSC has developed elements that are intended to form the basis of a UN Security Council resolution expressing support for African efforts towards building a conflict-free Africa, including through the practical measure of silencing the guns in the Continent. It is expected that the proposed draft resolution will be communicated by the PSC through its Chairperson to the Coordinator of the African members of the UN Security Council (A3) for them to undertake promotion and pen-holding on this crucial matter, with a view to its adoption by the UN Security Council. In this context, silencing the guns in Africa is in the agenda of the 12th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting of the two Councils in New York on 19 July 2018.

8. The Assembly may wish to commend the PSC for its lead efforts in implementing the AUMR and encourage 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 including studies relating to peace in Africa with a view of promoting the culture of peace, unity and tolerance in the communities, in the Member States national education curricula, in line with the implementation of the AUMR. The Assembly may also wish to call on the RECs/RMs, civil society organizations, the private sector and the international community to ensure that, beyond 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.

B. Efforts Deployed by AU Member States

9. During the period under review, within the overall framework to build a conflict-free Africa, and for the first time since the PSC started submitting this kind of report to the Assembly in July 2017, two member states namely, Zambia and Zimbabwe, have submitted their written reports on activities which they undertook in the implementation of the AUMR.

Efforts by the Republic of Zambia:

10. Zambia has continued to work at home and with the neighbouring countries implementing the AUMR, to ensure collective efforts to attain the cherished goal of peace. As a member of the PSC, Zambia has demonstrated strong resolve to rid the Southern African region and indeed the Continent of illicit weapons.

11. With regard to curbing of illicit inflow, proliferation and circulation of arms/weapons, Zambia has put in place a firearms amnesty to encourage voluntary by civilians and other groups to surrender of illegally owned arms. As a result, a total of 4,297 firearms have been surrendered, out of which 1,500 have been destroyed, since 9 July 2015. Zambia has acquired Pin Marking Machines in order to account for all firearms in circulation. Addressing the persistence of terrorism and violent extremism, Zambia has operationalised the National Anti-Terrorism Centre since February 2017, which is mandated to coordinate the detection and response to threats and acts of terrorism and contribute to internal security.

12. The Government of the Republic of Zambia, in its effort to further strengthen governance institutions, has and is undertaking legal reforms, notably, the enactment of the Constitution of Zambia, Amendment Act No. 2 of 2016. The three arms of Government, that is, the Judiciary, Legislature and Executive have been strengthened through the creation or transformation of oversight institutions. Driven by the notion that good governance is a prerequisite of national development, the Government has included promotion of good governance as one of the pillars of development in the 7th National Development Plan, and created the Governance Department under the Ministry of Justice to ensure that all the facets of good governance are realized on a country wide basis.

13. In addressing the persistence of illicit financial flows, including those directed to illegal arms transactions, financing of terrorism and external political interference, Zambia has established a multi-sectoral institution, known as the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) to halt irregular and destabilizing financing, and address all structural factors which facilitate illicit financial flows, including weak institutional governance and corruption.

14. Furthermore, Zambia has set mechanisms to address human trafficking, illicit drug and money laundering, as well as intensified cooperation and coordination with other origin and transit countries in order to dismantle the nexus between corruption, illicit financing, and other trans-national organized crimes. It has a statutory body known as Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) whose mandate is to deal with illicit drugs and money laundering crimes.

15. In observance of the African Union Amnesty Month (September each year), Zambia is establishing a National Working Committee comprising experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Tourism and other stakeholders, including the Drug Enforcement Commission, the Financial Intelligence Centre and the National Anti-Terrorism Centre for planning, coordination and implementation of the AUMR; hosting of media workshop to sensitize local journalists on the AUMR to maximize publicity and sensitization of the citizenry on the issues relating to Silencing the Guns in Africa; and holding of a public event where surrendered illegal weapons will be burnt in September of each year. Arrangements are in place for invitation of dignitaries from the regional bloc, SADC, COMESA and the AU to give maximum publicity and impact and resolve to end illicit arms and silence guns in Africa.

