3rd EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE SPECIALISED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

30 JANUARY 2021 - VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM

DECLARATION
DECLARATION OF THE 3RD EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM ON 30 JANUARY 2021

1. We, the members of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) of the African Union (AU) met at the 3rd Extraordinary Meeting held virtually via Zoom Online Platform and considered the recommendations of the Meeting of the African Chiefs of Defence and Heads of Safety and Security (ACDSS) held on 30 January 2021, which was preceded by a Meeting of Experts held on 29 January 2021.

2. On the basis of our deliberations, we declare as follows:

   a. Adopts the African Union (AU) Doctrine on Peace Support Operations (PSO) as a living document that provides strategic guidance for the planning, conduct, management and liquidation of AU PSOs;

   b. Directs the AU, RECs/RMs and Member States to facilitate the effective implementation of the AU Doctrine on PSO;

   c. Directs the Commission, working closely with RECs/RMs and Member States to ensure the review and development of relevant policies and operational guidance documents to ensure effective implementation of the AU Doctrine on PSO. This includes the review of the ASF Concept, finalisation of the AU-RECs/RMs MoU on the Employment of the ASF as well as alignment of multidimension planning and management processes and structures for AU PSOs.

   d. Taking note that the AU Doctrine on PSO is a living document, Directs the Commission, working closely with RECs/RMs and Member States, to consider a comprehensive review of the AU Doctrine on PSO every 10 years to ascertain progress made in its implementation as well as to facilitate its alignment towards addressing new and emerging conflict situations.

   e. Directs the Commission, working closely with RECs/RMs and Member States, to conduct a Continental Command Post Exercise before the end of 2021, to practice and test the modalities for AU-RECs/RMs harmonized decision-making processes for the employment of the ASF in conducting and managing PSOs in the continent.

3. Thank all delegations for their participation as well as the Commission for providing working documents of high quality and for facilitating the meeting.

4. Encourage the Commission to continue to provide regular updates and reports on progress towards the implementation of the AU Doctrine on PSO, in the next meetings of the STCDSS.
5. Further reiterate the role of the STCDSS as per Assembly/AU/Dec. 227 (XII) and in line with the provisions of Article 15 of the Constitutive Act of the AU (2000). In this regard, we hereby submit this Declaration to the 38th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the AU for onward transmission to the 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, scheduled to take place on 6 and 7 February 2021.