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

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

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa is submitted pursuant to Article 7(q) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC of the African Union (AU). According to this Article, the PSC shall “submit, through its Chairperson, regular reports to the Assembly on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa.” The present Report, prepared in conformity with the said Article, covers the activities undertaken by the PSC in the pursuit of its mandate, and provides an overview of the state of peace and security on the continent during the period from January to June 2012.

### **II. SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF THE PSC PROTOCOL**

2. Since the entry into force of the PSC Protocol, in December 2003, fifty-one (51) Member States have signed the PSC Protocol, while forty-seven (47) have both signed and ratified it. The following Member States have signed the Protocol, but have not yet ratified it: Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia, Seychelles and Somalia. Two Member States are yet to sign and ratify the Protocol, namely, Cape Verde and South Sudan

### **III. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PSC AND ROTATION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP**

3. As stipulated in Article 5 (1) of the Protocol, the PSC is composed of fifteen (15) members with equal rights, who are elected as follows: 10 members elected for a two (2) year term and five (5) for a three (3) year term. It should be recalled that the Executive Council, during its 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 26 to 27 January 2012, conducted elections for ten seats of the PSC, as they had become vacant. The current list of PSC members in the English alphabetical order is as follows: Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

4. In conformity with Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the PSC, the chairmanship of the PSC rotates among its members on a monthly basis following the English alphabetical order of the list of the PSC members. During the period under review, the chairmanship of the PSC rotated as follows:

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| - Kenya              | January 2012;  |
| - Libya <sup>1</sup> | February 2012; |
| - Mali <sup>2</sup>  | March 2012;    |

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<sup>1</sup>Because Libya did not have a Permanent Representative to the AU, and in line with Rule 24 (3) of the PSC Rules of Procedure, Nigeria chaired the PSC during the month of February 2012.

- Angola April 2012;
- Cameroon May 2012;
- Congo June 2012; and
- Cote d'Ivoire July 2012.

#### IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

5. During the period under review, the PSC, in discharging its mandate, engaged in sustained efforts to address conflict and crisis situations within the continent, in close cooperation with all other stakeholders, including other AU Organs and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), as well as the United Nations, the European Union (EU) and other AU partners. In this regard, the PSC held nineteen (19) meetings, including two at the ministerial level, in Bamako, Mali, on 20 March 2012, and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 24 April 2012.

6. During the reporting period, the PSC held briefing sessions to receive updates on various peace and security situations and related issues. The countries and other stakeholders concerned with the situations and issues discussed were invited, in conformity with the provisions of the PSC Protocol and in line with its established practice. The meetings and briefing sessions held during the reporting period are reflected in Annex I to this Report.

##### **(a) Activities relating to crisis and conflict situations and other related issues**

7. During the period under review, the PSC considered the following crisis and conflict situations: Guinea Bissau, Mali, Somalia, the situation between Sudan and South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The PSC also considered the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the situation in the Sahel region, elections in Africa and the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa.

##### **(i) Guinea Bissau**

8. During the period under review, the PSC dedicated two (2) meetings to the situation in Guinea Bissau: 318<sup>th</sup> meeting held, on 17 April 2012, and 319<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 24 April 2012.

9. At its 318<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

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<sup>2</sup>Similarly, because of the coup d'état that took place in Mali on 22 March 2012, the Republic of Mali was suspended from participating in the activities of the AU and its organs. As a result, Nigeria also chaired the PSC for the rest of March 2012

- strongly condemned the coup d'état that took place in Guinea Bissau on 12 April 2012, two weeks before the second round of the presidential election then scheduled for 29 April 2012;
- stressed that the recurrence of illegal and unacceptable interference of the leadership of the Bissau-Guinean army in the political life of the country contributes to the persistence of instability and the culture of impunity, hampers efforts towards the establishment of the rule of law, the promotion of development and the entrenchment of a democratic culture and the fight against the scourge of drug trafficking;
- underscored the need for Africa and the international community as a whole to show firmness commensurate with the seriousness of the acts committed by the perpetrators of the coup d'état and demanded the immediate restoration of constitutional order;
- decided, in conformity with the relevant AU instruments, to suspend, with immediate effect, the participation of Guinea Bissau in all AU activities until the effective restoration of constitutional order; and
- called upon the AU partners, particularly the United Nations, the EU, the Community of the Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) and bilateral partners, to support the measures taken by the AU, and to work together to force the perpetrators of the coup d'état and their supporters to accept the return to constitutional legality.

**10.** At its 319<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- reiterated the demand for the restoration, without further delay, of constitutional order;
- reaffirmed the principle of subsidiarity and, in this respect, endorsed the decisions of ECOWAS, in particular the deployment of a stabilization mission, and expressed appreciation to the CPLP for its principled position on the situation, to the UN, as well as to the EU;
- requested the Commission to compile and disseminate to all Member States, after appropriate consultations, the list of the members of the military junta and their military and civilian supporters, for application of individual measures; and
- further requested the Commission to expedite, in consultation with ECOWAS, the finalization of its proposals on additional sanctions to be imposed on members of the junta and their military and civilian supporters.

**(ii) Somalia**

**11.** During the reporting period, the PSC held three meetings to consider the situation in Somalia: 309<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 25 January, 311<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 16 February, and 312<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 23 February 2012.

**12.** At its 309<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- welcomed the demonstrated commitment of the UN Security Council to deal with Somalia in a comprehensive manner and further, as well as the then ongoing process towards the review of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) mandate;
- noted the continued threat by spoilers, which undermines the peace process in Somalia, and, in this regard, welcomed the steps taken by the UN Security Council through the adoption of resolution 2023 (2011), as a follow-up to UN Security Council resolution 1907 (2009); and
- underscored the value of the international engagement with Somalia, and the importance of the then planned London Conference on Somalia.

**13.** At its 311<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC welcomed the convening of the London Conference, looking forward to its positive impact in terms of the enhancement of the international community's support to the political, security, humanitarian and development effort in Somalia.

**14.** At its 312<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- welcomed the outcome of the London Conference on Somalia, and noted with satisfaction that the steps agreed on that occasion would go a long way in furthering peace and reconciliation in Somalia, as well as greater stability and security for the region and beyond;
- called on the Somali political leadership to honour fully the commitments made to complete the transition on time and put in place a more representative and inclusive political dispensation; and
- welcomed the adoption by the Security Council, on 22 February 2012, of resolution 2036(2012), which significantly enhanced the UN support package to the AMISOM, in particular by supporting the increase in AMISOM's force strength from 12,000 to 17,731 uniformed personnel; expanding accordingly the UN support package for the Mission; and authorizing the inclusion, into the support package, of the reimbursement of contingent owned equipment and the provision of vitally-needed force enablers and multipliers.

**(iii) Sudan/South Sudan**

**15.** The PSC dedicated three meetings to the situation between Sudan and South Sudan: 308<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 16 January 2012, 310<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 14 February 2012, 317<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 12 April 2012, and 319<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 24 April 2012, at ministerial level.

**16.** At its 308<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- noted with satisfaction the progress made on some of the outstanding issues, particularly border demarcation, while expressing, at the same time, deep concern at the lack of progress in addressing the core issues affecting the relations between the two States, namely nationality, border security, Abyei, oil and humanitarian access;
- urged both Sudan and South Sudan to faithfully engage in the negotiation process, in line with the agreed principle of two viable states, at peace with, and mutually supportive of, one another; and
- commended the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) for its sustained commitment in facilitating negotiations between the two Parties.

**17.** At its 310<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- stressed AU's deep concern at the unilateral actions taken by both states in regard to oil and petroleum matters, appealing to them to remain committed to the negotiations on economic issues, with a view to reaching a fair agreement;
- commended the Parties for the adoption, during the extraordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM), held in Addis Ababa, on 10 February 2012, of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Non-Aggression and Cooperation, welcomed the decisions taken immediately to activate the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mission (JBVMM) and called on the two states, working closely with the Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), to begin deploying the JBVMM with immediate effect;
- welcomed the steps being taken by the Commission, in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the United Nations, to address the issue of humanitarian access in Blue Nile and South Kordofan; and
- expressed concern that the two states had not yet finalized matters relating to the demarcation of their border and the resolution of the disputed areas, and called on the two Parties to finalize negotiations on this matter.

**18.** At its 317<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC

- expressed its deep concern at the prevailing situation on the ground, and strong disappointment at the failure of the two Parties to implement the Agreements that they have reached;
- strongly condemned the unfortunate and unwarranted actions that have characterized the conduct of both Parties over the past month, which run contrary to all AU and international principles governing relations among sovereign states, demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the army of South Sudan from Heglig, demanded that the Government of the Sudan put an end to its aerial bombardment in South Sudan; and
- reiterated its support to the efforts of the AUHIP, and called upon the Parties to meet under the auspices of the Panel to resolve this and all other outstanding issues.

**19.** At its 319<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- expressed grave concern at the prevailing situation along the border between Sudan and South Sudan, as well as at the resulting humanitarian situation;
- welcomed the withdrawal from Heglig of the army of South Sudan, and called for the immediate cessation of aerial bombardments by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) against South Sudan;
- reaffirmed its strong commitment to the respect for the unity and territorial integrity of Sudan and South Sudan and the inviolability of the border between the two countries, defined as that existing at the time of Sudan's independence on 1 January 1956;
- expressed deep concern at the failure of the Parties to implement agreements that they themselves have freely entered into;
- decided, in light of the above, to adopt a Roadmap, for implementation by both Sudan and South Sudan, in order to ease the then prevailing tension, facilitate the resumption of negotiations on post-secession relations and the normalization of their relations;
- urged the Parties unconditionally to resume negotiations, under the auspices of the AUHIP and with the support of the Chairman of IGAD, to reach agreement on the following critical issues: arrangements concerning oil and associated payments; the status of nationals of one country resident

in the other; resolution of the status of the disputed/claimed border areas and the demarcation of the border; and the final status of Abyei;

- decided that these negotiations must be concluded within three months of the adoption of this decision;
- further decided that failure by either Party to implement the provisions of the Roadmap or to cooperate in good faith with the AUHIP towards the conclusion of the negotiations on the outstanding issues will result in the PSC taking appropriate measures;
- requested the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-North to extend full cooperation to the AUHIP and the Chair of IGAD, to reach a negotiated settlement, and called on the Government of Sudan to accept the tripartite proposal submitted by the AU, the United Nations and the League of Arab States, to permit humanitarian access to the affected population in the two areas;
- requested all AU Member States to support and abide by this decision; and
- sought support of the Security Council and its endorsement, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, of the Roadmap as contained in its communiqué.

**(iv) Mali**

**20.** During the reporting period, the PSC held six (6) meetings to consider the situation in Mali, including two (2) at ministerial level: 314<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Bamako, on 20 March 2012 (ministerial), 315<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23 March 2012, 316<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 3 April 2012, 317<sup>th</sup> held on 12 April 2012, 319<sup>th</sup> held on 24 April 2012 (ministerial) and 323<sup>rd</sup> held in New York, on 12 June 2012,.

**21.** At its 314<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- expressed its deep concern about the situation created by the attacks carried out by the rebel elements of the *Mouvement national pour la Libération de l’Azawad* – MNLA (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad) and other rebel groups, including major displacement of people within Mali and towards the neighboring countries;
- reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the respect of the national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Mali, and stressed the determination of the AU and its Member States to guard against their violation;
- stressed the rejection by the AU of the recourse to armed rebellion in Mali;
- demanded the immediate cessation of hostilities, and urged the different rebel groups to commit themselves, without delay, to the search of a



peaceful solution to the crisis within the strict framework of the AU principles; and

- requested the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary steps for the mobilization, by the AU, of support from the rest of the continent and the international community as a whole, including through the establishment, under the aegis of the AU and the United Nations, of a Support and Follow-up Group.

**22.** At its 315<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- strongly condemned the breakdown of constitutional order in Mali, following the coup d'état of 22 March 2012 and the seizure of power by a section of the Malian army;
- called upon the military to immediately return to their barracks and underlines the need for immediate restoration of constitutional order; and
- decided, pursuant to the relevant AU instruments, to suspend, with immediate effect, the participation of Mali in all the activities of the AU until the effective restoration of constitutional order.

**23.** At its 316<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the AU and all its Member States to the national unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali, and the determination of Africa to spare no effort to ensure their preservation;
- reiterated AU's support to the efforts of ECOWAS for the preservation and respect of the national unity and territorial integrity of Mali, as well as the return to constitutional order in the country;
- expressed its full support for the sanctions imposed by ECOWAS, in pursuance of its communiqués of 27 and 29 March 2012;
- emphasized the need to put an immediate end to the attacks by the rebel movements in the north of the country, to restore the authority of the Government of Mali on its entire territory and to facilitate the search for a lasting solution to any legitimate claim, on the basis of strict respect for the national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Mali; and
- endorsed the decision of ECOWAS to activate the planning process for the possible deployment of elements of its Standby Brigade, to assist in protecting the unity and territorial integrity of Mali, requested the Commission to extend the necessary support to the ECOWAS initiative, and called upon all Member States and AU partners to provide the financial, logistical and other necessary support to ECOWAS's efforts.

**24.** At its 317<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- welcomed the encouraging developments in Mali relating to the restoration of constitutional order, in particular the signing of the 6 April 2012 the Framework Agreement on the return to constitutional order; and
- reiterated its appreciation to ECOWAS for its untiring efforts to find a solution to the crisis in Mali; and
- welcomed the inauguration of the acting President, Mr. Dioncounda Traoré, and called upon all the actors concerned to implement scrupulously the other provisions of the Framework Agreement.

**25.** At its 319<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- welcomed the encouraging developments in Mali regarding the restoration of constitutional order, and stressed the need for all Parties in Mali to work in good faith towards the implementation of the commitments made;
- encouraged the Mediator, in close consultation with the AU, to continue and intensify his efforts to ensure the completion of the restoration of constitutional order, in accordance with the relevant AU and ECOWAS instruments; and
- reiterated its deep concern about the developments in northern Mali and the strong condemnation by the AU of the attacks perpetrated by the armed and terrorist groups against the Malian State, including exactions against the Malian military and their families in Aguelhok, and rejected the "declaration of independence made by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad", which is null and void;

**26.** At its 323<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- reiterated AU's concern at the continued occupation of the northern part of Mali by the armed, terrorist and criminal groups operating in that area, the increasing linkages between terrorist and criminal networks, and the dire humanitarian situation prevailing on the ground;
- reiterated AU's concern at the continuing fragility of the institutions established as part of the process towards the restoration of constitutional order and the persistent interference of military elements in the management of the transition;

- endorsed the conclusions of the inaugural meeting of the Support and Follow-up Group on the Situation in Mali, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 7 June 2012;
- expressed its full support to all efforts aimed at addressing, by peaceful means, the causes of the recurring rebellions in Northern Mali, and to dialogue with Malian groups that would commit themselves to negotiate on the basis of AU's principles;
- reaffirmed its support for the continuation of the ECOWAS mediation, with the participation of the core countries, namely Algeria, Mauritania and Niger;
- stressed the urgent need to create a conducive environment to enable the transitional institutions to fully exercise their responsibilities, demanded the immediate dissolution of the National Council for the Recovery of Democracy and the Restoration of the State (CNRDRE), and requested the Commission, in consultation with ECOWAS and other stakeholders, to draw up a preliminary list of individuals and entities undermining the process of returning fully to constitutional order, for action as appropriate;
- stressed the need for close and continued cooperation between the Government and the different political actors and civil society in Mali on the various challenges facing the country;
- authorized ECOWAS, in collaboration as appropriate with the core countries, to put in place the required military and security arrangements towards the achievement of AU and ECOWAS objectives in Mali;
- called upon, as a matter of urgency, the UN Security Council to endorse the envisaged deployment of an ECOWAS force and appealed to all AU Member States in a position to do so, as well as to AU partners to extend the necessary support; and
- requested the AU and ECOWAS Commissions, with the support of the United Nations and other partners, and in consultation with all countries neighbouring Mali, to speedily finalize the work already initiated towards the precise definition of the mandate and the elaboration of the concept of operations and other related documents for the envisaged force, in support of the formal request for support to the UN Security Council.

