15TH ORDINARY MEETING OF AFRICAN CHIEFS
OF DEFENCE STAFF AND HEADS OF SAFETY AND
SECURITY, AND 12TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE,
SAFETY AND SECURITY

CAIRO, EGYPT
15 – 19 December 2019

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION
I. BACKGROUND

1. This Report provides an update on the progress made since the 11th Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) and the 14th Ordinary meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff (ACDS) held on 8 – 12 October 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

2. The report covers the following aspects:

   a. AU Efforts towards Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020
   c. Draft Rules of Procedure for the STCDSS
   d. Draft AU PSO Doctrine
   e. Harmonization of ACIRC
   f. Financing for PSOs
   g. Memorandum of Understanding between the AUC and RECS/RMs on the Deployment and Employment of the ASF
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      ii. Draft Legal Framework on prepositioning of AU Owned Equipment in the Regional Logistics Depot
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   p. Draft AU Policy on Management of Recovered Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in PSOs
   q. Review of the 1977 OAU Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism
   r. AU Counter - Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED) Strategy
   s. Mapping Study on Illicit Small Arms Flows in Africa
   t. Africa Amnesty Month
   u. Update on current activities of the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL)
   v. Current AU Mandated and Authorised PSOS: AMISOM; RCI-LRA; MNJTF; Group of Five (5) Sahel Joint Force
II. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AU DECISIONS

AU efforts towards Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020

3. It should be recalled that the Assembly of the Union, during its 33rd Ordinary session held in Addis Ababa, in January 2017, adopted the decision Assembly/AU/6(XXXIII), by which it adopted the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 (AUMR). The AUMR has provided time lines and streamlined division of labor among the various stakeholders/implementers.

4. Since the adoption of the AUMR, the Peace and Security Council, the AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations (UN), African institutions/organizations, civilian society organisations (CSOs) and also partners have been implementing aspects of the AUMR. Among the efforts deployed was the conduct of the African Amnesty Month in September each year since 2017; the appointment by the Chairperson of the AUC of a High Representative on Silencing the Guns, supported by a team that coordinates the efforts of the various departments of the AUC in implementing priority initiatives in line with the AUMR; the development by the PSC of its Framework for a UN Security Council Resolution on Silencing the Guns, which was subsequently, in February 2019, transformed and adopted by the Security Council as Resolution 2457 (2019). In the Resolution, Council, among various other key aspects, requests the Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission to provide updates on implementation measures towards enhancing the support of the UN and its agencies to the AU in the implementation of Vision 2020 to silence the guns in Africa; the development and implementation of programs on silencing the guns by RECs/RMs and the establishment by the UN of its task force comprising its various relevant agencies to galvanize support to the AU efforts to silence the guns.

5. These developments have enabled the silencing the guns flagship project to become a topical issue of reference within Africa and in sections of the International communities. This in itself is significant achievement in the efforts to silence the guns and create conditions for a conflict-free Africa as envisioned in Agenda 2063. In the momentum gathered around this project, some milestones have achieved in the continuous implementation of African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the revitalization of the AU Peace Fund as one of the key enablers for the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in Africa. Within the same momentum, strides continue to be made towards the full operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF) as a strategic APSA institution. In this regard, a new AU Doctrine on Peace Support Operations have been developed and is tabled to this 12th meeting of the STCDSS for consideration as part of the contribution to silencing the guns in Africa through implementation of effective PSOs guided by this doctrine. On its part, as the locomotive of the silencing the guns flagship projects, the PSC continues to convene meetings in order to ensure constant strategic guidance in the implementation of the AUMR. All these efforts are demonstration of commitments of the AU and RECs/RMs, with their member state to realize a conflict-free Africa.
6. As the Continent approaches the December 2020 deadline for silencing the guns as set by the AU Heads of State and Government in May 2013, it is critical to focus all efforts towards consolidating the gains so far made, identify the challenges encountered and forged practical responses and developing tangible action plans at the level of Member States and RECs/RMs to further enhance implementation of the AUMR. In this context, and as a determinant factor, it is important for Member States to further strengthen their ownership and leadership in these efforts to silence the guns. In the same vein, it is essential for Member States to further intensify their engagement in conducting the Africa Amnesty Month, each September, for the collection of illegally owned and illegally used arms/weapon in non-state actors.

