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**14TH ORDINARY MEETING OF AFRICAN CHIEFS
OF DEFENCE STAFF AND HEADS OF SAFETY AND
SECURITY, AND 11TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE,
SAFETY AND SECURITY**

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

8 – 12 OCTOBER 2018

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION

I. **BACKGROUND**

1. This Report provides an update on the progress made since the 10th Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) held on 9 January 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
2. In this regard, the report covers the following aspects:
 - a. Draft Rules of Procedure for the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence Safety and Security for endorsement.
 - b. Memorandum of Understanding between the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms and the African Union on the Deployment and Employment of the African Standby Force for endorsement.
 - c. Update on Maputo Five-Year Work Plan on the Enhancement of the ASF (2016-2020).
 - d. Update on Development of the AU Peace Support Operations (PSO) Doctrine and the revision of the African Standby Force (ASF) Concept.
 - e. ASF draft policies relating to International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights and Conduct and Discipline Compliance and Accountability Framework for endorsement.
 - f. Update on Harmonization of ACIRC Activities with the ASF Framework.
 - g. Update on Enhanced Cooperation with ad-hoc coalitions.
 - h. Update on ASF Training.
 - i. Update on Mission Support.
 - j. Update on current AU Mandated and Authorised PSOs.
 - k. Update on the work of the ASF Strategic Support Groups for the Civilian, Police and Military components.
 - l. Update on AU Special Fund for Prevention and Combating of Terrorism.
 - m. Update on Initiatives relating to the control of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.
 - n. Update on the Implementation of the AU Security Sector Reform Policy Framework and preparations for the 2nd Africa Forum on Security Sector Reform (SSR).
 - o. African Union Border Programme and the Measures for its Consolidation for endorsement by Policy Organs.
 - p. African Union Border Governance Strategy for endorsement.
 - q. Update on Policy Development and Implementation of Quick Impact and Peace Strengthening Projects (QIPs/PSPs).
 - r. Update on Regional Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin.
 - s. Update on PCRD Initiatives in Support of AU Member States.

II. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AU DECISIONS

3. **Draft STCDSS Rules of Procedure:** As directed by the 10th meeting of the STCDSS, the Commission has harmonized the draft Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the STCDSS with the template adopted by the Executive Council for RoPs of all AU Specialized Technical Committees. The Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC) has cleared the draft STCDSS RoP and are hereby submitted for consideration and approval by this 11th meeting of the STCDSS ahead of its submission to the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (STCJLA) scheduled for November 2018 for final endorsement. The draft STCDSS RoP are attached to this Report as Annex A.

4. **Memorandum of Understanding between the AU Commission and RECS/RMs on the Deployment and Employment of the ASF:** In line with the decision of the 10th meeting of the STCDSS, the Commission completed the draft MoU and shared it with the RECs/RMs for additional inputs to ensure its finalisation. The draft MoU outlines the roles and responsibilities of the AU and the RECs/RMs in the deployment and employment of the ASF. (The draft MoU was discussed in an AU and RECs/RMs workshop on 2 October 2018 with a view to gathering any additional relevant inputs into the MoU). The draft MoU is attached to this Report as Annex B.

5. **Maputo Strategic Work Plan on the Enhancement of the ASF (2016-2020):** The Commission hereby re-submits the Maputo Strategic Work Plan on the Enhancement of the ASF (2016-2020). As directed by the 10th meeting of the STCDSS, the updated version includes the recommendations of the *'Report of the Independent Panel of Experts on Verification, Confirmation and Validation of the ASF Pledged Capabilities'*, timelines, responsibilities, and indicators as well as aspects relating to the harmonisation of ACIRC with the ASF Framework and enhanced cooperation with the ad-hoc coalitions. The updated Maputo Strategic Work Plan is annexed to this Report as Annex C.

6. The budget for the implementation of the activities arising from the Maputo Work plan is part of the Commission's annual budgeting cycle. Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of the work plan will be undertaken through the existing processes within the Peace and Security Council.