**(v) Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**27.** During the period under review, the PSC held one meeting on the situation in the DRC: 324<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21 June 2012. The PSC:

- Stressed, once again, that recourse to armed rebellion poses a serious threat to peace, security and stability in Africa, as well as to the viability of

the on-going democratization processes on the continent, and strongly condemned the action of the armed elements involved in attacks against the Congolese state;

- stressed the need for all the elements of the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) scrupulously to comply with the commitment made by the CNDP, in the Goma Agreement of 23 March 2009, and demanded the immediate dissolution of the military wing of M23;
- expressed deep concern at the humanitarian impact of the current fighting, including on vulnerable groups, and warned the leaders of M23 that they will be held accountable for their acts;
- expressed outrage at the continued violence against women in Eastern DRC, and urged for an immediate end to these crimes and for measures to ensure the protection of the concerned group and rehabilitate the victims;
- expressed its full support to the efforts of the Government of the DRC to fully restore state authority; and
- encouraged the countries of the region to make use of the mechanisms provided by the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes region to extend full support to the DRC in its efforts to restore security in North Kivu.

**(b) Consideration of Thematic Issues**

**28.** During the reporting period, the PSC considered the following four (4) thematic issues relating to the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa.

**(i) Elections in Africa**

**29.** During the reporting period, the PSC held two meeting on elections in Africa: 311<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 16 February 2012, and 317<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 12 April 2012.

**30.** At its 311<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- noted with satisfaction that the Commission is to dispatch an election observer mission to Senegal, on the occasion of the presidential election, whose first round was then scheduled for 26 February 2012;
- welcomed the entry into force, on 15 February 2012, of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and urged all Member States that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to become parties to this important instrument; and

- agreed to hold, every two months, a session to review the electoral processes on the continent.

**31.** At its 317<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PSC:

- congratulated the people and the political leaders of Senegal on the successful organization of the presidential election on 26 February and 25 March 2012;
- noted the peaceful conclusion of the parliamentary elections in Egypt, on 12 February 2012, as well as the holding of the first round of the presidential election in Guinea Bissau, on 10 March 2012, and took note of the parliamentary elections held in The Gambia, on 29 March 2012;
- took note of the steps taken by the Commission to dispatch election observer missions to Algeria and to Lesotho, on the occasions of their parliamentary elections then scheduled to take place on 10 May and 26 May 2012, respectively; and
- reiterated the need for Member States that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and to comply scrupulously with all relevant AU instruments governing the holding of free, fair and transparent elections.

**(ii) Sahel Region**

**32.** At its 314<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Bamako, on 20 March 2012, the PSC also adopted a Declaration on the situation in the Sahel, in which it :

- expressed deep concern at the prevailing situation on the ground, noting that the Sahel region was faced with multiple challenges, linked to terrorism and transnational organized crime, proliferation of weapons, illicit trafficking and latent armed conflicts, as well as environmental degradation and climate change, food insecurity and nutritional crisis ;
- underlined the need for a comprehensive approach dealing with all the issues at stake ;
- reiterated the need to effectively prohibit the payment of ransom to terrorist groups, in conformity with relevant AU decisions, and urged the partners to extend full support to this end ; and
- endorsed the conclusions of the joint AU-UN experts meeting held in Addis Ababa, on 14 and 15 March 2012, requesting the Commission, working closely with the UN, and in consultation with other stakeholders, to take all the steps required for the follow-up and implementation of those conclusions.

**(iii) Issue of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)**

**33.** During the reporting period, the PSC devoted its 321<sup>st</sup> meeting to the consideration of the operations of the Regional Coordination Initiative against the LRA (RCI-LRA), on 22 May 2012. The PSC:

- welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the RCI-LRA;
- endorsed the Conclusions of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Joint Coordination Mechanism (JMC), held in Addis Ababa, on 8 May 2012, which address notably the command and control architecture of the Regional Task Force (RTF) and other related issues, the protection of civilians and the coordination between the RTF and the UN Missions and Offices on the ground;
- decided to renew, for an additional period of twelve (12) months, the authorization given for the launching and implementation of the RCI-LRA;
- called upon all AU Member States to provide financial and logistical support to the efforts aimed at implementing the RCI-LRA;
- urged the AU partners to enhance their support to enable the RTF Headquarters to effectively perform the tasks assigned to it and to facilitate the effective functioning of the various operational sectors of the Initiative; and
- welcomed the steps being taken by the Commission for the early convening of the Support Forum comprising the neighbouring countries of the affected Member States, as well as other AU Member States interested in the LRA problem, and bilateral and multilateral partners already involved in efforts against the LRA, so as to mobilize support for the RCI-LRA.

**(iv) Open session on the plight of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in countries in conflict in Africa**

**34.** During the reporting period, the PSC devoted its 326<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 26 June 2012, to the plight of refugees and IDPs in countries in conflict in Africa. The PSC:

- noted with concern the humanitarian situation of refugees, IDPs and mixed migrants, in particular women and children and other vulnerable groups, in countries in conflict;
- reiterated the need to locate refugee camps away from the borders, in line with the 1969 OAU Convention on the Specific Aspects of the Situation of Refugees in Africa;

- urged all Member States to provide protection to refugees and IDPs;
- stressed that, in addition to mainstreaming the Protection of Civilians (PoC) in AU peace support operations, standard operating procedures PoC, must also form part of the mandate of future AU missions; and
- called upon Member States that have signed the Convention for the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, to ratify to ensure its early entry into force.

**(c) Meetings of the Peace and Security Council under Article 17 of its Protocol**

**35.** During the reporting period, the PSC held meetings with similar organs on peace and security, pursuant to article 17 of its Protocol, which provides that, in fulfilling its mandate, the PSC will cooperate and work closely with the United Nations Security Council and other relevant international organizations. In this context, the PSC held two annual joint consultative meetings with its counterparts during the months of May and June 2012:

**(i) 5<sup>th</sup> annual joint consultative Meeting between the AU Peace and Security Council and the EU Political and Security Committee (EU-PSC), Brussels, 29 May 2012**

**36.** Pursuant to the agreement reached in September 2008, to hold annual joint consultative meetings in Addis Ababa and Brussels, alternatively, and within the framework of the strategic partnership between Africa and the EU, the PSC and the EUPSC held their 5<sup>th</sup> annual joint consultative meeting in Brussels, on 29 May 2012. The two organs exchanged views on the situations in Guinea Bissau, Mali, Somalia, and the relations between Sudan and South Sudan, as well as on issues relating to the Sahel, the Regional Cooperation Initiative against the LRA (RCI-LRA), counter-terrorism and coordination of positions on global issues of common concern. The outcome of the meeting is shown in Annex III to this Report.

**(ii) 6<sup>th</sup> annual joint consultative meeting between the AU Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), New York, 13 June 2012**

**37.** In line with the agreement reached in 2007 between the PSC and the UN Security Council, to hold annual joint consultative meetings in Addis Ababa and New York, alternatively, the two organs held their 6<sup>th</sup> annual joint consultative meeting in New York, on 13 June 2012. The two sides exchanged views on the situations in Guinea Bissau, Mali, Somalia and the relations between Sudan and South Sudan. They also discussed the issue of further enhancing their cooperation and partnership in support of the promotion of peace and security in Africa. The outcome of the meeting is shown in Annex IV to this Report.

**(d) Meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies of the PSC**

**(i) Military Staff Committee**

**38.** On 21 and 26 April 2012, the Military Staff Committee (MSC), as established under Article 13 (8) of the PSC Protocol, held a meeting. Among other issues, the participants reviewed the work of the MSC and articulated its programme of work for the period from May to October 2012.

**(ii) PSC Committee of Experts**

**39.** On 21 May 2012, the PSC Committee of Experts held a meeting to, among other aspects, undertake preparations for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual joint consultative meeting between the AUPSC and the EU PSC, then scheduled for 29 May 2012, in Brussels.

**(iii) Panel of the Wise**

**40.** According to Article 11 of the PSC Protocol the Panel of the Wise is mandated to support the efforts of the PSC and those of the Chairperson of the Commission, particularly in the area of conflict prevention, at their request or on its own initiative. During the period under review, the Panel has carried out a number of activities.

**41.** The Panel undertook a joint pre-election mission with ECOWAS to the Republic of Senegal, from 21 to 25 February 2012, within the framework of its report on election-related violence and disputes, as endorsed by the Assembly of the Union at its Ordinary Session held in Sirte, Libya, in July 2009. The main objective of the mission was to assist in the facilitation of the organization of peaceful, free and fair elections.

**42.** From 27 to 29 April 2012, in Tunis, the Panel of the Wise organized a workshop on the theme "Strengthening Political Governance for Peace, Security and Stability in Africa". This workshop, which was the second of its kind, after the one organized in Zanzibar, on 5 and 6 December 2011, was convened pursuant to the communiqué of the 275<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PSC, held in Addis Ababa on 26 April 2011 that requested the Panel to exhaustively review the existing mechanisms on democratization and governance in Africa, so as to submit concrete recommendations to the PSC. The decision of the PSC was adopted against the background of the popular uprisings in North Africa, which, as stressed by the AU policy-making organs, provide a unique opportunity to deepen the democratization processes on the continent.

**43.** The President of the Republic of Tunisia, Dr. Mohamed Moncef Marzouki, the Chairman of the Ennahda Movement, Cheikh Rached Ghannouchi, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Speaker of the Constituent National Assembly, Mr. Arbi Abid, also participated in some specific interactive sessions of the workshop. The participants were thus able to exchange views with these high-ranking personalities on the on-going transition in Tunisia and the challenges related to the transition from an authoritarian system to democratic and representative institutions that are respectful of human rights. The



lessons learnt from the Tunisian experience will enrich the reflection carried out by the Panel of the Wise.

44. The workshop was followed, on 30 April 2012, by the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Panel of the Wise. The Panel seized the opportunity to consider the state of peace and security in Africa. It also took stock of the activities it carried out since its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, held in Zanzibar, Tanzania, on 7 December 2011.

45. From 4 to 5 June 2012, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the Panel of the Wise convened a Retreat on Strengthening Relations with Similar Regional Mechanisms. The Retreat brought together, besides the members and friends of the Panel of the Wise, the Council of the Wise of ECOWAS, the Committee of Elders of COMESA and IGAD, as well as other relevant institutions. The Retreat discussed (i) the mandates and modalities of operations of the participating structures; (ii) reviewed emerging threats to peace and security situation in Africa; (iii) and discussed coordination and collaboration of efforts in conflict prevention and mediation. The meeting adopted a Framework for the Operationalization of a "Pan African Network of the Wise- PANWISE". It should be noted that President Blaise Compaore took part in one of the sessions to interact with the participants. The Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, Mr. Luc Adolphe Tiao, opened the meeting, while the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Mr. Djibril Bassolé, engage with the participants on conflict prevention and resolution.

46. In a sad development, the Chairperson of the Panel of the Wise, former President Ahmed Ben Bella, passed away on 11 April 2012. President Ben Bella devoted most of his life not only to fighting for the independence of his country, Algeria, which was ultimately achieved in 1962, but also for the liberation of the whole African continent. In his vision, the liberation of Algeria could not be complete so long as the entire continent was not also freed from the yoke of foreign and racial domination. Accordingly, during the founding Summit of the OAU, in May 1963, he urged his African peers to "*die a little, or even completely,*" to complete the decolonization agenda and the struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination. President Ben Bella's commitment to the Pan-African cause never abated. In 2007, he accepted to serve as the Chairperson of the Panel of the Wise. The Panel of the Wise and the AU Commission joined his family and Algeria in sharing their grief at the loss of this great son of Africa.

**(e) Participation of the PSC in other peace and security activities**

47. The Chairperson of the PSC for the month of April 2012, the Ambassador of Angola, participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Panel of the Wise, held in Tunis, on 30 April 2012. As indicated above, the meeting was preceded by a workshop organized on the theme Strengthening Political Governance for Peace, Security and Stability in Africa.

48. On 7 June 2012, in Abidjan, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Congo to the AU, as Chairperson of the PSC for the month of June 2012, and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the AU, Chairperson of the PSC for the month of May 2012, participated in the inaugural meeting of the Support and Follow-up Group on the situation in Mali. The meeting, organized under the

auspices of ECOWAS, the AU and the United Nations, was chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission.

## **V. STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA**

**49.** At its 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, the Assembly of the Union, having considered the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, [Doc. Assembly/AU/6(XVIII)], adopted Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 408(XVIII). In that decision, the Assembly pronounced itself on a number of crisis and conflict situations, as well as on other related issues. It provided guidelines on action to be undertaken, with a view to overcoming the difficulties encountered and consolidating peace and security in the Continent.

**50.** In the past six months, in spite of efforts deployed, the Continent has continued to face serious challenges in the area of peace and security. Apart from the persistent deadlock in some conflict situations, the difficulties encountered in the implementation of peace agreements and problems linked to the consolidation of peace and post-conflict reconstruction, the period under consideration was also marked by the outbreak of new crises. Although the latter did not undermine the general trend towards the reduction of conflicts witnessed in the Continent over the past two decades, nor should they lead us to overlook the progress made, they are nonetheless serious causes for concern and, as such, represent a challenge for Africa's institutions and leaders .

**51.** The following paragraphs review developments in the situations on the ground. They also cover efforts undertaken in the area of post-conflict reconstruction and development. Lastly, they deal with the challenges linked to the frequency of armed rebellion, and attempts to undermine the unity and territorial integrity of AU Member States.

### **i) SITUATIONS ON THE GROUND**

#### **a) The Comoros**

**52.** In the Comoros, progress has continued to be made in the consolidation of the national reconciliation process, through the action led by President Ikililou Dhoinine and his Government. Noteworthy was the re-establishment of trust between the central authority and the island executives, and relative political stability, backed by the highly symbolic decision to hold the Council of Ministers in the other autonomous islands of the archipelago.