16. The reports submitted by Zambia and Zimbabwe on their implementation activities on the AUMR has the advantages of assisting building a clear comprehensive picture of the state of play, and also, is a self-evaluation by Member States in their efforts towards silencing the gun.

Efforts by the Republic of Zimbabwe

17. Zimbabwe, on its part, in pursuance of its commitment to the implementation of the AUMR, has undertaken several activities towards silencing the guns. Zimbabwe has been conducting police operations for all registered firearms owners to ensure that they are abiding by the laws of the country. Taking into consideration that there is no record of individuals illegally owning arms in the country, apart from criminals involved in armed robberies, Zimbabwe has been conducting several police operations to weed out the armed criminals. In addition, Zimbabwe has signed and is implementing various regional and international instruments on the prevention and suppression of illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

18. In addressing the issue of border control to curb illegal circulation and entry of arms, Zimbabwe is in the process of tightening its border security arrangements through the installation of powerful scanners at all ports of entry and exit, including airports and participates in regional and inter-regional, continental and international operations that are conducted to curb illicit flow of arms. Zimbabwe has been strengthening its governance institutions to further deepen democracy and good governance in the country. In order to enhance democratic institutions, the Government of Zimbabwe has focused on the independence of judiciary, freedom of expression, respect for human rights, property, rule of law and total independence on the National Electoral Commission. In addressing the issue of tracing and recovery of illicit funds and curb illicit

financial flows, Zimbabwe has established an anti-corruption body, Zimbabwe Anti-corruption Commission that is mandated to investigate all corruption related cases and pursues funds that would have been illegally externalized beyond the national borders.

19. The Assembly may wish to commend the Republics of Zambia and Zimbabwe, respectively, for being the first to submit their reports on the implementation of the AUMR and call on other Member States to urgently this commendable commitment. The Assembly also may wish to appeal to all Member States to start planning on observing the Amnesty month next September 2018 and ensure that all citizens are involved with a view of getting the best outcome.

C. Efforts Deployed by the AU Commission:

20. During the period under review, the AU Commission has remained seized, in its coordinating role on the implementation of the AUMR, and carrying out several activities. The Chairperson of the Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui and the High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, have been undertaking peace-making and conflict prevention efforts with various AUMR stakeholders, particularly the AU Member States, RECs/RMs and the UN, especially its UN Security Council.

21. In pursuance of the Assembly decision Assembly/AU/Dec.645 (XXIX) of July 2017, and observation of the Africa Amnesty Month, September each year for the surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons, the Commission has been receiving requests from the Member States to provide technical support on how to observe the Amnesty Month. This is a positive signal from the Member States, which shows serious commitment to the implementation of the AUMR.

22. During the period under review, the Commission has taken various measures to further accelerate the development of the African Standby Force (ASF) to full operationalization for deployment in line with Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.679 (XXX), as adopted by the 30th Ordinary Session of the Assembly calling all stakeholders to support the realization of the full operationalization of the ASF, and harmonize the activities of ACIRC with the Framework of the ASF and enhance cooperation with all ad-hoc coalitions namely, MNJTF, Group of Five Sahel Joint Force and RCI-LRA. In this context, Commission-wide consultations have been completed on the scope and content of the new AU Peace Support Operations Doctrine and ASF Concept; continues to provide strategic and technical support to the ongoing peace support operations, especially the MNJTF and G5 Sahel Joint Force; put in place plans to convene the RECs/RMs policy organs and technical bodies to review the draft Legal Framework between the AU and the RECs/RMs on the deployment and employment of the ASF before the end of this year 2018.

23. Also, the Commission has continued its efforts to mobilize resources towards the revitalization of the AU Peace Fund. In this respect, due to political commitment demonstrated by Member States, tangible progress has been made in the revitalization

of the Fund, which has received, in 2017-2018, the highest levels of Member States' contributions since its establishment in 1993. The Commission is in its final stages of operationalization of the governance and management arrangements, including the appointment of the Board of Trustees for the Fund.