7. **Update on the Development of the AU PSO Doctrine:** In line with the decision of the 10th Ordinary Meeting of the STCDSS, the Commission has engaged in a series of intra-departmental and Commission-wide consultations to determine the scope and content of the AU PSO Doctrine. This has enabled the Commission to develop a framework document that articulates the key elements of what the AU PSO Doctrine should entail. This framework document will inform the AU-RECs/RMs Workshop on the AU PSO Doctrine scheduled for 16 October 2018. Once developed, the Policy for International Policing in AU PSOs (*approved by the 10th meeting of the STCDSS*) will be annexed to the AU PSO Doctrine.

8. **Update on the Revision of the ASF Framework:** In line with the decisions of the 10th Ordinary Meeting of the STCDSS, the Commission has commenced the process to revise the ASF Framework. In this regard, the Commission found it necessary to finalise the AU PSO Doctrine before the revision of the ASF Framework. This was informed by the principle of 'Form follows Function'. In other words, the doctrine will set out the scope of the AU's approach on PSOs, which will then inform the tools to be used thereof.

9. **Draft Policies relating to International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights, Conduct and Discipline Compliance and Accountability Framework for endorsement:** In its ongoing efforts of ensuring compliance of AU PSOs with International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights, Conduct and Discipline Compliance and Accountability Framework, the Commission hereby submits the Draft AU Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSOs and Draft AU Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for Peace Support Operations for consideration and endorsement. The draft Policies are attached to this Report as Annex D and Annex E.

10. These policies outline minimum standards of conduct and discipline expected of military, police and civilian personnel in AU PSO. They also reinforce existing Military and Police Codes of Conduct which accord Member States the responsibility to ensure professional conduct and discipline of their personnel. The policies also highlight the responsibility of Member States vis-à-vis their citizens employed as civilian personnel in the AU PSOs. The policies are hereby submitted for the consideration and approval by this 11th meeting of the STCDSS.

11. **Update on Harmonization of ACIRC Activities with the ASF Framework:** In line with AU Assembly Decision 679, the Commission has been facilitating harmonisation of ACIRC activities with the ASF. In this regard, and as highlighted above in para 5, the harmonisation of ACIRC activities with the ASF Framework has been reflected in the Revised Maputo 5 Year Work Plan on the enhancement of the ASF, precisely in paragraph 11.

12. In addition, staff officers seconded by the ACIRC Volunteer Nations at own cost to the Commission are providing support in areas such as Mission planning and management.

13. Further to the implementation of the AU Assembly decision 679, the Commission, in compliance with the PSC directive, submitted an update report on the harmonisation process to the 795th PSC meeting held on 20 September 2018. In this regard, the PSC directed that the PSC Military Staff Committee shall provide assistance to the Commission through elaboration of concrete steps with timelines, to enhance and accelerate the harmonisation process.

14. **Update on Enhanced cooperation with ad hoc coalitions:** As part of its role in ensuring the maintenance of peace and security, the AU authorised PSOs mandated by the countries of LCBC and the Group of Five Sahel Joint Force. In enhancing its cooperation with ad-hoc coalitions, the AU is providing mission and logistical support, technical assistance and financial support and resource mobilization.

15. **Update on ASF Training:**

a. **African Standby Capacity (ASC) Roster:**

- (i) The AU Commission and the RECs/RMs continue to populate the ASC roster with the requisite expertise for AU PSOs. This is to enable the achievement of the 50 % to 70% utilization of the ASC for AU PSOs recruitment as directed by the 10th meeting of the STCDSS. As part of these efforts, the AUC and RECs/RMs developed strategies to ensure that the required minimum number of 300 candidates that should be rostered by each REC/RM as stipulated in the ASF Civilian Dimension Policy Framework (2008) is achieved. As of September 2018, the ASC Roster has a combined total of 416 civilian experts rostered by the AU, EASF, ECCAS, ECOWAS and SADC. NARC is expected to determine the start of its processes to populate its own hub of the ASC Roster.
- (ii) Furthermore, the AUC and RECs/RMs are providing training to roster members to ensure their readiness for deployment.
- (iii) In 2018 alone, four Civilian Foundation Courses and one Protection of Civilians specialization course have been conducted by the Commission. A second Protection of Civilians specialization course is also scheduled to be conducted at the beginning of December 2018.
- (iv) As part of the efforts to enhance accessibility to the ASC roster, the roster application software is now available in English and French and has been made compatible with mobile devices.