**53.** However, the period under consideration also witnessed some difficulties. During the month of April 2012, a dispute broke out between the Speaker of the National Assembly and the majority of the deputies, who demanded his resignation on the grounds of his alleged incompetence. The deliberations of the parliamentary session were disrupted as a result. The dispute was finally settled, thanks to the intervention of the Comorian Head of State. Furthermore, the trial of the former Chief of Staff of the National Development Army (AND), Amir Salimou, accused, along with three other

officers, of complicity in the assassination of another senior officer, which has been postponed several times, constitute a source of concern, considering the risks of insular tension it could create.

**54.** At the socio-economic level, the situation remained a source of concern. The pledges made at the Doha Conference (670 million dollars), held on 11 March 2010, are yet to materialize. Moreover, a number of obstacles are still to be overcome in order to attain the objectives set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and facilitate debt relief for the Comoros, as well as access to external financing. The difficult living conditions of the population were aggravated by the violent storms that affected the country, causing many casualties and considerable material damage. In response to that situation, on 30 April 2012, the Chairperson of the Commission launched an appeal for assistance for The Comoros. Subsequently, the AU donated USD 300 thousand to The Comoros.

**55.** In this context, it is important to continue to support The Comoros in its efforts towards the consolidation of peace and post-conflict recovery. While encouraging the Comorian stakeholders to pursue actions initiated, the Assembly may wish to appeal once again to all the countries and organizations concerned, to honour the commitments made at the Doha Conference. Furthermore, Member States in a position to do so should be encouraged to provide support to The Comoros.

**b) Madagascar**

**56.** In its above-mentioned decision, the Assembly of the Union, having commended the signing, in Antananarivo, on 17 September 2011, under the aegis of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), of the «Roadmap to end the crisis in Madagascar», encouraged the Malagasy Parties to spare no effort to bring the transition to a successful conclusion. It also requested the Commission to continue to support the implementation of the Roadmap and to mobilize the support of the international community to that end, including through the expeditious operationalization of the AU/SADC Liaison Office in Antananarivo.

**57.** The Assembly may recall that, within the framework of the implementation of the Roadmap, the main transition institutions provided for by the latter have been put in place, namely the consensus Prime Minister, the Government of National Unity, the Transitional Congress (TC), the Higher Transitional Council (HTC), and the National Independent Electoral Commission of the Transition (CENIT). Only the National Council for Reconciliation is yet to be established. Another key step was taken with the adoption, on 13 April 2012, of the amnesty law.

**58.** The process for the implementation of the Roadmap, which the Political Movements of former Presidents Albert Zafy and Didier Ratsiraka continue to boycott, has witnessed noticeable delay. The past few months were characterized by difficulties in the relations between stakeholders in the Transition Institutions. In particular, the Ravalomanana Movement and the «Monima» Party deplores the fact that the President of the Transition, Andry Rajoelina, continues to take unilateral decisions. Since last April,

the Ravalomanana Movement has temporarily suspended its participation in the Transition Institutions pending a decision by SADC on non-compliance with some of the provisions of the Roadmap. At the same time, the authorities and the security forces are accused of continuing to intimidate journalists, threatening to close down some private radio stations, and harassing members of the family of former President Marc Ravalomanana.

**59.** As part of the search for a lasting solution to the obstacles observed in the implementation of the Roadmap, SADC is currently working towards convening a meeting between the two main protagonists of the Malagasy crisis, namely Mr. Andry Rajoelina and former President Marc Ravalomanana. However, the meeting is not unanimously welcomed by all stakeholders in the Malagasy crisis. While some of them consider that it could provide a way out of the crisis, others are opposed to it, predicting the failure of the envisaged meeting and fear that it would radicalize the position of all those who are not in support of such an initiative, or could find themselves excluded from the political arena if Mr. Rajoelina and Mr. Ravalomanana were to come to an agreement. They recommend that the meeting be extended to other stakeholders.

**60.** In fact, efforts regarding the holding of free, transparent and credible legislative and presidential elections continue to face difficulties. Although the Roadmap stipulates that the electoral calendar shall be determined jointly by the CENIT and representatives of the United Nations, on the basis of the report of the electoral assessment by national and international experts, the two institutions responsible for the electoral process have yet to reach an agreement on the final electoral calendar. In addition, there are challenges linked to the absence of a credible electoral register, an appropriate legislative framework, the debate on whether or not the legislative elections should be held at the same time as the presidential elections, as well as the appointment of three representatives of the political parties to the CENIT and the composition of the Special Electoral Court.

**61.** The Commission has taken the necessary steps for the operationalization of the AU component of the joint AU-SADC Liaison Office in Madagascar. The SADC component of the Office has already been established, and plays a key role in supporting the crisis exit process on the ground. Through the Joint Office, the AU and SADC intend to closely monitor the situation and facilitate the implementation of the Roadmap, in close collaboration with international partners.

**62.** In the light of the above, the Assembly may, once again, wish to stress that the Roadmap remains the only framework for ending the crisis, and urge the stakeholders to implement it scrupulously, particularly in view of the tragic socio-economic consequences arising from the persistence of the crisis. In that respect, the Malagasy Parties should extend the necessary cooperation to SADC. The Assembly may also wish to reiterate the appeal by the AU to international partners to continue to lend their support to ongoing efforts, in order to speed up the normalization of the situation.

**c) Somalia**

**63.** During the reporting period, the situation in Somalia has continued to evolve positively. Commendable progress has been made in the implementation of the Political Roadmap adopted in Mogadishu, on 6 September 2011. The six Signatories of the Roadmap, namely the President of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), the regional administrations of Puntland and Galmudug, as well as Ahlu Sunna wal Jama'a (ASWJA), have endeavoured to strengthen the momentum generated by the national consultative conferences held in Garowe, Puntland, from 21 to 23 December 2011 and 15 to 17 February 2012, during which they agreed on a detailed approach for ending the Transition. The "Garowe Principles" provide for the adoption of a provisional Constitution by a Constituent Assembly to be nominated by all the Roadmap signatories and civil society, and for the creation of a bicameral federal legislature, comprising a lower house of 225 representatives and an upper house made up of representatives of the federal States and regional administrations. The representatives of the Constituent Assembly and the lower house in its first four-year term would be selected on the basis of the 4.5 clan distribution formula; this formula would thereafter be abolished and elections conducted for subsequent Parliaments.

**64.** On 27 March 2012, the President of the TFG, Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, the President of Puntland, Abdirahman Farole, the TFG Prime Minister, Abdiweli Mohamed, the Speaker of the TFP, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden, the Acting President of Galmudug, Abdisamad Nuur Guled, and ASWJ representative, Sheikh Mohamed Yusuf, held another meeting in Galkayo, Puntland. On that occasion, they agreed to, among other things, reduce the size of the National Constituent Assembly (NCA) from 1,000 to 825 members, with women constituting at least 30 percent of the total membership. It was also decided that the members of the NCA would be selected by 135 Elders based on the 4.5 formula, assisted by a selection of committee of non-voting members, as well as by representatives of the six signatories. In April 2012, a list of 135 Elders who will choose the 825 members of the NCA and select the new Parliament was submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister. Since 5 May 2012, the Elders have been meeting in Mogadishu, under the aegis of the Traditional Leaders' Conference, to decide on the selection of the NCA and to select the new Parliament.

**65.** In view of the challenges encountered in the process, in particular, the controversy surrounding the selection of the Elders and the speculation about the content of the draft Constitution, the principal signatories of the Roadmap met in Addis Ababa, from 21 to 23 May 2012. They agreed that the Elders' meeting in Mogadishu would select the delegates for the NCA, who would convene by 12 July 2012, adopt the interim Somali Constitution by 20 July 2012, and select the new Somali Parliament on 25 July 2012. The new Parliament will then elect the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers, on 4 August 2012, and the President, on 20 August 2012. In the selection process, the Elders will be assisted by a technical selection committee which will be broadened to represent the clans and to include international observers.

**66.** As the Assembly would recall, on 5 January 2012, the PSC adopted the new Strategic Concept for future AMISOM operations, which provided for the expansion of AMISOM operations to areas outside Mogadishu and the enhancement of its strength up to 17,731 uniformed personnel. On 22 February 2012, the Security Council adopted resolution 2036 (2012), which endorsed the Strategic Concept and authorized an enhanced support package funded by UN assessed contributions.

**67.** As part of the implementation of the Strategic Concept, additional troops from Uganda (1,500) and Burundi (1,000) were deployed in Mogadishu, in April 2012, pending their relocation to Sector 3 (Baidoa). An advance element of 120 troops has already been deployed to Baidoa. The deployment of the Djiboutian contingent to Sector 4 (Beletweyne) is underway; an advance element of platoon size was deployed on 31 May 2012. The deployment of the main body of the contingent is expected to be soon completed. On 2 June 2012, the Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kenya to pave the way to the formal integration of the Kenyan contingent (4,660) into AMISOM. The Commission also signed an MoU with Sierra Leone, which is due to deploy its battalion-size contribution by August 2012. Efforts are underway to expedite the deployment of Formed Police Units (FPUs) from Uganda and Nigeria, to support the re-establishment and maintenance of law and order in Mogadishu. In this respect, an MoU was signed with Uganda, on 29 June 2012.

**68.** Furthermore, the Commission has begun operationalizing the command and control architecture of the expanded AMISOM, as contained in the Strategic Concept, based on the recommendations of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) and the Military Operations Coordination Committee (MOCC). The JCM and the MOCC are strategic level advisory bodies chaired by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, they respectively bring together respectively the Ministers of Defense and the Chiefs of Defense Staff of AMISOM troop contributing and other interested countries. Steps are underway to fill the positions at the Force Headquarters. In this respect, the new Force Commander, Lieutenant General Andrew Gutti, from Uganda, took over the command of the AMISOM military component, on 2 May 2012, from Major General Fred Mugisha.

**69.** On the security front, the situation in the capital Mogadishu and other regions of south central Somalia has significantly improved. Since the expulsion of Al-Shabaab extremists from Mogadishu, in August 2011, AMISOM and TFG forces have gained more ground in the surrounding districts. In Sector 1 (Lower and Middle Shabelle, including Mogadishu). AMISOM 'shape-up' operations to stabilize the city were completed on 12 March, with the capture of the Daynille air strip. Subsequently, AMISOM expanded its operations into the strategic localities of Elasha Beya and Afgoye. On 22 June 2012, AMISOM forces secured the Esaley air strip and Elma'an Port, both over 37 kms northeast of Mogadishu. On 26 June, AMISOM took control of the strategic northern town of Balad. In Sector 2 (Lower and Middle Juba), the TFG, backed by the Kenyan contingent of AMISOM, has recovered several towns from Al Shabaab. On 30 May 2012, the city of Afmadow and Biibi, which are about 75 kilometers from Kismayo, came under the control of the TFG and the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF). The military offensive against the insurgents is advancing, with a view to taking control of the remaining towns. In Sector 3, there have been significant advances

by the TFG and the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF). Almost all of Gedo, Bay and Bakool have been liberated. Significant gains also continue to be recorded in Sector 4, where the TFG and the ENDF have secured strategic towns in the Hiraan region.

**70.** Although significantly weakened, Al Shabaab still has the ability to strike, as demonstrated by the suicide attacks at Villa Somalia, on 14 March and 4 April 2012, which resulted in significant casualties. At the same time, the threat of Improvised (IEDs), and assassinations, suicide attacks and assassinations still persist. The extremist group is now withdrawing from major cities and going underground by melting into clans and by establishing new hideouts in the mountains.

**71.** In consolidating the security and political gains, it is important to ensure the delivery of services in the areas liberated from Al-Shabaab, so that the Somali people have confidence that their basic needs are met. Equally vital is the need to swiftly establish effective administration to stabilize the areas secured by AMISOM and the Somali security forces.

**72.** Less than two months remain before the end of the Transition, in August 2012. There has been significant progress on the political and military fronts. Today, more than ever before, the AU and the rest of the international community can afford being cautiously optimistic regarding the prospects for peace in Somalia. Against this backdrop, the Assembly, in addition to welcoming the achievements made, may wish to urge the Somali stakeholders to remain on course, and to reiterate AU's determination to take measures against all those seeking to undermine the peace and reconciliation process. At the same time, the Assembly should commend AU's partners for their support, as demonstrated by the adoption of resolution 2036(2012), the convening of the London Conference of 23 February 2012 and the follow-up Istanbul Conference, which took place from 31 May to 1 June 2012, and urge them to remain steadfast in their cooperation with the AU.

**d) Peace Process between Eritrea and Ethiopia**

**73.** At its last Ordinary Session, the Assembly expressed concern at the continued impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and reiterated AU's call for renewed African efforts to help the two countries to overcome the current difficulties, normalize their relations and lay the foundation for lasting peace and security in the Horn of Africa. The Assembly requested the PSC to actively follow up on the matter and report to it.

**74.** The period under review was characterized by further escalation in the relations between the two countries. It should be recalled that in mid-January 2012, Ethiopia accused Eritrea of direct involvement in an armed attack against a group of tourists traveling in the Afar Regional State, resulting, notably, in the killing of some of them. In mid-March, the Ethiopian army carried out an operation against what was described as rebel bases inside the Eritrean territory. On 15 March 2012, the Eritrean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Osman Saleh, addressed a letter to the Chairperson of the Commission, in which he *"urged the AU to shoulder its legal and moral responsibilities*

*and to take appropriate measures to rectify acts of aggression against Eritrea's sovereign territories and to ensure justice and the respect of the rule of law".*

**75.** In view of these developments, the Chairperson of the Commission issued a statement expressing his deep concern and appealing to the two countries to exercise restraint. He reaffirmed AU's readiness to assist the two countries overcome the challenge at hand and address their underlying causes, through dialogue, and help them normalize their relations. He reiterated the continued relevance of the call by the Assembly of the Union for the development of a regional approach to the challenges of peace, security and stability in the Horn of Africa, including the convening of a regional conference on peace, security, stability and development. Against this background, the Assembly may wish to reiterate earlier AU decisions on this matter and to devise ways and means of facilitating progress.

**e) Relations between Djibouti and Eritrea**

**76.** In its January 2012 decision on the report of the PSC on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa, the Assembly addressed the issue of the relations between Djibouti and Eritrea. The Commission has received no update from the two countries during the period under review. The Assembly may wish to reiterate its call for Djibouti and Eritrea to pursue, in good faith, the scrupulous implementation of the Agreement they signed. The Assembly may also wish to further request the PSC to closely follow-up the matter and report regularly to it.