24. The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) continues to conduct trainings to assist in developing and strengthening national counter-terrorism and Counter- Violent Extremism (CVE) capacities of the Member States. In this regard, a series of 10-day de-radicalization and CVE workshops are being conducted in collaboration with the Kofi Annan International Peace Training Centre (KAIPTC). ACSRT will also hold a workshop for religious leaders, youth and women leaders from for the Member States of the Horn of Africa as part of the efforts to strengthen engagement of religious leaders, faith-based and inter-faith organizations in the fight against terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization and promote inter and intra-religious constructive dialogue.

25. The African Union for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) on the other hand, will conduct a joint cross border cooperation exercise with border police and other border agencies of the Member States of the ECOWAS region, as part of the efforts to strengthen cross-border cooperation in preventing cross-border crime, including terrorism. The Government of Algeria supported the training of the Heads of the AFRIPOL National Liaison Officers and information technology experts from the police agencies of the Member States, on the use of the African Police Communication System (AFSECOM) that was conducted in Algeria in March 2018. The Algerian police also supported the police agencies of the AU Member States with the required communication equipment for the operationalization of AFSECOM.

26. The Commission, in partnership with People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, in its capacity as the Leader on Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa, held in Algiers, Algeria, from 9-10 April 2018, the High Level Meeting on Combating Terrorist Financing in Africa. The meeting adopted recommendations to be implemented at national, regional, and continental levels aimed at building and enhancing the efforts of the Member States on enhanced anti-money laundering and in combating terrorist financing.

27. In its efforts to strengthen regional security cooperation and as part of the Djibouti process that brings together Heads of Intelligence and Security Services from IGAD and EAC, the Commission through the Peace and Security Department inaugurated on 25 May 2018 the East African-Fusion and Liaison Unit (EA-FLU) in Entebbe, Uganda. The EA-FLU will bring together IGAD and EAC Member States' security services to enhance information sharing and to respond to threats to peace and security in the region.

28. Furthermore, the AU Border Program (AUBP) provided technical assistance in the establishment of the Joint Committee on Cross-Border Cooperation, at the district level, between Malawi and Tanzania. Technical assistance was also provided to the Riparian States of Lake Tanganyika in order to carry out delimit action at the Lake; assistance to Niger and Chad to revitalize their Joint Border Commission; to the border

demarcation efforts of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and Namibia and Zambia. The AUBP also provided technical assistance in the marking of the crossing corridors in the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone between South Sudan and Sudan. Factually between 2016 to date, 1592 km have been delimited and demarcated¹. Notably, today, more than 20 Member States are conducting operations to clarify their common boundaries whether they are lake, river, land or maritime borders.

29. Regarding Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), the Commission continues to enhance its activities with a view to addressing the root causes of conflict and thus avoid a relapse and fresh conflicts. Towards this end, during the reporting period, with an increase in the number of personnel dedicated to PCRD, the Commission followed up on the post-Gambia needs assessment and finalized the deployment of military, human rights and rule of law experts to support the security sector reform and human rights agenda of The Gambia government.

30. In light of the evolving contexts in the Lake Chad Basin, the Commission, in partnership with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, is at an advanced stage of developing a stabilization, recovery and resilience strategy for the Lake Chad Basin region. In Somalia, the Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission undertook civilian tasks geared towards enhancing the implementation of the Transition Plan of the Federal Government of Somalia. Within the context of stabilization and recovery, AU quick impact projects continue to play an important role in building resilience and consolidating peace-making efforts on the continent. An evaluation of QIPs in Somalia was thus undertaken by the Commission in June 2018 to draw lessons that will inform the implementation of QIPs in other settings.

31. In light of the above, the primary focus of the Commission's PCRD efforts is to advance and consolidate peace in post-conflict settings on the continent. The Commission will scale up its resource mobilization efforts, nurturing partnerships, especially with the RECs/RMs with the view to enhancing coherence and optimal use of resources to advance efforts to silence the guns by 2020.