b. **The ASF Training Directives 2018-2020:** The ASF Training Directives, which are meant to guide ASF training and capability development, were adopted during the 9th ASF Training Implementation Workshop (TIW) held on 24-27 October 2017 and updated based on decisions of the 10th Ordinary Meeting of the STCDSS of January 2018. They were distributed to REC/RMs, Member States, Training Centres of Excellence and Partners in April 2018. These Directives will be reviewed during the 10th TIW which will be hosted by East Africa Standby Force (EASF) from 23-26 October 2018.

c. **Africa Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA):** The Kingdom of Norway offered financial support for APSTA through the AU Commission for a period of three (3) years, beginning March 2018. The Commission and the Kingdom of Norway are currently working on a Funding Agreement that would allow disbursement of funds to APSTA.

16. **Update on Mission Support:**

a. **Continental Logistics Base (CLB) and Regional Logistics Depots (RLDs):**

(i) Following the inauguration of the CLB on 5 January 2018, the Commission deployed a start-up team composed of three (3) PSOD officers to enhance the operationalisation of the CLB. The Commission has also received the first consignment of equipment donated by Turkey and the Peoples' Republic of China in May and July 2018 respectively and is currently facilitating stocktaking and inventory of the equipment. However, there are critical and urgent challenges related to:

- Funding for staff and operating costs (water, electricity, fuel for vehicles and generators, communication and information services);
- Appropriate storage facilities;
- Security of the equipment.

(ii) As part of efforts to enhance the working relationship between the CLB and the RLDs, the AU Commission, with the support from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), conducted a Movement and Logistics Operational Planning (MLOP) course at the CLB for 30 AU and RECs/RMs personnel.

(iii) As part of technical support of AU member States to the CLB, the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of Zambia have seconded 1 officer each, at own cost.

b. **Conduct of the AU Logistics Exercise:** In line with the 2nd Extraordinary meeting of the STCDSS, the Commission conducted a Logistics Exercise - IMDAD AFRICA I from 14 to 21 September 2018 at the CLB to test AU Mission Support Systems and Processes to plan, rapidly deploy, sustain and liquidate AU mandated PSO. Specifically, the exercise tested the AU Supply Chain Systems and Processes on Strategic Lift, Medical Support, Communication and Information Systems. An After Action Review of the LOGEX is scheduled for end of October 2018 to review the exercise and complete the final report.

c. **Operationalization of the ASF C3IS:** The process to acquire the European Union funded ASF Command Control Communications and Information Systems (C3IS) capability is ongoing and is expected to be completed by December 2018.

d. **ASF Strategic Lift Capability:**

(i) Pursuant to efforts to provide Strategic Lift capabilities for the ASF, the Commission held an AU-RECs/RMs work session from 8-11 March 2018 on the relationship between the Continental Movement Coordination Centre (CMCC) and the Regional

Movement Coordination Centres (RMCCs). The Commission also held another AU-RECs/RMs work session from 12-15 March 2018 on the harmonisation of the AU-RECs/RMs Strategic Lift concept. In this regard, the Commission and RECs/RMs have developed an action plan to implement the Strategic Lift concept including operationalisation of the CMCC and RMCCs.

- (ii) The AU will be conducting an assessment of the Strategic Lift capabilities of NARC and SADC in the 4th Quarter 2018 (EASF, ECCAS and ECOWAS assessments were conducted in 2017).
- (iii) The Republic of Uganda has pledged a C130 aircraft to the AU for ASF Strategic Lift. The AU has conducted an assessment of the C130. The Commission is conducting visits to AU Member States to seek for additional pledges.

17. Update on the work of the ASF Strategic Support Groups for the Police, Civilian and Military components:

- (i) The Police Strategic Support Group (PSSG) work session was held from 25 to 27 June 2018. The PSSG has commenced the process to develop a roster for the ASF Police Component to be included in the ASC. It is expected that this process will be concluded end of 2018.
- (ii) The Civilian Strategic Support Group (CSSG) work session will be held on 17 and 18 October 2018.
- (iii) The Military Strategic Support Group (MSSG) work session will be held from 5-10 November 2018.

