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INTRODUCTION AU RAPPORT SUR L'ETAT DE LA PAIX ET DE LA SECURITE EN AFRIQUE

PAR L'AMBASSADEUR SMAIL CHERGUI
COMMISSAIRE A LA PAIX ET A LA SECURITE

- **Excellence, Monsieur le Président en exercice,**
- **Excellences, Madame et Messieurs les chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement**
- **Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation,**
- **Mesdames et Messieurs,**

Je remercie Son Excellence, le Président par intérim de la République fédérale du Nigéria, Président du Conseil de paix et de sécurité pour le mois de juillet, pour son excellente introduction du rapport du Conseil de paix et de sécurité.

Pour ma part, je note les bonnes nouvelles que nous avons enregistrées au Mali, au Darfour, en Gambie et au Lesotho dont je salue le retour au sein de la Conférence de S.E le Premier Ministre Tom Thabane. Les visites du Président de la Commission que j'ai eu l'honneur d'accompagner avec ma collègue des Affaires Politiques en Somalie, au Soudan du Sud, dans les pays du Bassin du Lac Tchad et du G5 Sahel soulignent à volonté les graves défis sécuritaires et de développement à relever.

Incontestablement c'est l'amplification du fléau du terrorisme, de la radicalisation et de l'extrémisme violent en Afrique, notamment en Somalie, dans le Bassin du Lac Tchad, au Sahel, au Mali et en Libye qui retient notre attention, tout comme la résilience des groupes terroristes et leur adaptation aux mesures que prennent nos services de sécurité.

Prenant exemple sur la FMM, qui a enregistré de très grand succès contre Boko Haram, le Mali, le Burkina Faso, le Niger, la Mauritanie et le Tchad viennent de lancer une Force conjointe de G5- Sahel avec le soutien de l'Union africaine et de la communauté internationale. Cette détermination de nos Etats membres à compter d'abord sur leurs propres moyens est à saluer et devrait être prise en compte dans notre doctrine pour répondre à ce type de menace. C'est ici le véritable test pour la coopération et la solidarité, entre africains d'abord, et les partenaires de l'Afrique pour lutter solidairement contre cette menace globale. Je réunirai en Octobre prochain à Addis-Abeba les processus de Nouakchott et de Djibouti pour booster la coopération sécuritaire entre nos Etats membres.

- **Excellence Monsieur le Président,**
- **Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs,**

S'agissant de la mise en œuvre de l'Accord pour la paix et la réconciliation au Mali, issu du processus d'Alger, nous adressons nos félicitations à SEM le Président Ibrahim Boubakar Keita pour les nouveaux acquis enregistrés. A Bamako, il a assuré le Président Moussa Faki de sa détermination à continuer la mise en œuvre de l'accord de paix et à promouvoir la réconciliation nationale.

L'accompagnement de l'UA à la République Démocratique du Congo est permanent et la mission dont m'a chargé le Président de la Commission, fin mai dernier à Kinshasa, nous a permis de prendre la mesure des défis à relever pour la mise en place

des conditions nécessaires à la tenue des élections et à stopper les tueries à l'Est du pays. SEM le Président Kabila m'a assuré à cette occasion que le financement de ces élections sera pleinement assuré par le budget de l'Etat et que la région de Kassai, qui connaît de graves violences, votera également comme le reste du pays. Nous nous proposons également de relancer le processus de coopération et de stabilisation en RDC et dans la région, conformément à l'Accord-cadre de février 2013.

La situation en République centrafricaine, qui n'a cessé de se détériorer ces derniers temps, met en péril les acquis de l'élection démocratique du Président Touadera et l'équilibre fragile né des efforts conjugués des pays de la région et de l'UA, avec le concours de la communauté internationale. Seul un soutien sans équivoque du Gouvernement à l'initiative africaine peut contribuer à stabiliser le pays.

La Situation en Guinée Bissau, malgré les efforts louables de la CEDEAO, reste préoccupante de par l'absence d'une solution consensuelle à la crise. Sans un sursaut immédiat du Président de la République et de tous les protagonistes concernés, le pays n'est pas à l'abri de développements graves.

Au Burundi, le dialogue inclusif a besoin d'une nouvelle impulsion pour trouver une solution politique préservant les acquis d'Arusha. Je voudrais également relancer un appel au Gouvernement burundais en vue de signer le Mémoire d'Entente sur le déploiement des observateurs de droits de l'homme et des experts militaires au Burundi.

- **Excellency, Mr. Chairperson,**
- **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to highlight the progress made in Somalia. The political developments in **Somalia** are quite encouraging. The election of President Mohamed Abdullah Mohamed attest this new path towards a pacified and stabilized Somalia. Nonetheless, the security situation in the country remains of deep concern despite the sustained efforts of reducing the threat of Al-Shabaab. Equally, Somalia is grappling with a dire humanitarian situation which calls for the solidarity and support of our Continent. The joint strategic review of AMISOM by the AU and the UN confirmed the need for more capacity building and logistic support to the Somali National Security Forces, if they are to take over responsibilities for security from AMISOM when comes the time for its withdrawal. The current session of the Assembly offers the opportunity to call for enhanced support to Somalia, and indeed to AMISOM. The Mission is in fact still facing challenge relating to a predictable and sustainable financing and if this challenge is not addressed, the AU may consider the option of withdrawing the Mission starting October 2018. In this context, the United Nations and its Security Council, which has the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, should be called to address this critical situation.