32. As Africa intensifies its efforts to create a conflict-free space, it is of cardinal importance for all the AU Organs, as well as the RECs/RMs, involved in conflict prevention, within the framework of the APSA and the AGA, to further cement their coordination and joint actions with a view to uprooting underlying causes of conflicts/crises. In this context, the role of translation of early warning signals into early responses, through deployment of the required political will and resources to trigger action on the ground, should be given prominence in AU efforts to end wars.

33. The AU Commission has developed the Continental Results Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa. This

¹ Since the inception of the AUBP in 2007, 4,171 km have been delimited and demarcated in Africa.

Framework, which has already been endorsed by the PSC, will ensure systematic and focused monitoring through the use of common tools and parameters which will allow data comparability and reliability, thereby contributing to accelerating the implementation of commitments by Member States and other stakeholders on women, peace and security in Africa. The Commission has continued to enhance representation of women and youth in peace processes in Africa, at all levels, namely local, national and continental. Furthermore, the Commission provides support to the women and youth, on peace and security issues through sustained policy measures and capacity building.

34. It is also important to note that the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) based in Nairobi, Kenya, has deployed initiatives towards enhancing support to Member States in fighting the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, especially at national and regional levels which resulted in major achievements in the destruction of old or unwanted stocks of arms and ammunition, as well as weapons in marking to increase safe storage, traceability, awareness programs.

D. Efforts by the RECs/RMs:

35. 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 is a synthesis of contributions of the respective RECs/RMs:

i) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA):

36. COMESA has made efforts towards contributing to the AU's goal of silencing the guns by 2020 through the implementation of its programmes in conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction and development. It has, in collaboration with CEN-SAD, conducted an election observation mission in Egypt in March 2018, with the aim of consolidating the democratic space, as well as creating a peaceful environment for greater prosperity and economic development. Furthermore, on post-conflict reconstruction and development, COMESA has continued to implement its trading for peace programme, which uses trade as a mechanism for enhancing peace and security, targeting small scale cross border traders. Building on previous efforts, the programme is supporting skills building for various border officials at both sides of the Ishasha border between the DRC and Uganda, with the aim of spurring greater economic activities in these border areas and thus, reduce the incentive to conflict.

37. In the area of security, COMESA has been supporting its Member States to strengthen their anti-money laundering regimes through strengthening their Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and Law Enforcement Agencies, as well as supporting greater collaboration among key stakeholders within and between countries. In this respect, ICT equipment and software has been provided to Djibouti's FIU in May 2018, and plans are underway to provide the same to the Comoros in 2018. Several FIUs were supported to align their operations to international standards. COMESA is also supporting the FIUs of two countries, namely Ethiopia and Madagascar, to join the Egmont Group of FIUs, which offers high standards in the management of financial operations. In this context, COMESA has trained over sixty anti-money laundering stakeholders for some of its

Member States. Lastly, given that money laundering is a transnational crime affecting several countries, COMESA has also been supporting the creation of a numeric information sharing platform for some of the countries.

ii) Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD):

38. IGAD's ongoing conflict resolution rationale is primarily driven by the existing volatile security situation in the region, with the presence of more than four UN and AU peace support operations with more than 50,000 troops (Darfur-Sudan, Abyei, Somalia and South Sudan), which underscores the gravity of the security threat prevailing in the region. Existing and potential security challenges in the region currently include the outstanding post-referendum arrangements between Sudan and South Sudan (Abyei area), the Al-Shabaab terrorist activities in Somalia, and the unresolved political crisis in South Sudan. IGAD has continued to be the lead actor in the African efforts to end the crisis in South Sudan and restore durable peace and security. IGAD has also persevered in its efforts to assist Somalia recover durable peace and stability, as well as reconciliation.

iii) Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

39. The Economic Community of Central African States continues to pursue its efforts in the implementation of the African Roadmap to Silence the Guns in Africa:

- The meeting of the Ministers of the Peace and Security Council of Central Africa took stock on 4 March 2018, in Libreville, of the general political and security situation in Central Africa Region and took decisions to strengthen the Sub Regional security situation.
- COPAX Ministers decided to accelerate the reform of the Central African Peace and Security Council to make it more effective within the overall framework of reform of ECCAS.
- COPAX Ministers adopted a strategy to fight mercenarism which would be presented to the Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Security and Stability in Africa, and decided to take action on the ground.
- Concurrently with the Extraordinary Summit of the African Union in Kigali, the Heads of State and Government of ECCAS Member Countries met in extraordinary summit. They supported the principle that each Member State should consider the borders of one as borders of the other, within the framework of mutual assistance. To do this, it was necessary to have a Common Defence and Security Strategy in the Central Africa Region. This basic idea is integrated in the reform of ECCAS.