18. Update on AU Special Fund for Prevention and Combating of Terrorism: in line with Assembly/AU/Dec. 627(XXVIII), the 10th meeting of the STCDSS encouraged the Commission to accelerate steps towards the full operationalisation of the AU Special Fund for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa. This includes submission of the revised draft Statute of the Fund, based on the comments and amendments made by the meeting of Experts, to the Specialised Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (STCJLA).

19. Update on Initiatives relating to the control of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons:

- a. **Draft AU Policy for the Management of Recovered Arms and Ammunitions in PSOs:** In line with the PSC Communique of its 584th meeting held on 29 March 2016, the Commission launched a consultative process for the development of an AU policy on the 'Management of Recovered Arms and Ammunition in PSOs'. The policy will respond to

challenges faced by PSOs in handling arms and ammunition recovered during operations. Further it will provide policy guidance to address aspects of arms management in the planning and execution phases of PSOs in line with regional and international good practices. Pursuantly, the Commission held an inception and experts meeting with the RECs, Member States, PSOs, ad-hoc security coalitions, the UN, as well as international organizations and experts through which the scope of the policy was better informed. A draft will be validated by national and regional experts in November 2018 before it is submitted to the next STCDSS for consideration and adoption.

- b. **Observance of the Africa Amnesty Month:** Within the context of the Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020, the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held on 3-4 July 2017 in Addis Ababa, adopted decision *Assembly/AU/Dec.645 (XXIX)* in which it declared the month of September of each year, till 2020, as *Africa Amnesty Month* for the surrender and collection of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW). In this context, Member States are expected to promote and organize initiatives for the voluntary surrender of illicit weapons in civilian possession on the condition of anonymity and immunity from prosecution. Against this background, the 788th meeting of the PSC, held on 7 August 2018 in Addis Ababa, underlined the need for the STCDSS to include this item on its agenda in order to discuss and promote the pivotal role to be played by national defence and security agencies in the envisaged processes of collection and destruction of illicit weapons.

20. **Update on the Implementation of the AU Security Sector Reform Policy Framework and preparations for the 2nd Africa Forum on Security Sector Reform (SSR):** The aim of the presentation of these items is to provide an update to the STCDSS in line with its draft Rules of Procedure which underline its expanded role on all aspects of peace and security, including the AU Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, the Common African Defence and Security Policy and the SSR Policy Framework. The AU SSR Policy Framework was adopted by the AU Summit in 2013. Since then, the Commission has been working with RECs/RMs and international partners towards promoting its implementation and extending assistance to states that are considering reform processes. The 2nd Africa SSR Forum is aimed at ensuring a common understanding among member states of the Forum's objectives and promote active participation.

21. **Declaration on the African Union Border Programme and the Measures for its Consolidation:** Following the Preparatory Meeting of Government Experts held from 3 to 5 October 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the *Meeting of Ministers on African Border Issues* adopted the Declaration on the AU Border Programme and the Measures for its Consolidation (Addis Ababa Declaration) on 6 October 2016. The Declaration extends the mandate of the AU Border Programme (AUBP) and its Plan of Action. In accordance with Assembly Decision *Assembly/AU/Dec.526 (XXIII)*, it was agreed that documents emanating from the "Meeting of Ministers on African Border Issues" were to be submitted to the STCDSS to give these documents the requisite legal standing. Therefore, the Commission hereby submits the Declaration on the

AU Border Programme and the Measures for its Consolidation to the STCDSS for its endorsement, to be followed by its adoption by the Executive Council. The document is attached to this Report as Annex F.

22. Draft AU Border Governance Strategy (AUBGS): The Draft AU Border Governance Strategy was first presented at the Meeting of Ministers on African Border Issues, held 6 October 2016. The Ministers, in their Declaration, agreed that *“the draft should be sent to Member States for a thorough review and that validation meeting should be held”*. As such, the AU Commission transmitted the draft AUBGS, on 24 January 2017, to all Member States and RECs/RMs for their review. This was followed by a Member States’ Experts Validation Workshop on the Draft AU Border Governance Strategy, held from 6 to 8 November 2017, in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), to review and validate the Strategy. The objective of the Strategy is to *“to put in place a new form of pragmatic border governance aimed at promoting peace, security, and stability, but also at facilitating the integration process and sustainable development in Africa”*. The Commission hereby submits the AU Border Governance Strategy to the STCDSS for its endorsement, to be followed by its adoption by the Executive Council. The document is attached to this Report as Annex G.