**f) Issues relating to UN Security Council resolution 2023(2012) and the activities of the Somalia/Eritrea Monitoring Group**

**77.** In its January 2012 decision on the report of the PSC on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa, the Assembly welcomed the adoption by the UN Security Council of resolution 2023(2011), which condemned Eritrea for its destabilization activities in Somalia and in the region, and urged the PSC to ensure full implementation of both this resolution and resolution 1907(2009); further welcomed the communiqué issued by the 309<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PSC, held on 9 January 2012; called upon Member States to take adequate measures to fully implement the provisions of these resolutions; and urged the State of Eritrea to fully comply with the said resolutions and desist from its destabilization activities in Somalia and in the region. Eritrea entered a reservation on the relevant paragraph of the decision.

**78.** On 20 February 2012, the Eritrean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Osman Saleh, sent a letter to the Chairperson of the Commission, challenging, notably, the adoption of the PSC communiqué and the Assembly decision, which, in the view of his country, did not comply with the rules and procedures of the PSC and the Assembly. He requested that the letter be circulated to all Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the AU Member States. In line with that request and the established practice, the Commission circulated the letter to all Member States on 17 March 2012. Furthermore, Eritrea forwarded to the AU communications sent to the United Nations outlining its position on the work of the Monitoring Group and other related aspects.



**g) Follow-up to the AU PSC Roadmap on the situation between Sudan and South Sudan**

**79.** The January 2012 Ordinary Session of the Assembly took place against the background of rising tension between Sudan and South Sudan over their post-secession relations. The Assembly expressed concern at the difficulties facing the negotiations between the two countries, called on them to immediately halt and reverse the unilateral actions they have taken regarding the issue of oil, and requested that they extend full cooperation to the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), in order to expedite an agreement on the outstanding issues, in line with the agreed principles of two viable states living in peace with one another.

**80.** The period following the Summit was marked by sustained efforts by the AUHIP, with the support of the Chair of IGAD, as well as international partners, to help the two countries break the impasse in their negotiations. In March 2012, in the context of deteriorating relations and economic conditions in both countries, the two sides agreed a “new spirit”, whereby they would negotiate as partners, in pursuit of their original objective of “two viable states”. It was agreed that a summit of the two Heads of State, President Omar Hassan al Bashir and President Salva Kiir Mayardit, would be held in Juba at the beginning of April, to cement this “new approach”. Unfortunately, this new spirit unravelled rapidly following the incident that took place in Heglig in April 2012, spurring a military confrontation between the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), including aerial bombardment of locations in South Sudan. This situation considerably damaged the prospects for resuming negotiations, and increased the risks of an all-out war between the two countries, with its attendant negative consequences for the entire region.

**81.** It was in this context that the PSC, at its 319<sup>th</sup> meeting held at ministerial level, on 24 April 2012, adopted a Roadmap outlining a number of steps aimed at easing the then-prevailing tension, facilitating the resumption of negotiations on post-secession relations, and the normalization of the relations between the two states. The Roadmap falls into three parts, namely immediate security issues, the resumption of negotiations on all outstanding issues, and the conflict in the Two Areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

**82.** With regard to security matters, the Roadmap called for: (i) the immediate cessation of hostilities, including aerial bombardment; (ii) the unconditional withdrawal of all armed forces to their side of the border; (iii) the cessation of harbouring of, or support to, rebel groups against the other state; (iv) the activation of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ), in accordance with the AUHIP map of November 2011; (v) the activation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM); (vi) the activation of the *ad hoc* Committee to receive allegations and counter-allegations of violations; (vii) the withdrawal of all armed forces from Abyei; and (viii) an end to hostile propaganda. The PSC communiqué also called on the Parties unconditionally to resume negotiations on all outstanding aspects in their post-secession relations, in particular on oil and related payments, borders, nationality issues and the final status of Abyei. The

communiqué also called on the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-North to enter into negotiations towards a resolution of the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, and gives a role to the AUHIP in this regard. The deadline given by the PSC for the completion of negotiations on the post-secession relations was three months from the adoption of the communiqué. The PSC requested the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit the communiqué to the UN Security Council, for endorsement under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. On 2 May 2012, the Security Council endorsed the Roadmap, as requested, with the adoption of resolution 2046 (2012). The deadline for the completion of negotiations was thereby set at 2 August 2012, 3 months from the date of adoption of resolution 2046 (2012).

**83.** Since the adoption of the PSC communiqué, and its subsequent endorsement by the Security Council, there has been a marked decrease in the levels of fighting. Since early June, there have been no confirmed incidents of fighting along the border. Some progress has also been achieved in the implementation of other aspects of the Roadmap. In particular, the two Parties have withdrawn their forces from Abyei, although elements of the oil police from Sudan remain in Diffra, guarding the oil installations. The Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) met in Addis Ababa on 8 June 2012, and provisionally agreed on the draft Terms of Reference for the Joint Military Observers Committee (JMOC). It also took decisions related to the formation of the Abyei Police Service (APS), as well as decisions regarding the provision of humanitarian assistance. The Parties have also resumed negotiations on borders, in particular the resolution of the disputed areas.

**84.** During the last round of negotiations, which took place in Addis Ababa, from 21 to 28 June 2012, under the facilitation of the AUHIP, the Parties also agreed to an incremental activation of the SDBZ and the JBVMM. They exchanged the names of their monitors to the JBVMM and agreed to send them to the JBVMM Headquarters at Assosa, in Ethiopia. The Parties also agreed to the Terms of Reference for the *ad hoc* Committee, and exchanged the names of their members on this body.

**85.** Given the looming deadline for the completion of negotiations on outstanding issues, the Parties have been trying to reach a compromise on the SDBZ that would allow them to activate the JBVMM. They have, therefore, agreed to attempt to return to the “new approach” envisaged in March 2012. This approach would allow them to conduct their negotiations as partners, not as adversaries, and facilitate decision-making on the basis of strategic considerations. The two sides will resume negotiations in early July, and continue throughout the period up till 2 August 2012, to reach agreement on the outstanding issues, with the facilitation of the AUHIP.

**86.** While the situation has significantly improved, daunting challenges remain ahead. The Assembly may wish to remind the Parties of the need to fulfill in earnest their obligations under the Roadmap, which represents the collective and considered view of the continent regarding the way forward. In this respect, and in order to address in a lasting manner the security concerns of the Parties, it is critical that the issue of the definition of the SDBZ be quickly resolved, bearing in mind, as stressed by the PSC, that the AUHIP map of November 2011 in no way prejudices the outcome of the final

demarcation of the border and the resolution of the disputed areas. This is a critical moment for Sudan and South Sudan. It is imperative, for the future of the two countries and the entire region, that they take decisive and immediate steps towards resolving their conflict and returning to peace and cooperation. The Governments of the two countries must rise to the occasion and assume the mantle of leadership.

**h) Sudan (Darfur)**

**87.** At its January 2012 Ordinary Session, the Assembly welcomed the adoption, on 14 July 2011, of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), encouraged the Parties to fully implement the commitments made and called on the hold-out groups to join the peace process without any further delay. The Assembly also appealed to the international community to extend the necessary support to this process.

**88.** It should be recalled that, in the aftermath of the adoption of the DDPD, a number of steps were taken towards its implementation. The Government of Sudan appointed Dr. Al-Haj Adam Youssef, who is from Darfur, as Second Vice-President of Sudan, and the leader of the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), Dr. El Tigani Seisi, as Chairperson of the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA), the principal organ charged with the implementation of the DDPD. Several other Darfuris were also appointed at federal, state and local levels. On its part, the LJM is constructively taking part in, among other DDPD institutions, the Ceasefire Commission, which was established to independently verify LJM military personnel and equipment. This exercise, which was a pre-requisite to the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of the LJM forces, was conducted in March 2012. On 8 February 2012, the DRA was officially inaugurated. The fact that DRA leaders work side-by-side with GoS officials contributes significantly towards the building of trust and confidence between the two Parties. Meanwhile, the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Darfur has issued 21 arrest warrants against those who were allegedly involved in the 2010 attack in Tabara, North Darfur, where 27 villagers were killed.

**89.** In his report to the Security Council on the 'Framework for the African Union and United Nations facilitation of the Darfur Peace Process', the UN Secretary-General has proposed a way forward for re-energizing the peace process in Darfur. The Framework has three pillars: (a) full and timely implementation of the DDPD; (b) engagement with the Government of Sudan and the non-signatory movements; and (c) internal dialogue and consultations. On his part, the Joint Chief Mediator a.i., Professor Ibrahim Gambari, has continued to work with the Qatar, Deputy Prime Minister, Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, to resume dialogue between the Government of Sudan and DDPD non-signatory movements.

**90.** On the security front, the situation in Darfur continues to generate hope for positive improvements in the near future. The overall number of security incidents recorded by UNAMID shows a reduction of hostilities between Government forces and armed movements, compared to the same period in 2011. However, there is an increase in banditry and other criminal activities, while attacks by unidentified armed individuals against UNAMID convoys, though sporadic, have also been on the rise. Furthermore, the tension between the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan and the

fighting in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, with the alleged involvement of Darfuri movements alongside the SPLM-North forces, have the potential to spread to Darfur and disrupt the fragile gains made since the signing of the DDPD.

**91.** UNAMID's increasing ability to protect civilians enables the Mission to adjust its manpower and resources to address some of the immense needs of the local communities. Military patrols are now covering a much greater geographic area, while the Mission continues to improve relations with the local communities through the implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). In accordance with the requests contained in Security Council resolution 2003 (2011), a review exercise of UNAMID uniformed personnel was carried out, earlier this year, by the UN and the AU. The main objective of the review was to look at ways to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of UNAMID military and police and to promote a flexible and mobile force. The implementation of the review is scheduled to be undertaken over a period of 18 months, beginning from July 2012.

**92.** The bilateral agreement reached by Chad and Sudan in early 2010 has contributed significantly to the restoration of calm along their common border in Western Darfur. As documented by OCHA, approximately 31,000 former Sudanese refugees in Chad have returned to various localities in West Darfur. A steady increase in the number of IDPs returning voluntarily to their villages of origin, particularly in West Darfur, has also been observed. UNAMID continues to provide logistical and security support to humanitarian agencies in this field. However, the fact remains that some 1.7 million women, men and children remain displaced in various IDP camps scattered throughout Darfur.

**93.** Overall, the signs are positive: the generality of the local population now considers the DDPD a legitimate foundation to build a common and shared future. But, there are still many challenges to sustainable peace in Darfur, including skepticism from some sections of the population. To address this confidence gap, it is important that the Government of Sudan continue to implement the DDPD faithfully and to empower the mechanisms provided for in the agreement. Moreover, DDPD institutions need a great deal of assistance on capacity building. Sustainable peace is in sight, but the road ahead remains arduous. The progress made so far remains fragile and may be easily reversed if focus on Darfur is lost. The Assembly may, therefore, wish to call for renewed efforts to provide the requisite support to the peace process and early recovery initiatives.

#### **i) Democratic Republic of Congo**

**94.** The situation in the DRC was considered by the Assembly of the Union against the background of the second post-conflict parliamentary and presidential elections held on 28 November 2011. The elections were organized within the timeframe provided for by the Constitution, and were conducted in a climate marked by strong political tension. The AU, which observed the conduct of these elections, insisted on the obligation for every stakeholder challenging the results thereof to do so according to the existing legal procedures.

**95.** The reporting period was dominated by the mutiny among units of the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) based in North Kivu under the command of General Bosco Ntaganda, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes allegedly committed in Ituri, together with Mr Thomas Lubanga. The rebels are former members of the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP), a politico-military movement that became a political party pursuant to the Goma Agreement of 23 March 2009.

**96.** Afraid of being arrested and handed over to the ICC, Gen. Ntaganda, at the head of several hundred men, has given up his command post since 5 April 2012. A month later, Colonel Sultani Makenga, a unit commander in South Kivu, defected with elements loyal to him. He took command of all the mutineers and formed a political-military movement known as M23, in reference to the Goma Agreement of 23 March 2009, blaming the Government for not having fulfilled its obligations. The M23 set up a military wing called the "National Army of Congo/National Congress for the Defence of the People" (ANC/CNDP), which triggered heavy fighting against FARDC in several localities in North Kivu. He moreover called for negotiations with the Government to define new conditions for the effective implementation of the Goma Agreement. The Congolese Government has rejected any idea of negotiations with the rebels and reaffirmed FARDC's determination to quell the rebellion. The situation has caused some tension between the DRC and Rwanda. Moreover, the fighting has also resulted in a serious humanitarian crisis, marked especially by significant displacements of civilian populations.

**97.** In the light of the foregoing, the Assembly may wish to strongly condemn the action of the armed elements involved in attacks against the Congolese State, demand the immediate dissolution of the military wing of the M23, request the dissident officers and soldiers to immediately lay down their arms and rejoin the units of the Armed Forces of the DRC in North and South Kivu, and express its full support to the Congolese Government efforts aimed at fully restoring State authority. The Assembly may also wish to encourage countries of the region to invoke the mechanisms provided for by the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region to provide full support to the DRC in its efforts to restore security in North Kivu. In this regard, and following the working visit paid to Kinshasa from 18 to 19 June 2012 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda, Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo, close cooperation between Rwanda and the DRC is more necessary than ever in order to promote peace, security and stability in the Great Lakes region.

**j) Central African Republic**

**98.** The CAR is pursuing its peace-building and post-conflict recovery efforts. The Government remains committed to this end, and continues to take many initiatives aimed at fostering dialogue with the opposition and strengthening the democratic process, enhancing security and accelerating economic recovery.

**99.** In this regard, it is worth noting the efforts undertaken to finalize discussions on the draft Electoral Code. In November 2011, and in order to draw lessons from the presidential and legislative elections of January and March 2011, whose conduct and results were challenged by the opposition, the CAR authorities organized an initial consultation with political parties and civil society organizations to present the Electoral Code and the national mechanism proposed for the elections. In January 2012, participants considered the draft submitted by the Government, which provided for the establishment of a National Elections Agency and an Advisory Committee to observe the elections. Having failed to reach an agreement on how to proceed, the Parties agreed to convene another workshop in order to iron out their divergent viewpoints. However, on 1 March, the Speaker of the National Assembly announced that a bill on the Electoral Code had been tabled by the Government for consideration, thereby sparking a reaction from the FARE (Front for the Cancellation and Resumption of Elections), which called for the withdrawal of the bill. The bill was finally sent back to the Government at the end of April.

**100.** On 15 May 2012, President François Bozizé, during a special meeting with the national stakeholders, and in the presence of representatives of the international community, including the AU, reaffirmed his commitment to dialogue with the opposition. Since 31 May 2012, he has started a series of consultations with various political actors. It is worth mentioning the visit to Bangui, on 5 and 6 May 2012, by President Idriss Deby Itno, as part of the efforts designed to foster closer consultation among CAR political actors.

**101.** The security situation remains challenging, especially in view of the limited capacity of the CAR defence and security forces. The situation is notably marked by continued attacks by various armed groups, including the LRA. With regard to the latter movement, and as stated below, the AU is working towards facilitating the coordination of regional efforts in order to eliminate this terrorist group.