With regard to **Darfur**, we are pleased to report that the situation has markedly improved, as confirmed, both by the PSC communiqué of 12 June 2017 and the UN Security Council resolution 2363 (2017) on the joint AU/UN strategic review of UNAMID that decide to reconfigure the UNAMID, as well as by the findings of the PSC field mission

of May 2017. Following the National Dialogue, and the formation of the Government of National Unity, there is need for greater political and economic support to assist Sudan in its efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability. The progress made in Sudan was also possible thanks to the engagement of the AUHIP and its Chairman, former President Thabo Mbeki. The US sanctions imposed on Sudan since 1997 is another challenge undermining the efforts of the Government towards lasting peace and development, thus the need for your August Assembly to call on the US for complete lifting of these sanctions

- **Excellency, Mr. Chairperson,**
- **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The situation in South Sudan, continues to be of utmost concern. The launching by the President Salva Kiir of the national dialogue offer an opportunity to address all the challenges at hand. This dialogue should however be really inclusive. The current session of your Assembly is a great opportunity to revive the peace process in South Sudan in commending and supporting the decision of IGAD Leaders during their 31st extraordinary summit, which is proposed for endorsement by your Excellencies, in particular with regard to the High Level revitalisation forum for the Peace Agreement.

The efforts to resolve the conflict in Western Sahara remain stalemated. Following your decision on the question during your 28th Ordinary Session, the PSC, at its meeting held on 20 March 2017, reviewed the situation in Western Sahara and, among others, called upon the two parties, in their capacity as Member states of the AU, to engage in direct and serious talks to overcome the current deadlock in the peace process in compliance with the AU Constitutive Act. The UN Security Council also reviewed the situation in its annual meeting on the renewal of MINURSO mandate and welcomed the determination of the UN Secretary General to re-launch the negotiation process with a new dynamic and a new spirit leading to the resumption of talks with the aim of reaching a durable solution to this conflict.

As for the situation in Libya, His Excellency President Sassou Nguesso of Congo, Chair of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya will present a full report on this situation.

Following the developments between Djibouti and Eritrea, after the withdrawal of Qataris peacekeeping forces, we dispatched a fact finding Team to the area. We are fully engaged on this situation and I am visiting Asmara by the end of this Summit.

- **Excellency, Mr. Chairperson,**
- **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to raise three additional issues. The first relates to the financing of our African Peace and Security Agenda. At its meeting of 30 May, in the implementing framework of your historic decisions to ensure African ownership of peace and security issues on the continent, the PSC endorsed the enhanced governance and accountability

framework of the Peace Fund and the management structure, the proposed eligibility criteria and fund management principles as recommended by the Chairperson of the Commission. It should be underlined that payment of regular and also voluntary contributions by our member States will enhance Africa's ownership of its peace and security agenda.

The second issue relates to the AU-UN Partnership. Allow to recall that, on 19 April 2017, the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the UN Secretary General signed, in New York, the Joint AU-UN Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. This Framework, which was guided by the principles of mutual respect and comparative advantages, provides additional opportunities for both Organizations to further enhance their cooperation and coordination on the prevention and management of all conflict situations in the Continent. Your August Assembly may wish to encourage the Chairperson of the Commission in his efforts towards greater support to the AU's Peace efforts, in particular to continue his political engagement to secure, in the course of 2017, a substantive UN Security Council Resolution on the use of assessed contributions to support AU mandated or authorized missions.

The third issue relates to the need for renewed efforts towards conflict prevention. We have, at the AU, all the tools required. What is needed is an enhanced drive towards their implementation. In this respect, more efforts should be deployed to deepen democracy and good governance and make sure that elections on the continent remain a moment of joy and responsibility for African people and his leadership. It is my pleasure to announce that following extensive consultations, the Chairperson of the Commission has selected the new members of the Panel of the Wise. Great Africans, men and women, who have proved worldwide their commitment to this continent, have been called to continue serving towards a peaceful, prosperous and integrated Africa. The names of these imminent personalities will be submitted to your Excellencies for endorsement, during this current session.

- **Excellency, Mr. Chairperson,**
- **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

With regard to the Inaugural Report of the Peace and Security Council on the Implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the year 2020, allow me to thank His Excellency Edger Changwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, as his country has been highly active in the development of the AU Master Roadmap.

I also would like to commend the Peace and Security Council for submitting of this high quality report on the steps taken and the progress thus far achieved in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap. I wish, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission, to renew our commitment to spare no effort towards supporting the PSC in its noble objective of Silencing the Guns in our continent, as pledged by your Excellencies in the OAU/AU 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration.

The implementation of the Roadmap requires firm commitment of all Member States. Your blessing and guidance is most important to this effect.

The Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms will continue providing inputs on the measures they are taking to address the problems of illegal weapons and their proliferation, illicit financial flows, transitional organized, illegal exploitation and illicit trade in natural resources and other goods, as well as the strengthening of democratic institutions and processes. Equally, within the Commission, coordinated interdepartmental efforts will be intensified, while other organs will contribute to the overall efforts. More specifically, as proposed by the PSC, the Assembly may wish to support the idea of introducing a one month long Africa Amnesty during each year running to 2020, as a continental arrangement to facilitate the surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons/arms, in line with the African and international best practices.

- **Excellence, Monsieur le Président,**
- **Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,**

Prévenir les crises et les conflits et consolider la paix là où elle a été instaurée sont des indicateurs du long chemin que l'Afrique doit encore parcourir pour devenir un continent exempt de conflits violents. A cette fin, le rôle des femmes est systématiquement mis à contribution à l'exemple du réseau des femmes médiatrices que nous avons lancé à Constantine en Décembre 2016.

Enfin, dans le cadre de notre approche holistique de prévention et de gestion des conflits, nous avons lancé deux initiatives; l'une a trait au développement d'une stratégie pour la Corne d'Afrique et l'autre à la paix et la coopération autour de la Mer Rouge.

Je vous remercie.