- Furthermore, the COPAX Ministerial meeting sensitised the 4 remaining Member Countries to ratify the *Kinshasa Convention on the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons* in the Community. The Meeting of the Ministers of States Parties to the Kinshasa Convention (the 11 ECCAS Member States) was held from 11 to 13 June in Yaoundé, with the support of the Government of Cameroon, to adopt strategies to counter the trafficking of small arms and light weapons in the Central Africa Region, with the support of the United Nations and the African Union.

iv) Southern African Development Community (SADC)

40. In its continued efforts to implement the AUMR, particularly focusing on preventing fresh conflicts and resolving existing ones, the SADC has taken a number of concrete steps. Due to escalating insecurity in the Kingdom of Lesotho, which culminated in the killing of the Lesotho Defence Force Commander on 5 September 2017, the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho officially requested SADC to deploy a SADC Standby Force Preventative Mission in Lesotho (SAPMIL). The Double Troika Summit, which convened on 15 September 2017, mandated the deployment of a Contingent Mission of 269 personnel, initially for six months from 20 November 2017.

41. While milestones were gained in stabilizing the situation, some challenges emerged, which required continued support of SAPMIL, the SADC Double Troika Summit on 24 April 2018, extended the SAPMIL mission for another period of 6 months from May to November 2018. Among the key achievements of SAPMIL, are the promotion of peace and security through confidence building patrols; promotion and facilitation of dialogue and consensus building among stakeholders as well as support for the re-integration of Lesotho Defence Force soldiers; provision of expertise and support in the investigation of high profile cases and alleged human rights abuses and provision of early warning reports.

42. Also SADC is preparing to assume the Africa Standby Force Continental Roster duty, in which the SADC Standby Force will stand ready to provide conflict resolution capabilities for the entire Continent.

43. With a view to consolidating democracy and good governance in the region, and also to prevent election related violence, SADC has put in place arrangements for monitoring and provision of technical assistance to election processes in the SADC region. In this context, the arrangements would focus on the following SADC Member States, which will be holding general elections in 2018, namely, Republic of Zimbabwe in July 2018; Kingdom of ESwatini in September 2018; Republic of Madagascar in November 2018; Republic of Mauritius in November 2018; and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in December 2018. To this effect, and to enhance the role of free, fair and credible elections, in preventing conflicts and boosting peace, SADC has Operationalized a Liaison Office in the DRC to monitor the preparations towards the elections.

44. Furthermore, SADC is to deploy its Elections Advisory Councils Missions in all the Member States mentioned above, working in close collaboration with relevant SADC conflict prevention, management and resolution bodies, with among key objectives to urge and encourage them to adhere to the AU and SADC principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections; encourage them to adhere to international best practices during the holding of elections; advise them on strategies and issues to enhance and consolidate capacity of Electoral Management Bodies; and encourage them to uphold and respect the independence and autonomy of Electoral Management Bodies.

v) Efforts by the East African Community

45. Despite its sustained efforts to implement the AUMR, EAC has continued to be confronted by persistent peace and security challenges, most of which exhibit a significant transnational dimension. These complex threats include violent and radical extremism, terrorism, identity and resource-based violent conflicts, governance challenges, intra and inter-state disputes, proliferation of rebel groups/ negative forces, trans-national and cross-border crimes, genocidal ideologies, human and drugs trafficking and poaching, among others. The current EAC Peace and Security Framework is inadequate to effectively respond to the need for expeditious and timely decision making on peace and security issues in the region. Hence, EAC is taking steps to further strengthen the framework with a view to enhancing coordination and to facilitate rapid decision making on peace and security in the region. Such an arrangement will be informed by the need for rapid reaction, timeliness and avoidance of bureaucratic procedures.