**102.** The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations are underway. Regarding the north-eastern part of the country, progress has been hampered by the lack of adequate resources and by the fact that the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace (CPJP) has not yet signed the Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 21 June 2008. As part of their joint programme to support DDR processes on the continent, the AU and the World Bank sent a delegation to Bangui, from 2 to 11 June 2012, to identify areas where the two institutions could support the ongoing efforts. The visit followed the Commission's participation in the meeting of the 'Group of Friends of the Central African Republic' devoted to the issue of DDR, held in New York on 5 April 2012. On the economic front, the Government intends to submit the final version of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP-2) and the related Action Plan to international partners before the end of 2012. On 25 June 2012, the IMF granted to CAR financial assistance amounting to USD 63 million for three years as part of the Extended Credit Facility to the CAR.

**103.** In conclusion, the Assembly may wish to encourage the CAR stakeholders to continue with, and carry through, the dialogue they have started, while urging the CAR

authorities to accelerate the reforms initiated and the efforts being deployed. Similarly, the Assembly may also wish to make an urgent appeal to AU Member States and to the rest of the international community to assist the CAR more effectively in its post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building efforts.

**k) Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army**

**104.** The Assembly will recall that, at its 299<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 22 November 2011, the PSC authorized the implementation of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA), for an initial period of six (6) months. The RCI-LRA's mandate is to: enhance the operational capabilities of the countries affected by LRA atrocities; create an environment conducive to the stabilization of the affected areas; and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the affected areas. The PSC requested the Chairperson of the Commission, in close consultation with the affected countries, to make the necessary arrangements to facilitate the implementation of the various components of the RCI-LRA, namely the Joint Coordination Mechanism (JCM), the Regional Task Force (RTF), and the RTF Headquarters, including the Joint Operations Centre (JOC).

**105.** Soon after his appointment, the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission for the LRA issue, Francisco Madeira, together with the UN Special Representative in charge of the LRA issue, Mr. Abou Moussa, undertook several missions to the countries affected by LRA atrocities. Thus, from 3 to 6 January 2012, the two emissaries successively visited Bangui, CAR, Juba, South Sudan, Kampala, Uganda, and Kinshasa, DRC. On 25 March 2012, they paid a joint visit to the Headquarters of the RTF in Yambio, South Sudan, and the Headquarters of the Nzara Sector, also in South Sudan, where the Ugandan troops are deployed. From 11 to 13 April 2012, they travelled to Kinshasa to meet with the Congolese political authorities, and to Dungu, also in the DRC, to visit the Headquarters of the Sector where the DRC will deploy troops as part of its contribution to the RCI-LRA. From 14 to 15 April 2012, they visited Obo, CAR, which will host the Headquarters of the Sector assigned to the CAR troops, and Bangui, for consultations with CAR officials. From 23 to 25 April 2012, the AU Special Envoy and UN Special Representative also visited N'djamena, Chad. On this occasion, the Chadian authorities, including President Idriss Deby Itno, confirmed their readiness to support the RCI-LRA and to fully cooperate in the arrest of Joseph Kony if he enters the Chadian territory. Consultations are underway with Sudanese authorities for a similar visit to Khartoum.

**106.** The RTF Headquarters, which was officially launched in Juba on 25 March 2012, is now operational. The establishment of the Secretariat of the JCM is being finalized. Meanwhile, the UN and AU have undertaken a number of other activities in support of the RCI-LRA implementation process. This involves developing a comprehensive strategy to combat the LRA, taking into account the reintegration of former combatants and the rehabilitation of the affected areas. In the meantime, operations to hunt down the LRA continue. Thus, on 12 May 2012, the Ugandan troops arrested in CAR Caesar

Acellam, who is ranked as number 4 in the LRA hierarchy. Other successes were recorded thereafter.

**107.** The first JCM ministerial meeting was held in Addis Ababa on 8 May 2012, under the chairmanship of the Commissioner for Peace and Security, and in the presence of the Defence Ministers of the affected countries. On this occasion, the Ministers adopted a series of measures necessary for the full operationalization of the RTF Headquarters fully operational. They further requested the Commission to organize a support forum comprising neighbours of the affected countries and other stakeholders in order to boost support for the RCI-LRA.

**108.** At its meeting held on 22 May 2012, the PSC decided to renew the authorization granted for the implementation of the RCI-LRA for an additional period of twelve months, and requested the affected countries to implement the conclusions of the JCM meeting within the agreed time-frame. The PSC also requested the other Member States and AU partners to provide adequate financial and logistical support to the efforts to implement the RCI-LRA. In this context, the Special Envoy for the LRA visited New York at the end of June 2012 to attend a UN Security Council meeting on the LRA.

**109.** After several months of sustained efforts, the RCI-LRA has now entered an operational phase. The Initiative has raised hope among the affected populations, as well as sustained interest from international partners. The RCI-LRA is a flexible and creative mechanism designed to pool resources and capacities of countries in the region to address the LRA problem. Undoubtedly, this form of cooperation is a model which could be replicated elsewhere on the continent. In this context, and given the challenges that lie ahead, the Assembly may wish to urge RCI-LRA member countries to redouble their efforts to accelerate the achievement of the objectives set. The Assembly may also wish to, once again, convey the AU's appreciation to the international partners for their support for the RCI-LRA.

#### **I) Côte d'Ivoire**

**110.** The first half of 2012 was marked by the consolidation of institutional normalization with the near-completion of parliamentary elections and the formation of a new Government. Indeed, parliamentary by-elections were held on 26 February 2012, in 11 constituencies where polling had been invalidated by the Constitutional Council, and in one constituency where voting had not been held on 11 December 2011, following the death of one candidate during the election campaign. The elections were conducted smoothly in the ten constituencies and the results were announced on 28 February 2012 by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), confirmed on 7 March 2012 by the Constitutional Council and certified on 9 March 2012 by the Special Representative of UN Secretary-General. Following serious security incidents, the parliamentary elections in the constituencies of Bonon and Facobly, situated in the western part of Côte d'Ivoire, could not be completed. The IEC has requested the Government to conduct investigations.



**111.** The National Assembly elected following the consolidated results of the 11 December 2011 and February 2012 elections is dominated by the “Rassemblement des Républicains” (RDR), with 136 seats out of 253, followed by the “Parti démocratique de Côte d’Ivoire” (PDCI), with 88 seats. The Parliament is presided over since 12 March by Guillaume Soro, former Prime Minister, under the banner of the RDR. Respecting his campaign pledge, President Alassane Dramane Ouattara, on 13 March 2012, appointed Mr. Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio, of the PDCI, as Prime Minister. The following day, the composition of the new Government, almost identical to the previous one, was announced. It should be noted that the main opposition party, the “Front populaire ivoirien” (FPI), of former President Laurent Gbagbo, did not participate in the parliamentary elections, and is not part of the Government.

**112.** The national reconciliation process is underway. It is being conducted jointly by the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) and the Government, which organized a political dialogue with the opposition parties, under the chairpersonship of the Prime Minister, on 27 April 2012, in Grand-Bassam. The FPI, which was represented only as an observer, now seems ready to get more involved. There are also local reconciliation initiatives, under the leadership of civil society organizations, government and traditional leaders. Moreover, the Ivorian judiciary has resumed its normal activities, with the reopening of most of the courts and prisons. It began hearing the cases of detainees close to Laurent Gbagbo, who were arrested in April 2011 and charged with economic crimes and bloodshed. Moreover, the confirmation hearing of charges against the former President, who is being held in The Hague by the ICC, initially set for 18 June 2012, was postponed to 13 August 2012, at the request of his lawyers.

**113.** There has been a marked improvement in the security situation in Côte d’Ivoire during the first half of 2012. However, there are lingering challenges, particularly in the western part of the country, on the border with Liberia. On 8 June 2012, an attack by armed elements resulted in fifteen victims, including seven peacekeepers from Niger. The Government has taken steps to address this situation. Thus, the humanitarian situation remains fragile in the West of the country. There is however a significant reduction in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) on IDPs sites and in host communities. The number decreased from 186,000 in October 2011 to about 80,000 in late May 2012. Meanwhile, the tripartite agreements signed between Côte d’Ivoire, host countries and UNHCR facilitated the return of refugees estimated at over 150,000 people. Of the 95,000 refugees still in exile in neighbouring countries, UNHCR has repatriated 50,000 from Liberia in 2012.

**114.** To develop the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) national strategies, the President of the Republic, on 6 April 2012, issued a decree relating to the establishment, duties, composition and functioning of the SSR Task Force. The Task Force, which has 90 days to submit its findings, comprises of a steering and monitoring committee and a scientific committee involving the AU, ECOWAS and the EU.

**115.** The Assembly may wish to welcome the continued positive development of the situation in Côte d’Ivoire, whose economy has good growth prospects through the

combined effects of enhanced domestic demand and debt relief that will soon follow the reaching of the HIPC completion point, achieved in late June 2012. The Assembly may also wish to note with satisfaction Côte d'Ivoire's active contribution to the promotion of peace, security and stability in West Africa, following the election of President Alassane Ouattara as Chairman of ECOWAS. Finally, it may further wish to call on Member States and the international community as a whole to continue supporting the efforts underway.

**m) Liberia**

**116.** Following the November/December 2011 elections, which were won by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, efforts have continued to be made towards the consolidation of peace in the country and its socio-economic recovery. Over the past months, the Government has held a series of consultations with the Liberian citizens on its proposed Medium-to-Long-Term Vision 2030 Programme that intends to make Liberia a middle-income country by that year.

**117.** The internal security situation has remained calm, except for reports of minor brigandage which often attracts mob reaction on suspected criminals. Mention should also be made of the regional security challenges, with the alleged occurrence of human, arms and drug trafficking across the borders of the Mano River Union (MRU), of which Liberia is a member. It is against this backdrop that a number of UN delegations visited the country between February and May 2012, to assess the situation on the ground, as part of the drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the handing over of security responsibilities to the Government of Liberia. The AU and ECOWAS would be expected to play a major role after the withdrawal of UNMIL in about two to three years' time. At the humanitarian level, the refugee situation has largely stabilized as the Liberian and Ivorian authorities, together with UNHCR, are facilitating the repatriation of Ivorian refugees back to their country. Also, based on the Cessation Clause invoked by President Johnson-Sirleaf on the status of Liberian refugees, all Liberian refugees will cease benefiting from that status after June 2012.

**118.** The overall situation in Liberia continues to evolve positively. The Assembly may wish to reiterate its appreciation to the Liberian authorities and people for their tremendous achievements. At the same time, it should, once again, stress the need for sustained donor engagement and support towards the consolidation of peace and development in the country.

**n) Republic of Guinea**

**119.** The major remaining challenge in Guinea is the organization of parliamentary elections, which should have taken place six months after the presidential election, to mark the end of the transition. Due to the lack of consensus among the political stakeholders on the composition of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and on other related aspects, this important stage could not be reached. The hopes generated by the initiation of political dialogue in February 2012 did not yield the desired results. Whereas the opposition parties, under the umbrella of the Association of Political Parties for the Completion of the Transition and the Alliance for Democracy

and Progress, insist on having their demand regarding the conduct of the elections met , the presidential camp and the Government consider that they cannot interfere in the operations of INEC, as it is an independent body.

**120.** Against this backdrop, the Assembly may wish to urge the political stakeholders to iron out their differences through dialogue and consultation, thereby ensuring consensus in the management of the electoral process and making it possible for parliamentary elections to be held at the earliest opportunity. At the same time, efforts should continue to mobilize the necessary support from the international community in order to resuscitate the economy and consolidate the gains made.

**o) Guinea-Bissau**

**121.** The beginning of 2012 saw many signs indicating an encouraging turn around in the situation in Guinea Bissau. In support of the efforts made by the country, the Chairperson of the Commission organized, in the margins of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, a solidarity meeting to sensitize Member States, multilateral and bilateral partners on the needs of the country.

**122.** The first round of the snap presidential elections was held on 18 March 2012, following the death of President Malam Bacai Sanha on 9 January 2012. The second round was to be contested by Carlos Gomes Junior, of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), and Kumba Yala, of the Social Renewal Party (PRS). Following the dispute arising from the announcement of the results, the electoral process ended in a deadlock and was subsequently overshadowed by the controversy caused by some political authorities and the military hierarchy regarding the presence, activities and mandate of the Angolan Military Assistance and Security Mission (MISSANG-GB). On 12 April 2012, a group of generals and senior army officers, claiming to represent a «Military Command» staged a coup d' état, with only seventeen days to the holding of the second round of the elections.

**123.** The Chairperson of the Commission and the PSC, strongly condemned the coup d'état. ECOWAS and a number of international partners, did the same. Specifically, the PSC decided to suspend Guinea-Bissau from all AU activities until the effective restoration of constitutional order, expressed the support of the AU for the efforts of ECOWAS, and stressed the importance of continuous consultations among the international stakeholders, including the CPLP and the EU, in order to facilitate a coordinated approach to the crisis and identify ways and means for ensuring its early resolution.

**124.** Pursuant to the conclusions of the Extra-ordinarily Summit of ECOWAS held in Dakar, Senegal, on 3 May 2012, the Bureau of the National Popular Assembly was renewed. Mr Manuel Serifo Nhamadjo, the Acting Speaker, was appointed Interim President of the Republic on 10 May 2012, in line with article 71 of the Constitution. Mr Braima Sori Djalo, who was the Acting Deputy Speaker, was made the Speaker of the Assembly. On 22 May 2012, following consultations, a new Government was constituted. It is headed by Mr. Rui Duarte de Barros, and made up of the parties

signatory to the "Transition Pact", with the exception of some political parties, including the PAIGC, although some of its members joined the transitional institutions. The Government is tasked mainly to implement civil service, defence and security, legal reforms, as well as to crack down on drug trafficking, organized crime and corruption. The transition, which will not exceed 12 months, will culminate in the organization of credible presidential and parliamentary elections. At the same time, ECOWAS has deployed a transition support mission, which took over from MISSANG, whose withdrawal was completed on 9 June 2012.

**125.** In conclusion, the Assembly may wish to reiterate the AU's position on the total rejection of unconstitutional changes of Government and the need to put an end to the repeated interferences by the Bissau-Guinean army in the political process. To this end, the Assembly may wish to reiterate the support of the AU to the efforts of ECOWAS and encourage continuous consultations among the various international stakeholders so as to promote a coordinated approach to the situation prevailing in Guinea-Bissau. To this effect, the AU Commission is in contact with ECOWAS, the CPLP and the UN.

**p) Mali**

**126.** Since the last Ordinary Session of the Assembly, the situation in the Sahel, especially in Mali, has sharply deteriorated. It should be recalled that few days before the January 2012 Summit, the heavily armed rebels of the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MLNA), who were mostly ex-combatants of Gaddafi's army, launched attacks on regions in the northern part of Mali. The Assembly strongly condemned the attacks.

