6TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
30 APRIL 2013

DECLARATION
1. The 6th Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) was held at the African Union (AU) Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 April 2013.

2. The Meeting, which was chaired by Ethiopia, as Chair of the AU, took place in the context of the communiqué of the 353rd AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government, which took place in Addis Ababa, on 25 January 2013, and requested the Commission to submit a report on progress made and difficulties faced in the early operationalization of the African Standby Force Rapid Deployment Capability (ASF-RDC). The Assembly of the Union, at its 20th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 29 to 30 January 2013, endorsed the PSC communiqué.

3. The Meeting, which was opened by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security and the Minister of Defense of Ethiopia, provided an opportunity to exchange views on how best to expedite the implementation of the PSC decision referred to above, as endorsed by the Assembly of the Union. In this respect, the Meeting took note of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Operationalisation of the ASF-RDC and the Establishment of an African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises, as well as of the statement made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security.

4. The Meeting, having reviewed the conclusions of the 9th Meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff, held in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 April 2013, agreed on the following:

   a. the above-mentioned report of the Chairperson of the Commission should be considered by Member States and relevant Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), to allow full analysis, understanding and adequate consultations, at all appropriate levels on the issues therein;

   b. the Commission, in collaboration with AU member states and relevant RECs/RMs, should conduct a comprehensive and physical assessment of the ASF, including its RDC, in order to fully implement the decision of the 20th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union;

   c. the Commission should undertake a lessons learnt on the challenges encountered in deploying AU-mandated peace support operations in response to crises on the continent; and

   d. the Commission should present a report to the next STCDSS Meeting to be convened in the last quarter of 2013.