vi) Efforts by the Economic Community of West African States

46. The ECOWAS implementation thrust on the AUMR is based on the cardinal principle that ECOWAS Member States bear primary responsibility for peace and security, including addressing root causes of conflicts/crises. Through its Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) with a Secretariat in the Directorate of Political Affairs, ECOWAS has persevered in taking actions towards effective prevention of conflicts in the region. The 15 components of ECPF are preventive frameworks encompassing all initiatives for enhancing safety of life and property, as well as the security of Member States and institutions in the region. In continued efforts, a three day retreat (January 29th - February 1st 2018) was held in Abuja, under the theme of "Collaborating in Strategizing to Prevent Conflict in West Africa". The retreat afforded the participants the opportunity to reflect on the current conflict dynamics, including, including major findings from the recently completed Conflict Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs) as well as the Regional Trends in Human Security data and findings by the Early Warning Directorate. The participant examined the need for a common planning template and methodology across ECOWAS Institutions and the way to ensure that action plans are more responsive to regional flashpoints as well as, to the risks and vulnerabilities identified.

47. In addition, ECOWAS Mediation Guidelines (EMG) and the Dialogue and Mediation Curriculum (DMC) were launched in Abuja on 24 May 2018. The Mediation Guidelines were conceived to inform and impact on effective mediation processes in the ECOWAS Region, but also to guide the Commission's efforts in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in the ECOWAS region taking into consideration the lessons learnt from past efforts and best practices from successful mediation processes.

48. Steps have continued to be taken under the ECOWAS Strategic Plan and Vision 2020 geared to transforming the region from an 'ECOWAS of States' into an 'ECOWAS of the Peoples', where upon the tensions between sovereignty and supranationality; between state security and human security are progressively being resolved in favour of supranationality and human security. In this, the principal role of ECOWAS has been that of facilitating creative conflict transformation intervention by Member States and civil society. ECOWAS has recorded significant achievements in critical areas in conflict prevention areas, as well as poverty reduction initiatives to cover the management of cross-border challenges, notably conflicts, promotion of democracy and good governance to strengthen cohesion within countries; improving the business and investment climate in collaboration and free movement initiatives, which, in essence, constitute the essence of silencing the guns.

49. Regarding efforts to assist its Member States in overcoming internal challenges/crises, ECOWAS continues accompany The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Togo. Also as ECOWAS Member States continue engaging to establish national institutions to address the scourge of illicit small arms and light weapons, the ECOWAS Commission has provided sensitization and technical support to its Member States. In this context, The House of Representatives in Nigeria on 30 May 2018, unanimously passed a bill for an Act to establish the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

50. Furthermore, in efforts to promote cross-regional synergy in AUMR implementation, the Early Warning Directorate of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) strengthened its collaboration with the EAC in order to share experience and best practices in the process of establishing and operationalizing national early warning structures. To this effect, a meeting to exchange views was convened at ECOWAS Headquarters on 23 April 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria. The experts from the EAC were familiarized through a detailed presentation on the ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate, its structure, legal framework, modules and products such as daily highlights, situation reports, incident reports, security alerts and early warning and thematic reports.

51. The Assembly may wish to commend the RECs/RMs especially COMESA, IGAD, ECCAS, SADC, EAC and ECOWAS for their sustained efforts in implementation of the AUMR and appeal to those who have not yet done so, to ensure that they submit reports for the PSC Report on the AUMR to the January 2019 AU Summit. To boost and complement the efforts of the AU High Representative on Silencing the Guns, the

Assembly may wish to request the RECs/RMs to each appoint a Special Representative on the implementation of the AUMR.