**127.** Other armed and terrorist groups, namely Ansar Din, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), together with the MLNA, took advantage of the confusion created by the coup d'état of 22 March 2012 to seize control of the Northern part of Mali (2/3 of the territory of the country). On 5 April 2012, the MNLA declared the independence of that part of Mali under the name Azawad. After attempting to merge, the terrorists and armed groups, Ansar Din and MUJAO on the one hand, and the forces of the MLNA on the other, ended up clashing in Timbuktu and Gao. The MNLA was eventually driven out of Gao, which, like Timbuktu, is currently under the total control of extremist, terrorist and criminal groups. The humanitarian and human rights situation is worrying. Mention should also be made of the criminal and unacceptable destruction of the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of these mythical cities of the Sahel.

**128.** Those who carried out the coup d'état of 22 March 2012 and whose action, as indicated above, precipitated the loss of the positions of the Malian army in the Northern part of the country, used the already worrying situation on the ground and deplorable conditions of the Malian army as a pretext to seize power. Thereafter, they established a National Committee for the Recovery of Democracy and the Restoration of the State (CNRDRE), which assigned itself the task of reorganizing the armed and security forces to enable them to recapture the North and organizing transparent and democratic elections.

**129.** The AU and ECOWAS, in collaboration with the United Nations and other international partners, have taken a number of initiatives in order to deal with the dual crisis in Mali, condemning the attacks perpetrated in the northern part of the country and the coup d'état, whilst reaffirming their commitment to the national unity and territorial integrity of Mali. In pursuance of the Framework Agreement signed on 6 April 2012 by the representative of the ECOWAS Mediator and the military junta, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Dioncouda Traore, was installed as the interim President, whilst Cheick Modibo Diarra was appointed transitional Prime Minister, following which he formed a Government.

**130.** In spite of the progress made, the institutions put in place within the framework of the process of restoring the constitutional order remain very fragile due to the continuous interference by the coup makers in the political process, thus preventing them from functioning as expected. The activism of the civilian supporters of the junta and the physical assault on the Interim President, on 21 May 2012, were a sad reminder of the volatility of the situation.

**131.** Against this backdrop the Support and Follow-up Group, established by PSC on 20 March 2012, held its inaugural meeting in Abidjan, on 7 June 2012, under the auspices of the AU, ECOWAS and the United Nations, and with the attendance of a number of international partners. The meeting reaffirmed the need to create an enabling environment, so that the transitional institutions could effectively play their role in peace and without interference from the military junta and its civilian supporters. It demanded the rapid identification and prosecution of those who instigated and carried out the attack on the Interim President; further demanded that the junta be dissolved without delay and that it completely withdraws from the management of the transition, warning the military and civilian elements of the risk of sanctions. The meeting also requested ECOWAS to take the necessary measures to ensure the security of the transitional leaders. At the same time, it urged all the stakeholders to engage in a national dialogue which will lead to the formation of an inclusive and more representative Government. The ECOWAS Summit held in Yamoussoukro on 29 June 2012 made a similar pronouncement.

**132.** At its 323<sup>rd</sup> meeting, held in New York on 12 June 2012, the PSC endorsed the recommendations of the Abidjan meeting and expressed its full support for all efforts aimed at addressing, by peaceful means, the causes of the recurring rebellion in the Northern part of Mali and to dialogue with Malian groups that commit themselves to negotiate on the basis of the following principles: scrupulous respect for the national unity and territorial integrity of Mali, rejection of the recourse to armed rebellion, as well as of links with terrorist and criminal networks. The PSC authorized ECOWAS, in collaboration, as appropriate, with the core countries, namely Algeria, Mauritania and Niger, to put in place the required military and security arrangements, with a view to achieving the following objectives: (i) ensuring the security of the transitional institutions; (ii) restructuring and reorganizing the Malian security and defence forces of Mali; and (iii) restoring State authority in the northern part of the country and combating criminal and terrorist networks. The PSC requested the UN Security Council to endorse, as a matter

of urgency, the proposed deployment of an ECOWAS force in Mali. In response to the request for clarification made by the Security Council to enable it to examine the request of ECOWAS, as supported by AU, the two organizations, in collaboration with the countries of the region, the United Nations and other international partners, are expected to finalize the mandate, concept of operations and other relevant documents for the proposed force.

**133.** The issue was discussed during the 6<sup>th</sup> annual joint consultative meeting between the PSC and the UN Security Council, held in New York, on 13 June 2012, and during the interaction between the UN Security Council and an ECOWAS delegation in New York, on 13 June 2012. As a follow-up to the PSC decision, the Commission, in collaboration with ECOWAS and the other stakeholders, is working towards the development of a strategic concept that holistically spells out the political, security and military measures envisaged for the early resolution of the crisis in Mali.

**134.** Undoubtedly, the situation in Mali and its regional repercussions constitute one of the most serious threats to security and stability on the continent. The issues at stake, namely the respect for the territorial integrity of Mali, the rejection of terrorism, as well as of the recourse to armed rebellion in order to press home political demands, whose trivialization poses a serious threat to the on-going democratization processes on the continent, and the rejection of unconstitutional changes of Government are of concern to all AU Member States. Therefore, there is need for the continent to mobilize itself in order to address these challenges.

**135.** Consequently, the Assembly may wish to reiterate the AU's position on the various aspects of the Malian crisis, especially its commitment, in close collaboration with ECOWAS and the core countries, with the support of international partners, to assist in restoring state authority in northern Mali and effectively reinstating the constitutional order. In this regard, it is necessary that the current Government be broadened to include the various Malian political actors, in order to endow it with the legitimacy required to deal with the serious challenges facing the country with greater prospects for success. The Assembly may therefore wish to reaffirm the support of AU for the efforts of ECOWAS, including the mediation being carried out by President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso.

**136.** In the light of the complexity and the challenges of the Malian crisis, which, if not addressed effectively, will have serious implications for the entire continent, there is an urgent need for all the countries of the region to work together. To this end, the various decisions taken by the PSC on the need for concerted efforts and the coordination of initiatives in the search for a lasting solution to the crisis in Mali are as relevant as ever. Moreover, such an approach will facilitate the mobilization of necessary assistance from international partners, especially the United Nations, to enable Africa to achieve the objectives it has set for itself.

**137.** More generally, efforts should focus towards addressing, in a sustainable and holistic manner, the multi-faceted problems confronting the entire Sahel region. The strategy adopted by PSC in Bamako on 20 March 2012 provides an appropriate

framework for a regional and continental action that is commensurate with the challenges at hand. The Assembly may wish to call on all the stakeholders to act within this framework.

**q) Tunisia**

**138.** The transition process is continuing in Tunisia. Following the elections of 23 October 2011 which led to the creation of a Constituent National Assembly (CNA) and a provisional Government, the ongoing efforts relate to the drafting of a new Constitution, preparations towards holding general elections which will mark the end of the transitional process and the stabilization of the economy of the country.

**139.** The CNA has established six constitutional committees tasked to draft the various chapters of the future Constitution. The meetings of the CNA and its committees are beamed live on national television and their sessions are also opened to the public. The new Constitution is expected to be ready by 23 October 2012, at the latest. After its adoption, a timeframe for the holding of general elections in 2013 will be drawn up. On its part, the Government has embarked on a comprehensive reform of the economy, social services, security, justice, media and information and communication technology. The reforms are being carried out against the background of a challenging socio-economic context, characterized by an increase in social demands.

**140.** Within the framework of AU's support to the transition process, the Panel of the Wise organized a workshop in Tunis, on 23 and 24 April 2012, on the theme «Strengthening Political Governance for Peace, Security and Stability in Africa » During interactive sessions which saw the participation of high-level Government officials, including President Moncef Marzouki, the workshop provided a platform for fruitful exchanges on the on-going transition and the challenges relating to the transition from authoritarian regimes to democratic institutions.

**141.** The Assembly may wish to reaffirm its support to the on-going transition and urge all the Tunisian stakeholders to persevere in their efforts, having in mind the imperative of meeting the expectations raised by the popular protests of December 2010 and January 2011. Also crucial is the support of the international community to the efforts being made to stabilize the economy of the country.

**r) Egypt**

**142.** Following the constitutional referendum of 19 March 2011 and the election of members of the Lower House (People's Assembly) of Parliament between November 2011 and January 2012, Egypt has continued to make steady progress towards the completion of the transitional period, in spite of the challenges being encountered. From 29 January to 11 March 2012, the Egyptians elected, in two phases, a 270-strong Upper House (Shura Council) of Parliament. After its inauguration, the Parliament set up, in March 2012, a 100-member special committee to draft a new Constitution. However, the Committee was dissolved in April 2012 with the consensus of the political actors

following disagreements over its composition. At the time of finalizing this report, the new committee had not yet been set up.

**143.** On 23 and 24 May 2012, Egyptians went to the poll to elect a President among 13 candidates. The second round, which took place on 16 and 17 June 2012, saw Dr. Mohamed Morsi, the candidate of the Freedom and Justice Party, running against former Air Marshal Ahmed Chafiq. On 24 June 2012, the Supreme Presidential Electoral Commission announced the victory of Dr. Morsi, with 13,230,131 (51,73%) of the votes, against 12,347,380 (48,27%) for his rival. In a press release issued following the runoff, the Chairperson of the Commission warmly congratulated the winner, and the people of Egypt, for this milestone. President Morsi was officially sworn-in on 30 June 2012, thereby marking the official handover of executive power from the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) to the democratically-elected civilian President. In the meantime, on 14 June 2012, the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled that the election of some members of the Lower House of Parliament was flawed, resulting in the dissolution of the whole Parliament. A complementary Constitutional Declaration of the SCAF was adopted on 17 June 2012, which granted the SCAF important powers until the election of a new Parliament.

**144.** The Assembly may wish to welcome the significant progress made in Egypt, as well as to encourage all the Egyptian stakeholders to stay the course, with a view to responding to the legitimate aspirations of the Egyptian people. It is also crucial that the international community extends the necessary support to help Egypt effectively address its socio-economic challenges, thereby facilitating the consolidation of the made so far.

**s) Libya**

**145.** A number of positive developments have been recorded in Libya during the reporting period. Of particular importance are the ongoing preparations for the holding, on 7 July 2012, of nationwide polls to elect a General National Congress (GNC), which will replace the current National Transitional Council (NTC). The GNC will appoint a Prime Minister, who will propose names for members of the Cabinet. The GNC will also appoint a 60-member body responsible for drafting the new Constitution for Libya and approve the draft by a two-thirds majority before submitting it to a national referendum. The high turn-out of registered voters for the election (2.7 million out of 3.4 eligible voters) is particularly encouraging.

**146.** Efforts have also continued to be made regarding the reform of the security sector, focusing on the integration within the national army and security forces of the various militia groups, as well as on the disarmament and demobilisation of former combatants. The country continues however to be faced with enormous challenges, as demonstrated by the skirmishes recorded during the reporting period, including inter-communal violence. The efforts of the Government to address these problems should be commended. Finally, it is worth mentioning the convening, at the initiative of the Libyan Government, of a regional ministerial conference on border security, in Tripoli, from 11 to 12 March 2012, which made important recommendations. The conference was attended by the Chairperson of the Commission.



**147.** In line with the PSC communiqué of 20 October 2011, the Commission has operationalized the AU Liaison Office in Tripoli. Headed by Mr. Mondher Rezgui of Tunisia, the Office is mandated to support the transition process, working closely with the United Nations and other AU partners on the ground. The Office is interacting closely with the Libyan authorities and other stakeholders.

**148.** The Assembly may wish to reiterate AU's support for the on-going transition in Libya and encourage the Libyan stakeholders to spare no efforts in ensuring its successful completion. The Assembly may also wish to stress the need for continued cooperation between Libya and its neighbours to address common security challenges.

**t) Western Sahara**

**149.** No headway has been made in overcoming the stalemate in the peace process for the non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara. As the Assembly would recall, following the submission, by the two Parties, of competing proposals for a resolution of the dispute, the UN Security Council decided, in April 2007, to mandate direct negotiations between them to be carried out without preconditions, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the UN. On that basis, four rounds of direct negotiations and nine informal talks have since been convened, but all to no avail.

**150.** In the report he submitted to the Security Council, on 11 April 2012, the UN Secretary-General, reiterated that the mediation efforts of his Personal Envoy, Christopher Ross, have continued to be unproductive, with "neither Party being prepared to accept the proposal of the other as the sole basis of negotiations." For its part, the Security Council, in resolution 2044 (2012), adopted on 24 April 2012, has renewed MINURSO's mandate through 30 April 2013, calling on the Parties, as it has done on many occasions in the past, to cooperate with the mediation, in order to resolve the dispute. The situation has been further complicated by Morocco's announcement that it no longer has confidence in the mediation of Ambassador Christopher Ross, accusing him of "partisan behaviour", even as the UN Secretary-General and some permanent members of the Security Council reiterate their trust, as well as their support to his mediation efforts. Meanwhile, complaints of human rights violations in the Territory are being increasingly made, with evidence of occasional confrontations occurring between Sahrawi self-determination activists and Moroccan security forces.

**151.** In light of the foregoing, the Assembly may wish to renew AU's appeal to the Security Council for a more proactive approach to the dispute. In so doing, the Security Council should endeavour to create conditions that would enable the people of Western Sahara to exercise their right to self-determination, in line with international legality and the relevant AU decisions, including the Plan of Action adopted on 31 August 2009 by the Special Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the conflict situations in Africa.

**ii) RELEVANT THEMATIC ISSUES****a) Post-conflict reconstruction and development / Launching of the African Solidarity Initiative**

**152.** In its decision Assembly/AU/Dec.408(XVIII), the Assembly stressed the need for renewed efforts towards post-conflict reconstruction and development. It welcomed the steps being taken by the Commission towards the launch of an African Solidarity Initiative (ASI) to support Member States emerging from conflicts.

**153.** As the Assembly would recall, at its 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in Banjul, The Gambia, in June 2006, the Executive Council adopted the AU-PCRD Policy Framework, which is intended to serve as a guide for the development of comprehensive policies and strategies that seek to consolidate peace, promote sustainable development and pave the way for growth and regeneration in countries and regions emerging from conflict. The objective is to improve timeliness, effectiveness and coordination of activities in post-conflict countries and to lay the foundation for social justice and sustainable peace, in line with Africa's vision of renewal and growth. The Policy is underpinned by five core principles, which constitute the basic minimum values and standards that inform action across all PCRD activities and programmes. These are African leadership, national and local ownership, inclusiveness, equity and non-discrimination.

**154.** Since the adoption of the Policy, sustained efforts have been made by the Commission towards its implementation. One of the area where the Commission has been very active has been the undertaking of AU-led multidisciplinary assessment missions to countries emerging from conflict. Such missions have been undertaken to the Central African Republic - CAR (April 2006), Sierra Leone and Liberia (February 2009), the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi (January-February 2010), Sudan, including South Sudan (March to April 2011), and Côte d'Ivoire (November 2011). The missions made detailed recommendations on how best the AU and its Member States can assist the countries concerned in the area of post-conflict reconstruction.