23. Policy Development and Implementation of Quick Impact and Peace Strengthening Projects (QIPs/PSPs): AU Commission in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/ RMs) developed a Five Year Results Based Framework (RBF) as a tool for the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) activities of the AU in a comprehensive and efficient manner, in complementarity and coordination with other actors engaged in PCRD processes, notably the RECs/RMs, Member States, and African Civil Society and Partners. The RBF is anchored on the African Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap 2016-2020 and other related policy instruments, notably the Master Roadmap for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020. The RBF focusses on achieving sustainable results in implementing the pillars of the AU PCRD Policy (2006). This document underpins the importance of PCRD in helping countries emerging from conflict or crises from relapsing into violence. The Commission has also developed a Guidance Note to collate, enhance and consolidate the guidelines on various aspects of the PCRD Policy, so as to ensure that the AUC, RECs/RMs, Member States and other actors are able to effectively address PCRD needs of countries.

24. Regional Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin: The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) Regional Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience Strategy is a comprehensive and shared regional framework to respond to the multi-layered challenges in the Boko Haram affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region. The 9 (nine) Pillars of the strategy are: *political cooperation; security and human rights; disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation, reintegration and reinsertion of persons associated with Boko Haram; humanitarian assistance, governance and social contract, socio-economic recovery and environmental sustainability, education, learning and skills, prevention of violent extremism and building peace and empowerment and inclusion of women and youth*. The strategy, adopted by

the Council of Ministers of the LCBC on 30 August 2018, is geared towards reinforcing the progress made by the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and more critically, to fostering sustainable recovery and development of the LCB Region consistent with decisions of the AU Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council.

III. UPDATE ON CURRENT AU MANDATED AND AUTHORISED PSOs: AMISOM; RCI-LRA; MNJTF; GROUP OF FIVE (5) SAHEL JOINT FORCE

AMISOM

25. AMISOM has been providing an enabling environment for the political process in Somalia to evolve towards durable peace, as well as facilitating the presence of the UN and other international partners supporting peace and state-building activities in the country. Notwithstanding this progress, Al Shabaab remains a potent threat, and continues to demonstrate its ability to execute deadly terrorist attacks against civilians, Somali National Security Forces (SNSF) and AMISOM. Continuing regional and clan divisions, coupled with the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the country and weak rule of law institutions, also present impediments to the resolution of the conflict. The persistent presence of international jihadists remains a concern.

26. To continuously ensure alignment of support to Somalia, the 4th annual AU-UN Joint Review was conducted in May 2018. Subsequently, the 782nd AU PSC meeting on Somalia held on 27 June 2018 and the UNSCR 2431 (2018) extended AMISOM's mandate up to 31 July 2019 and called for the conduct of an Operational Readiness Assessment (ORA) of AMISOM which was completed in September 2018. In this regard, both Councils emphasised the importance of AMISOM's support to the Somali Transition Plan which provides a strategic framework for the gradual handover of responsibilities from AMISOM to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Federal Member States (FMS) institutions in three phases up to December 2021. The AUC will develop a new AMISOM concept of Operations by 1 November 2018, aligned to support the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan (2018-2021).

MNJTF

27. The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) operations against Boko Haram are ongoing and have considerably weakened and degraded the capability of the terrorist group. MNJTF Operation AMNI FAKAT conducted from April to July 2018 resulted in the defection of over 300 Boko Haram combatants and led to the capture of vital locations in the Islands of Lake Chad and its environs.

28. In line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Support Implementation Agreement (SIA) between the AU, LCBC and MNJTF Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), the AU has provided additional support to the MNJTF using its own resources including equipment and

funding for Quick Impact Projects. Furthermore, additional support has been provided by the AU through Partner donations from the United Kingdom, European Union and Turkey.

Group of Five Sahel Joint Force

29. Since the adoption of the Strategic CONOPS of the Joint Force of the G5 Sahel (JF-G5 S) at the AU 679th PSC meeting held on 13 April 2017, followed by the UNSCR 2359 which favourably welcomed the deployment of the JF-G5 S, the joint force remains limited to a show-of-force operations, particularly in the Liptako-Gourma region, bordering Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. The security situation in the area of operation of the JF-G5 S continues to be fragile and unpredictable. This is largely due to lack of predictable and sustainable funding, lack of equipment, logistical support challenges and also the difficulty for MINUSMA to implement UNSCR 2391 on support to the JF-G5 S.