E. Efforts by the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA)

52. During the period under review, the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) undertook several activities in implementation of the AUMR. It has provided quarterly briefings to the PSC on existing and emerging threats to peace and security within the continent, such as terrorism and violent extremism in view of creating common understanding on the current security threats at the leadership level.

53. CISSA also convened workshops to create awareness on illicit proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and its Impact on Peace and Security in Africa, from 1 to 5 May 2018 in Kinshasa, DRC; Armed Groups and Negative Forces in Africa, from 18 to 21 March 2018 in Kampala, Uganda; African International borders as potential sources of conflict, from 6 to 10 May 2018 in Tshwane, South Africa; Narco-trafficking as a source of terrorism financing, armed groups and criminal organization in Africa, mainly in the Sahel and West Africa, from 7 to 10 May 2018 in Dakar, Senegal. The outcomes included commitment by stakeholders to proactively engage in combating the various threats to peace and security, which continue to undermine efforts to silence the guns in Africa. Furthermore, CISSA undertook missions to Niger and Libya to find ways of dismantling human trafficking networks which were profiting from illegal migration to assess the extent of illegal migration practices which emanated in North Africa and other parts of the continent. The missions led to an experts' workshop, which was held in Khartoum, Sudan from 25 to 28 February 2018 under the theme: "Eradicating illegal migration." The experts meeting was subsequently followed by the Mini-Summit of Head of Intelligence and Security Services in Ndjamena, Chad, from 25 to 27 March 2018, which mapped out practical steps of dismantling terrorist and human trafficking networks in Libya, as well as source and transit countries.

54. The various workshops revealed the kind of challenges these efforts are confronting. In this context, CISSA, in partnership with the AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), is in the process of the developing a customized Continental Counter-Terrorism strategic Roadmap to assist various stakeholders in combating terrorism.

F. Efforts by the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS)

55. During the period under review, in implementing the AUMR, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), at the University of Addis Ababa under the umbrella of its Africa Peace and Security Programme, has continued with its efforts of offering training courses in security governance aimed at creating awareness and capacity in addressing the problem of illicit flows of arms/weapons. Also, the IPSS has continued to provide courses to students from Africa on issues of democracy, human rights and constitutionalism. Regarding preventive diplomacy, IPSS has contributed to the training

of women mediators whose contribution is expected to enhance the effectiveness of the AU Panel of the Wise. Furthermore, the Institute has launched research on countering violent extremism, focusing on push and pull factors. This research is being conducted in collaboration with the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, University of Nairobi, Kenya, University of Hargeisa, Somalia, and Makerere University, Uganda. In addition, the IPSS has engaged in collaborative research with the AU Commission on cross-border cooperation and settlement of border disputes, focusing more on the Greater Horn of Africa.

III. CHALLENGES

56. The implementation of the AU Master Roadmap during the reporting period has revealed a number of challenges 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. The impediments should also be viewed vis-à-vis the imperative for the continent to take decisive steps to stem out all underlying causes of conflicts/crises, especially poverty, marginalization and deficiency in the provision of basic human needs. Below are the challenges/constraints:

- a) Slow rate of provision of inputs by various stakeholders involved in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa, which does not leave enough time for the PSC, with the support of the AU Commission, to put together a fully documented report giving a complete picture of implementation activities to the AU Summit. For example, during the current reporting period, only two AU Member States, and for the first time, namely Zambia and Zimbabwe, have provided inputs to the Commission on time. The Commission is convinced that Member States are conducting actions in implementing the AUMR and hope that related reporting will be addressed to the Peace and Security Department;
- b) Increase in the proliferation of illicit weapons from outside Africa and illicit circulation of arms within the continent remains unabated, thus posing a challenge to Member States in ring-fencing the continent and its population against these two connected scourges. Research shows that the illegal weapons originate from Europe and Asia, passing through the sea and also by air, into Africa. This calls for enhancement of security measures at African seaports and airports;
- c) Information/data available shows that a diversion of arms from national stockpiles remain one of the sources of weapons in illicit circulation, and benefiting a range of non-state actors, including criminals, terrorists, and rebels. Arms have, and continue to be, diverted as a consequence of weak state controls, as well as a result of attacks by armed groups on army and police posts in some cases. Small scale pilferage has also occurred as a result of corruption and defections to non-state armed groups. Similarly, troops taking part in peace support operations and ad-hoc security coalitions

have been subject to similar attacks during which significant loss of arms and other capabilities have been recorded;