**155.** Significantly, the missions are intended to prepare the ground for the launching of the ASI, to mobilize resources from within Africa in support of post-conflict reconstruction in the aforementioned countries. The ASI commences with a Solidarity Conference, which will kick-off the process. The overall response from Government officials and partners regarding the ASI has been overwhelmingly positive and very encouraging. It was seen as a timely initiative, and one that could significantly help propel the continent to a higher level of development cooperation, progress, and confidence.

**156.** The conceptual and organizational approach of the ASI reflects a number of innovative dimensions. Whereas most donor conferences tend to concentrate primarily on financial pledges, the African Solidarity Conference will, in addition, aim at mobilizing contributions in-kind, knowledge sharing, best practices and capacity building. Secondly, it is designed to encourage, motivate, and empower African countries to begin to

systematically offer mutual assistance to sister countries. Lastly, it will provide a unique opportunity for generating additional 'out of the box' ideas for addressing PCRD challenges, as well as contributing towards a renewed sense of urgency for promoting intra-African solutions to post-conflict reconstruction and development by actively involving the private sector. In its broad dimensions, the ASI has the potential to promote mutual self-reliance, regional integration, and the new paradigm of 'Africa helping Africa'.

**157.** The ASI is to be launched on the margins of the present Summit. The Assembly may wish to reiterate the importance of the ASI process, call on AU Member States to extend the necessary support to post-conflict efforts on the continent, while urging AU partners to fully support this African Initiative.

**b) Issue of armed rebellions in the Continent and the preservation of the unity and territorial integrity of AU Member States**

**158.** The pattern of developments during the recent months has highlighted some very serious threats to the efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability on the continent. In this respect, it is important to note that the recourse to armed rebellion to assert certain claims now appears to have become common place, as shown by the actions of the MNLA in the northern part of Mali, and that of M23 in the eastern of the DRC.

**159.** In the course of the past two decades, Africa has made remarkable progress in terms of democratization. Multipartyism has become a reality, and elections a regular instrument for the management of political competition; undeniable progress has been made in the area of freedom of the press, while civil society organizations play an increasingly active role, thus contributing to strengthening democratic vigilance.

**160.** At the same time, it must be acknowledged that there is still a long way to go in order to complete the democratization agenda that the Member States have set for themselves. The violence and disputes that continue to mar electoral competition in the continent, the coups d'état, infringements of individual freedoms, and other shortcomings are yet to be overcome. Hence the need for sustained efforts in order to meet the democratic aspirations of the African peoples, which are merely a natural continuation of the struggle against colonial domination. Significantly, in the aftermath of the popular uprisings that took place in North Africa, the 275<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PSC, held on 26 April 2011, expressed its conviction on the need for Member States to renew their commitment to the AU democratic and governance agenda. The Panel of the Wise initiated a reflection on the issue, the results of which will be submitted to the Assembly in due course.

**161.** At the heart of the continent's on-going democratization process is the desire to put an end to the recourse to unconstitutional means to accede to power and that to violence to manage the diversity of opinions that naturally exists in any society. It was on that basis that the OAU, and subsequently the AU, strongly rejected coups d'état and other forms of unconstitutional changes of Government. In that respect, the trend of

recourse to armed rebellion in order to successfully assert political claims, when there are appropriate institutional frameworks, however imperfect they may be, that provide channels for expressing the concerns of given groups and sections of the population, constitutes a negation of the democratization processes. Accordingly, in its different communiqués on the situation in Mali, the PSC stressed its conviction that recourse to armed rebellion poses a serious threat to the continent's democratization processes, as well as to the stability and development of Africa and, as such, should be vigorously combated. Council requested all AU partners to extend support to the AU principled stance on this matter, and thus facilitate a unified position of the international community as a whole on the issue.

**162.** The situation takes on a dimension that is a source of even greater concern when it is coupled with secessionist tendencies. Indeed, the respect of the unity and territorial integrity of AU Member States is one of Africa's most fundamental principles, as attested by the adoption, as early as July 1964, of a resolution on the respect of the borders existing at the accession of African countries to independence. In its Solemn Declaration on The Sudan, following the holding of the Referendum on Self-Determination of the People of South Sudan, the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union acknowledged that The Sudan was an exceptional case, which, in no way, called into question the sacrosanct principle of respect of borders inherited at the accession of African countries to independence.

**163.** Finally, it is essential that the present session of the Assembly strongly reaffirm its rejection of the recourse to armed rebellion, as well as the commitment of Member States to continue to work towards deepening the democratization processes. Equally important is the need for the AU to continue to safeguard the national unity and territorial integrity of all its Member States, as well as the pursuit of the continental integration agenda. The principles which are called into question are of vital importance to the whole of Africa. Defending these principles is, therefore, a continental responsibility, towards which the contribution of every Member State is required.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

**164.** Since the last Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, the PSC, the Commission and the other competent organs of the Union have continued their efforts towards the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa. Although progress was made, a number of challenges remain to be addressed. Therefore, there is need for increased mobilization of all stakeholders, with a view to promoting African solutions to African problems, as a contribution to global peace and security.

**Assembly/AU/6(XIX)**

## **ANNEXES**

**MEETINGS AND BRIEFING SESSIONS OF THE PEACE AND  
SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION,  
JANUARY 2012 TO JUNE 2012**

<b>Meeting/ Briefing</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Communiqué/ Other Output</b>	<b>Working Documents</b>
308 <sup>th</sup>	16 January 2012	Status of Negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan	Press Statement <b>PSC/PR/BR.(CCCVIII)</b>	
309 <sup>th</sup>	25 January 2012	Briefing on the Deliberations of the UNSC Meetings on Somalia and on the AU-UN Partnership	Communiqué <b>PSC/PR/COMM. (CCCIX)</b>	
310 <sup>th</sup>	14 February 2012	Status of negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan	Communiqué <b>PSC/PR/COMM(CCCX)</b>	Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the status of the negotiations between the Republic of Sudan and Republic of South Sudan on the outstanding issues in the post secession arrangements <b>PSC/PR/2.(CCCX)</b>
311 <sup>th</sup>	16 February 2012	1) Briefing by the Department of Political Affairs on election observation on the continent  2) Briefing on the upcoming London Conference on Somalia	Press Statement <b>PSC/PR/BR.1(CCCXI)</b>  Press Statement <b>PSC/PR/BR.2(CCCXI)</b>	
312 <sup>th</sup>	8 March 2012	Briefing on the outcome of the London Conference on Somalia	Press Statement <b>PSC/PR/BR(CCCXII)</b>	
313 <sup>th</sup>	19 March 2012	Preparatory meeting of the Military Staff Committee		

<b>Meeting/ Briefing</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Communiqué/ Other Output</b>	<b>Working Documents</b>
314 <sup>th</sup>		1. Situation in the Sahel Region 2. Situation in the Northern Part of Mali	Déclaration <b>PSC/MIN/DECL(CCCXIV)</b>  Communiqué <b>PSC/MIN/COMM.(CCCXIV)</b>	Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Situation in the Sahel Region <b>PSC/MIN/3 (CCCXIV)</b>
315 <sup>th</sup>	23 March 2012	Situation in Mali	Communiqué <b>PSC/PR/COMM(CCCXV)</b>	
316 <sup>th</sup>	3 April 2012	Situation in Mali	Communiqué <b>PSC/PR/COMM(CCCXVI)</b>	
317 <sup>th</sup>	12 April 2012	1) Briefing on elections observation on the continent  2) Briefing on the escalation armed conflict on the border between Sudan and South Sudan  3) Briefing on the evolving situation in Mali	Press Statement <b>PSC/PR/BR/1.(CCCXVII)</b>  Press Statement <b>PSC/PR/BR/2.(CCCXVII)</b>  Press Statement <b>PSC/PR/BR/3.(CCCXVII)</b>	
318 <sup>th</sup>	17 April 2012	Situation in Guinea Bissau	Communiqué <b>PSC/PR/COMM(CCCXVIII)</b>	
319 <sup>th</sup>	April 2012	Situation in Guinea Bissau  Situation in Mali  Situation between Sudan and South Sudan	Communiqué <b>PSC/MIN/COMM/1.(CCCXIX)</b>  Communiqué <b>PSC/MIN/COMM/2.(CCCXIX)</b>  Communiqué <b>PSC/MIN/COMM/3.(CCCXIX)</b>	Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situations in Guinea Bissau, Mali and between the Sudan and South Sudan <b>PSC/MIN/3 (CCXIX)</b>
320 <sup>th</sup>	18 May 2012	Preparation for the AUPSC - EUPSC Joint Consultative Meeting (29-30 May 2012, Brussels)		

<b>Meeting/ Briefing</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Communiqué/ Other Output</b>	<b>Working Documents</b>
321 <sup>st</sup>	May 2012	Renewal of the Mandate of the Regional Cooperation Initiative against the LRA (RCILRA)  Continuation of the preparation for the AUPSC - EUPSC Joint Consultative meeting.	Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(CCCXXI)	Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the status of implementation of the communiqué PSC/PR/COMM (CCXCIX) of the 299th meeting of the PSC on the Lord's Resistance Army  Briefing notes for the 5th Annual Consultative meeting between AUPSC and UNSC
	29 May 2012	5th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting Between the AU-PSC and EU-PSC	Joint Press Statement	
322 <sup>nd</sup>	5 June 2012	Preparation for the 6 <sup>th</sup> AU PSC – UNSC Annual Joint Consultative Meeting		Briefing notes for the 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Consultative meeting between the AUPSC and UNSC
323 <sup>rd</sup>	12 June 2012	Situation in Mali (New York)	Communiqué <b>PSC/PR/COMM. (CCCXXIII)</b>	
	13 June 2012	6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Consultative meeting between members of the AU Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council	Joint Press Statement	
324 <sup>th</sup>	21 June 2012	Briefing on the situations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guinea Bissau and Mali	Press Statement only on DRC <b>PSC/PR/BR(CCCXXIV)</b>	
325 <sup>th</sup>	22 June 2012	Discussion on the PSC working methods		
326 <sup>th</sup>	26 June 2012	Open session on the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons in countries in conflict in Africa	Press Statement <b>PSC/PR/BR(CCCXXVI)</b>	





**PRESS STATEMENT**  
**5<sup>th</sup> JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE EU PSC**  
**AND THE AU PSC BRUSSELS, 29 MAY 2012 - Annex II**

The Political and Security Committee of the European Union (EUPSC) and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU-PSC) held their 5th Joint Consultative Meeting in Brussels, on 29 May 2012 in the context of implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Olof Skoog, Permanent Chair of the EUPSC, and Ambassador Jacques-Alfred Ndoumbe Eboule, Chairperson of the AUPSC for the month of May 2012.

The meeting took place at a time marked by continued challenging developments in the Horn of Africa and grave political, security and humanitarian crises in some part of West Africa, highlighting the need for continued cooperation to achieve our common goals of ensuring peace and security, as well as promoting democratic governance, respect for human rights and rule of law. The discussions between the two parties, which focused on Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, Guinea Bissau and Mali, reaffirmed the commitment of the AU-PSC and the EU-PSC to enhancing their joint efforts towards crisis prevention and resolution, and the importance of united responses to unconstitutional changes of Government.

**1. On Somalia**

The EU PSC and the AU PSC agreed that the current political process, based on the Djibouti Agreement, the Kampala Agreement, the Garoowe processes and the Political Roadmap, offers the best way towards the restoration of peace and security in Somalia. With less than three months to go to the end of the political transition in Somalia and in advance of the forthcoming Istanbul Conference on Somalia, the two sides call upon the Somali leadership to implement their commitments to ensure that the 20 August deadline is met and to tackle the pending issues aiming at finalising the transition in a transparent and inclusive manner with the active participation of all stakeholders. The EU and the AU welcomed the renewed commitment of Somali stakeholders at their meeting in Addis Ababa of 23 May to meet the deadline of 20 August 2012 to expedite the implementation of the pending transitional tasks. Both sides agreed that they would not accept any further extension of the mandate of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs). Commending the achievements of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), they paid tribute to those African countries contributing police and troops to the Mission, as well as other forms of support including training, and recalled the continued substantial EU support to AMISOM and the training of Somali soldiers by EUTM Somalia. Both sides called upon other donors to continue increase their contribution to sustainable funding for AMISOM, underlined the

importance of coordinated international efforts in the field of security, and agreed on the importance of assistance to AMISOM in further developing its capacity to protect civilians. As part of the EU's comprehensive approach to Somalia and the wider Horn of Africa region, the AU PSC welcomed the appointment of an EU Special Representative for the region, the contribution of the EU's maritime mission, EUNAVFOR Atalanta, to the fight against piracy and the EU's decision to deploy a new regional maritime capacity building mission, EUCAP Nestor. The EU PSC welcomed the development of an AU comprehensive Strategy on maritime security and safety.

## **2. On Sudan and South Sudan**

The EU PSC reiterated the EU's full support for the AU Roadmap as unanimously endorsed by the UN Security Council, noting that it provides concrete steps with clear deadlines to end hostilities and for both countries to resolve their outstanding issues. The commitment to the Roadmap by both countries must be matched by actions on the ground and, in particular, the swift activation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, as well as full withdrawal of all Sudanese security forces from Abyei. Both Sudan and South Sudan must implement the AU Roadmap and all the provisions of UNSCR 2046 (2012) without conditions or delay. The two parties reiterated their support to the efforts of the AU High Level Implementation Panel, under the Chairmanship of former President Mbeki, to establish conditions for direct talks between Sudan and South Sudan, and welcomed the resumption of the talks on 29 May 2012, in Addis Ababa. The EU and AU PSCs stressed the need for both parties to refrain from any unilateral action that may ignite further confrontations, including aerial bombardment and cross-border incursions, and from supporting proxy forces and rebel movements in each other's territory. They expressed their deep concern about the humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, and recalled the AU/UN/League of Arab States initiative and urged the Government of Sudan to allow safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance without condition or delay.

The EU PSC and AU PSC reiterated their support to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), and called on all parties to redouble efforts towards accelerating its implementation, especially in terms of concrete peace dividends for the people of Darfur, as well as the non-signatory movements to join the Doha peace process without further delay.

## **3. On Sahel and Mali**

The AU PSC and the EU PSC reiterated their strong condemnation of the seizure of power by force in Mali and called on all parties to fully cooperate with the Transitional Government to agree on an inclusive roadmap for the full restoration of civil, constitutional order. They also strongly condemned the recent physical assault on interim President Dioncounda Traoré, which underlines the fragility of the political arrangements in place and the lack of effective control by the Government over the security forces. In this respect the two sides reaffirmed their determination to consider the use of sanctions against civilian and military spoilers who are undermining the authority of the transitional Government in Mali, and impeding the political

process including through violations of human rights.

They welcomed the efforts of ECOWAS and reaffirmed their support to the region to consolidate a civilian led transition, including a national electoral process in Mali, within the twelve months transition. The two sides rejected the “declaration of independence made by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad”, which is null and void, as well as the joint declaration of the MNLA and Ansar Din of 27 May 2012 and reiterated their commitment to preserve the unity and territorial integrity of Mali. The EU renewed its readiness to consider support to AU and ECOWAS efforts towards preserving unity and territorial integrity of Mali and addressing the root causes of the situation.