30. In line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the AU and the G5 Sahel, the AU is providing technical support. However, challenges are being encountered in the setting up of a dedicated G5 Sahel Coordination Cell at the Commission and in resource mobilisation.

RCI-LRA

31. The Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of Lords of Resistance Army (RCI-LRA) has weakened and degraded the LRA terrorist group. However, the terrorist group continues to be a threat in the CAR and the DRC. The deteriorating humanitarian situation caused by the LRA calls for support to be provided to the affected areas and bring recovery and resilience.

32. The AU continues to experience challenges related to the provision of financial and logistical support to the RCI-LRA. This includes the temporary closure of the AU Regional Task Force (AU RTF) HQs in Yambio, South Sudan, and return of the RTF HQs staff officers back to their home countries until availability of funds. Recently, the RCI-LRA Initiative was discussed by the Peace and Security Council at its meeting held on 20 September 2018. Among other aspects, the PSC requested the AU Commission to urgently undertake consultations with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) with a view to working out modalities for establishing, under the auspices of the ECCAS, a successor to the RCI-LRA, to operate within the African Standby Force framework, with the objective of eliminating the LRA.

IV. UPDATE ON SUPPORT TO AU MEMBER STATES

African Union Technical Support Team to The Gambia (AUTSTG)

33. At the request to of the Government of The Gambia, the AU PSC directed the AU Commission, on 15 June 2017, to deploy a ten (10) member AU Technical Support Team to the Gambia (AUTSTG) for a period of 12 months, to support the country's Security Sector Reform

(SSR) and Transitional Justice processes. In this context, the technical capacities of the AUTSTG have been agreed upon in consultation with the authorities of The Gambia. 6 Military Experts have already been deployed. The remaining 4 will be deployed by November 2018.

Deployment of an AU Level 2 Hospital to Gao, Northern Mali

34. The Government of Korea donated a Level 2 Hospital to the African Union and the Hospital was deployed to Gao – Mali, to provide medical services to the Malian Defense and Security Forces and support the local population. The Facility was inaugurated on 4th July 2018 by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on behalf of the AU together with Malian officials and the Representative of the Republic of Korea. The installation of the medical equipment was conducted successfully and Mali has provided the medical and supporting staff. It was also agreed that Korea through the AU will provide maintenance for the facility as well as Drugs and Consumables for 6 months.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

35. Noting the information and updates provided above, the following are recommended to the STCDSS:

- a. Endorse the RoP for the STCDSS.
- b. Endorse the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU Commission and RECS/RMs on the Employment of the ASF.
- c. Approve the updated Maputo Strategic Work Plan on the enhancement of the ASF 2016-20.
- d. Endorse the AU Policy on Conduct and Discipline for Peace Support Operations.
- e. Endorse the AU Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for PSOs.
- f. Urge AU member states to continue to support the operationalization of the CLB, including secondment of officers at their own cost.
- g. Urge AU member states to pledge strategic lift capabilities for AU peace support operations and to facilitate assessment of the capabilities.
- h. Urge AU member states to continue to provide support to AU PSOs including the LCBC/MNJTF, RCI-LRA and the G5 Joint Force.
- i. Endorse the Declaration on the African Union Border Programme and the Measures for its Consolidation.
- j. Endorse the AU Border Governance Strategy.
- k. AU Member States to observe Africa Amnesty month.
- l. AU Member States to participate in the 2nd Africa Forum on SSR.

Annexes:

- Annex A Draft Rules of Procedure for the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence Safety and Security.
- Annex B Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms and the African Union on the Deployment and Employment of the African Standby Force.
- Annex C Maputo Strategic Work Plan on the Enhancement of the ASF (2016-2020).
- Annex D Draft AU Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSOs.
- Annex E Draft AU Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for Peace Support Operations.
- Annex G Declaration on the African Union Border Programme and the Measures for its v Consolidation Annex F Draft AU Border Governance Strategy (AUBGS).