- d) The multifaceted and complex nature of financial and material resources accessible to terrorist operations, characterized by a combination of porous borders, ungoverned spaces in some situations and transnational organized crimes, undermines the efforts by governments and inter-governmental organizations to defeat terrorist organizations traffickers and money launderers;
- e) Lack of coordination of efforts and resources among Member States in fighting the identified syndicates engaged in human trafficking and irregular migration, has resulted in the syndicates remaining at large, posing more risk, especially to the African youth;
- f) Inequitable distribution of resources and opportunities have resulted in those groups that feel marginalized and excluded to take recourse to violent methods and confrontations within and between communities. As one of the ways to promote sustainable peace and security, enhancing human security should be given top attention in addressing conflicts in Africa;
- g) Above all, the external interference and the militarization of the Horn and Sahel need to be addressed in a decisive manner, as these phenomena pose risks to security in the Continent.

IV. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

57. In the interest of ensuring that the AUMR continues to be implemented by all involved stakeholders, particularly the AU Member States and the RECs/RMs, the following observations and recommendations are made:

- a) Despite some challenges/bottlenecks, all concerned stakeholders, under the mobilisation of the PSC and the Commission, continue to steadfastly implement the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the year 2020;
- b) The remaining period to the deadline of 2020 to silence the guns should be put to a maximum effective use by all stakeholders in the implementation of the AUMR;
- c) Member States should be urged to continue demonstrating more political commitment and stronger engagement to ensure the creation of requisite conditions for silencing the guns in Africa, namely by implementing political and economic governance and mainstreaming women and youth at all levels;

- d) Member States should be called upon to scale up their interventions to curb and prevent cross border trafficking, including strengthening inter-state security cooperation and community policing to control movement of terrorists, arms trafficking, human and drug trafficking, illicit financial flows, and other contraband goods that contributes to fuelling conflicts in Africa. Member States should capitalize on, and strengthen, existing regional and international police and intelligence cooperation mechanisms, particularly through the services of African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL);
- e) 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, with the view to mobilizing civilians/citizens to voluntarily surrender illegally owned weapons;
- f) In line with the Africa Amnesty Month, Member States should promote civilian disarmament by addressing the security and socio-economic factors driving the demand for arms among civilians. In this respect, Member States could consider a range of interventions, including climate change mitigation, strengthening formal and traditional justice and reconciliation mechanisms, providing economic alternatives to criminal activities, and alter cultural values that condone or incentivise violence;
- g) Given the risk of leakage from arms depots, there is need to urge Member States to put in place the measures and capacities required to effectively manage stockpiles of all armed security institutions, including establishing accounting and accountability frameworks, enhancing physical structures, and improving arms procurement and disposal practices to prevent excessive accumulation, which creates risk diversion;
- h) AU policy organs and guarantors of peace accords across Africa should remain engaged and promote the timely and effective implementation of such instruments and provisions by all parties to the conflict.
- i) The necessity of Member States to pursue their efforts to implement effective and nationally owned DDR interventions as part of post-conflict stabilization and development efforts is crucial, given its role in the delivery of durable peace;
- j) There is imperative for Member States to report 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 to see the actual trends in the AUMR implementation process and address gaps where they appear.

V. CONCLUSION

58. Silencing the Guns is the collective task of all African actors and institutions, supported by international players who have a role in these objectives, such as the UN in order to promote peace and development. Success in silencing the guns and ending wars in Africa must draw from the vast African experiences of more than fifty years in conflict prevention, management and resolution. Most critical for successful implementation of the AUMR is political will and financial support of the Member States, with the view not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and to speedily end all wars in Africa. Essentially, the building of a conflict-free Africa reposes on the role of the Member States and their African citizens.

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