Both sides strongly condemned violations of human rights in Northern Mali by rebel and armed and terrorist groups. The two parties welcome the AU's initiative to establish a Support and Follow-up Group on Mali and look forward to the holding of the first meeting in Abidjan on 7 June.

They reiterated the need to address the challenges facing the Sahel in a holistic manner covering security and political aspects, humanitarian assistance, food security and reinsertion of migrant workers and long-term development and follow up. In this context, they welcomed the AU Strategy as contained in the communiqué of the 20 March AU PSC ministerial meeting as well as the EU's decision to deploy a civilian security sector Mission to Niger this summer.

#### **4. On Guinea Bissau**

The EU PSC and AU PSC reiterated their condemnation of the coup in Guinea-Bissau and their grave concern over the negative impacts of drug trafficking and organised crime on Guinea Bissau and the sub-region. In line with the AU communiqué of 24 April 2012, the EU Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 23 April 2012 and UN Security Council Resolution 2048 (2012), they reaffirmed their demand for the immediate restoration of the constitutional order, the reinstatement of the legitimate democratic government of Guinea Bissau and the resumption of the interrupted electoral process. They recalled that the EU and UN have adopted individual restrictive measures against the leaders and supporters of the coup. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of concerted international action, including UN, AU ECOWAS, EU and CPLP with a view to restoring constitutional order, completing a genuine defence and security reform and fighting against drug trafficking and impunity.

#### **5. On Regional Initiative against the LRA**

The EU PSC and the AU PSC welcomed the operationalisation of the AU regional initiative - in particular the establishment of the Regional Task Force Headquarters and Joint Operations Centre - and, recalling EU support, encouraged the AU Special Envoy to pursue his efforts aimed at facilitating the implementation of this initiative.

**6. On Counter-terrorism**

The EU PSC and the AU PSC appreciated the existing cooperation on counter-terrorism and the EU – PSC reaffirmed support to the programmes and activities of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism.

**7. On Coordination on global issues**

The EU PSC and the AU PSC reiterated their commitment to enhance coordination on global issues on common interest in international fora and to continue their cooperation on the African Peace and Security Architecture. In this context, they welcomed the progress made in preparation of the second cycle of the Amani Africa exercise. The two sides recognised the need for predictable, flexible and sustainable funding for AU-led peacekeeping operations.

They agreed to continue close consultation and cooperation on all these issues and to meet again in Addis Ababa in 2013.



**COMMUNIQUE OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE PEACE AND SECURITY  
COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION**  
**Annex III**

1. The members of the Security Council of the United Nations (UNSC) and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AUPSC) held their 6<sup>th</sup> consultative meeting at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York on Wednesday 13 June 2012.
2. Reaffirming the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and the mandate of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union with regard to the promotion of peace and security in Africa, as well as the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of disputes among and within their member States, and also recalling the communiqués of their previous consultative meetings held between 2007 and 2011, the meeting, again, reviewed matters of common interest, in particular ways and means of strengthening the partnership between the two institutions consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the maintenance of peace and security in Africa.
3. The members of the UNSC and the AUPSC assessed their cooperation with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, including the maintenance of constitutional order, the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Africa.
4. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC recognized the positive role that women have played in the peaceful resolution of conflict and underscored the need to strengthen women's participation in peace and mediation and political processes. In this regard they reaffirmed the vital role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and post conflict reconstruction. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC expressed concern at the situation of women and children in conflict situations and post-conflict context; they stressed the need to effectively address the problem of sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, to investigate crimes committed against women and children and to ensure that their perpetrators are brought to justice. They further stressed the need for the United Nations and the African Union to work to ensure that women and gender perspectives are fully integrated into peace and security efforts undertaken by the two organisations, including by building the necessary capacity.

**Strengthening of methods of work and cooperation**

5. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC welcomed the adoption of Resolution 2033(2012), and stressed the importance of further cooperation and developing effective relationship consistent with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter to address common collective security challenges in Africa.

6. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC took note of the Communiqué of the AUPSC on 9 January 2012 as well as the reports of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on their respective strategic visions of the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations and the practical modalities proposed in these reports for enhancing the partnership between the two institutions. They stressed that common and coordinated efforts undertaken by the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in matters of peace and security, should be based on their respective authorities, competencies and capacities.

7. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC expressed satisfaction with the recent progress made in the cooperation between the two Councils and expressed their determination to improve the effectiveness of these consultative meetings in the future. They agreed to elaborate further ways of strengthening relations between the two Councils including through achieving more effective annual consultative meetings, the holding of timely consultations, and collaborative field missions of the two Councils, as appropriate, to formulate cohesive positions and strategies on a case-by-case basis in dealing with conflict situations in Africa.

8. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC welcomed the regular interaction between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission, through the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security and encouraged the Task Force to continue to focus on strategic and country specific issues of the African continent that are of interest to both organisations and requested the Task Force to consider ways to enhance the United Nations and African Union cooperation on conflict prevention in Africa.

9. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC further welcomed close collaboration of the United Nations Secretariat, most notably in (i) the joint African Union and United Nations Technical Assessment Mission on AMISOM, (ii) the joint assessment mission to

the Sahel region and (iii) the development of the Framework for African and United Nations Facilitation of the Darfur Peace Process.

**10.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC further encouraged the improvement of regular interactions, consultation and coordination, as appropriate between them on matters of mutual interest. They expressed support for further interaction between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission to exchange information, and, as appropriate coordinate in the preparation of recommendations, including through joint assessments, if appropriate, in order to assist the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council in formulating cohesive positions and strategies.

**11.** The members of the UNSC and the AUPSC reiterated the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing of the African Union's peace and security capability. They recalled the report of the African Union-United Nations panel (AI631666-SI20081813) as an important contribution towards the overall efforts to enhance the capacity of the African Union in undertaking peacekeeping operations. They also reiterated that regional organisations have the responsibility to secure human, financial, logistical and other resources for their organizations, including through contributions by their members and support from partners. They intend to continue exchanging views on the issue in future joint consultative meetings.

### **Peace Consolidation in West Africa**

**12.** The members of the UNSC and the AUPSC condemned the recent instances of unconstitutional change in West Africa and reiterated their commitment to strengthening democracy, peace and stability on the continent. They also expressed concern at the serious threat to international peace and stability in different regions of the world, in particular West Africa and the Sahel Region, posed by transnational organised crime including, illicit weapons and drug trafficking, piracy and armed robbery at sea. They further expressed serious concern about the insecurity and rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Sahel region, which is further complicated by the presence of armed groups and terrorist groups and their activities, as well as by the proliferation of weapons, from within and outside the region, that threaten the peace, security and stability of regional States.

### **Guinea-Bissau**

**13.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC expressed their strong condemnation of the coup d'Etat perpetrated on 12 April 2012.

**14.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC underline the urgent need to continue to strengthen measures to restore and respect constitutional order, including a democratic electoral process, and that members of the "Military Command" relinquish their position of authority. They further expressed their concern with continuing reports of human rights violations and abuses, including arbitrary detentions, ill treatment during detention, repression of peaceful demonstrations and the restrictions on freedom of movement.

**15.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC reaffirmed the importance of concerted international action, including by the UN, AU, ECOWAS, CPLP and the EU, as well as the mediation efforts led by ECOWAS, with a view to develop a comprehensive integrated strategy with concrete measures aimed at implementing SSR, political and economic reforms, combating drug trafficking and fighting impunity. The members of the UNSC and AUPSC resolved to keep the situation in Guinea Bissau under continuous review and each expressed their readiness to consider additional measures. In this context, they noted the withdrawal of the Angolan military mission from Guinea-Bissau.

**16.** The members of the UNSC and AU PSC stressed that the recurrence of illegal interference of the military in politics in Guinea Bissau and the impact of illicit drug trafficking and organised crime contribute to the persistence of instability and a culture of impunity, and hamper efforts to consolidate the rule of law, implement Security Sector Reform and promote Of development and entrenchment of a democratic culture. They reaffirmed the need for effective restoration the constitutional order.

## **Mali**

**17.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC strongly condemned the forcible seizure of power from the democratically elected Government of Mali by some members of the Malian armed forces.

**18.** 18. The members of the UNSCS and AUPSC acknowledged the signing on 6 April 2012, between the perpetrators of the coup d'Etat in Mali and the Mediation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), of a Framework Agreement for the implementation of the Solemn Undertaking of the 1 April 2012 providing for a series of steps for the restoration of constitutional order in Mali. They urged all Malian stakeholders to implement this agreement.

**19.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC urged Malians to desist from unlawful conduct and acts of violence and to support all political and legitimate efforts to restore constitutional and democratic governance.

**20.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC reaffirmed the need to uphold and respect the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali and reject categorically any declarations to the contrary and demand in this regard the full cessation of hostilities in the north of Mali by rebel groups and acknowledge the efforts of ECOWAS to explore options to restore peace and security in Mali in the context of upholding Mali's territorial integrity.

**21.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC expressed deep concern at the increased terrorist threat in the north of Mall due to the presence among the rebels of members of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, condemned all violence including against humanitarian workers and further called for the immediate cessation of all violence and renewed their call to all parties in Mali to seek a peaceful solution through appropriate political dialogue.



**22.** The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union Security Council reaffirmed their support to the mediations efforts made by UN, AU and ECOWAS for the restoration of constitutional rule in Mali as well as for initiating concrete steps to protect the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali.

**23.** The members of the UNSC and the AUPSC took note of the Communiqué of the meeting of the AUPSC held on 12 June 2012 and will examine proposals for future appropriate steps to assist ECOWAS in its efforts in Mali.

### **Sudan/South Sudan**

**24.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC welcomed the adoption of UNSC resolution 2046(2012), which expressed support for the African Union Peace and Security Council Communiqué of 24 April 2012. They welcomed the resumption of negotiations between the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan under the auspices of the AU High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) and reaffirmed that the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan must comply with all of their obligations under resolution 2046(2012) and the AU Roadmap to ensure peace and stability and to create conditions necessary for two viable and prosperous states.

**25.** The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union expressed their concern at the prevailing situation between Sudan and South Sudan. They reaffirmed their strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Sudan and South Sudan and reiterated that the territorial boundaries of states shall not be altered by force and that any territorial disputes shall be settled exclusively by peaceful means;

**26.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC expressed their grave concern over the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in Sudan as well as the resulting dire humanitarian situation. They reaffirmed that the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-N must extend full cooperation to the AUHIP and the Chair of the Inter- Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to reach a negotiated settlement on the basis of the 28 June 2011 Framework Agreement on Political Partnership between NCP and SPLM-N and Political and Security Arrangements in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States. They urged the Government of Sudan and SPLM-N to accept the tripartite proposal by the African Union, the United Nations and the League of Arab States, for immediate humanitarian access to the affected population in the two areas.

**27.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC expressed concern over the continued violence and insecurity in Darfur. They welcomed the Framework for African Union and United Nations Facilitation of the Darfur Peace Process. They further emphasized the importance of the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and in this regard welcomed the inauguration of the Darfur Regional Authority as an important step in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace and further emphasized the need to

ensure that the Authority has sufficient resources and capabilities to fulfill its responsibilities. They also urged all parties, in particular other armed movements who have not signed the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, to indicate a willingness to negotiate without preconditions or further delays on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and fully participate in the Joint African Union/United Nations Mediation.

### **Somalia**

**28.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC noted that the political process in Somalia is at a critical phase, with only two months to go until the end of the transitional period on 20 August 2012. They noted that there will be no further extension of the transitional period. They welcomed progress so far in the implementation of the Roadmap to end the transition, and reaffirmed their commitment to support the process. They expressed concern that some deadlines for the completion of tasks had already been missed.

**29.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC urged the Transitional Federal Institutions and all other signatories of the Roadmap to redouble their efforts to complete, on time the remaining tasks, including the creation of a representative Constituent Assembly, with participation of women and civil society, and the adoption of a provisional Constitution underpinned by respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the establishment of a new parliament and indirect elections of a speaker and president. They welcomed the Addis Ababa Agreement of 23 May, which had renewed the momentum of the process and reiterated the importance of meeting the deadlines agreed in the Addis Ababa Agreement.

**30.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC stressed the primary responsibility of the Somali parties to reach agreement on broad-based, inclusive and representative post-transitional arrangements, in line with the Djibouti Peace Process and the Kampala Agreement, Roadmap and Garowe Principles, and Addis Ababa Agreement. They urged the Transitional Federal Institutions and the Roadmap signatories to abide by their commitments and stressed the importance of a transparent and legitimate political process, including public consultations on the Constitution. They welcomed the conclusions and commitments of Somali stakeholders and the international community at the London Conference of 23 February and the Istanbul Conference of 31 May -1 June. In addressing the challenges of Somalia, they called for a continued coherent and cooperative international approach.

**31.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC strongly supported the joint African Union-Intergovernmental Authority on Development- United Nations letter of 01 May 2012 and reiterated their readiness to support measures against internal and external actors or groups who sought to undermine or block the peace process in Somalia, including after the August transition deadline has passed, whilst recognizing the importance of freedom of speech and of assembly.

**32.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC commended the progress made by African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Security Forces in consolidating security and stability in Mogadishu, and recognized the Significant sacrifices made by these

Forces. They further welcomed the adoption of resolution 2036 (2012) that facilitates the expansion of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG)'s control over large parts of Somalia. They also welcomed the cooperation of the AU and UN on the Technical Assessment Mission to design AMISOM's new Concept of Operations. They called on new troop contributing countries to fully integrate their forces into AMISOM's command and control structures, in-line with the above mentioned resolution. They stressed the need to expedite the staffing of the Force Headquarters and called on all the countries concerned to extend full cooperation in this respect.

**33.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC welcomed the work of the TFG and local governance structures to promote stability and reconciliation in the newly liberated regions in Somalia and encouraged further efforts in this regard.

**34.** The members of the UNSC and AUPSC were gravely concerned by the threat that piracy and armed robbery at sea against vessels pose to the situation in Somalia and other States in the region, as well as to international navigation, the safety of commercial maritime routes and the safety of seafarers and other persons. They underlined the importance of a comprehensive response to repress piracy and its underlying causes, including the need to investigate and prosecute those who finance, plan, organise or profit from pirate attacks and, noted the SG's report of 25 October 2011 on the protection of Somali natural resources and waters, and on alleged illegal fishing and illegal dumping, including of toxic substances in line with paragraph 7 of resolution 1976(2011). They emphasized that peace and stability within Somalia, the strengthening of State institutions, economic and social development and respect for human rights and the rule of law and necessary to create the conditions for a durable eradication of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.

**35.** The next consultative meeting will be held at the Headquarters of the African Union, in Addis Ababa no later than July 2013.

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

African Union

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