7. Equally important is the need to address or, review implementation of African and international policies on arms proliferation to ensure the stoppage/curbing of illicit inflow of arms into Africa. In this respect, the AU and the RECs/RMs, with their Member States, need to take advantage for UN Security Council Resolution 2457 (2019), in which the UN system expresses readiness and commitment to provide support towards silencing the guns in the Continent.

8. Furthermore, it should be noted that the 28th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in July 2018 mandated the PSC to develop and submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the AUMR which will, therefore, enable the Assembly to provide further guidance to all Member States on the next steps to consolidate and sustain progress towards silencing the guns and ensure a conflict-free, integrated and prosperous Africa.

9. At hand, and moving forward, there is need for Member States to enhance their cooperation and collaboration on defence and security issues, including information and intelligence sharing, as well further strengthen their cooperation in border management and address challenges associated with ungoverned spaces in parts of the Continent. In addition, it is necessary to give a strong economic thrust in the onward implementation of the silencing the guns project with a view to creating conditions for responding to needs of African citizens, particularly the youths, in terms of job creations, employment and improvement in living standards. In essence, moving into 2020 requires that all means be deployed to ensure that silencing the guns is taken to the grassroots level as a critical level of implementation of the project.

10. Indeed, the 12th Meeting of the STCDSS provides the timely opportunity for this august body to reflect and provide directives on how to further enhance the implementation of the AUMR as the Continent fast approaches the 2020 deadline.

11. **Maputo Strategic Work Plan on the Enhancement of the ASF (2016-2020)** the Workplan is nearing is its final year of implementation in 2020, the AUC proposes that a new five (5) year ASF workplan is produced for consideration by the STCDSS in 2020. In so doing, the 2021-2024 will ascertain progress achieved and provide a roadmap for the next five years.

12. **Draft Rules of Procedure for the STCDSS (RoP):** Following its adoption by the 11th Ordinary meeting of the STCDSS, the draft RoP for the STCDSS was considered and adopted with minor amendments by the
5th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (STCJLA) held on 15 November 2019. The AU Office of the Legal Counsel, is currently incorporating the amendments of the 5th meeting of the STCJLA and will present the final STCDSS RoP to the 36th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January 2020 for endorsement.

13. **AU Doctrine on PSO:** The AU Commission (AUC) finalised the draft AU Doctrine on Peace Support Operations (PSO) following several internal and external consultations. The draft AU Doctrine on PSO is a codification of the core principles, practices and approaches that should guide AU’s approach to PSO, within the framework of APSA, to promote peace, security and stability on the continent. It will also inform the revision of the ASF Concept that will be submitted to the next STCDSS. These measures stand well as contributions to the enhancement of AU efforts to silence the guns in Africa as part of the process to create conditions for building a conflict-free Africa. The finalized draft AU Doctrine on PSO is hereby attached as Annex A for consideration by the 12th STCDSS.

14. **Financing for/of PSOs:** Since the revitalization of the AU Peace Fund, the AUC has been facilitating establishment of the management structures and ensuring operationalization of the AU Peace Fund structures, whilst expecting enhanced contributions from Member States.

15. Alongside the process to revitalise the AU Peace Fund, the issue of UN financing of AU PSO was also being facilitated towards ensuring adoption of a substantive resolution by the UN Security Council. In August 2019, all indications were that the position of a number of members of the Permanent 5 of the UN Security Council is that the UN will fund AU PSO authorised by the UN Security Council on a case-by-case basis. The AU PSC at its 881st meeting held on 19 September 2019 directed the AUC to develop a common African position on Financing for AU PSO. This paper, among others will articulate clearly issues relating to the role of the Peace Fund in AU peace efforts. This paper is expected to be considered by the PSC and submitted to the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in February 2020 for its consideration.

16. **Memorandum of Understanding between the AUC and RECS/RMs on the ASF:** The draft MoU has been finalized with inputs from the RECs/RMs. The MoU shall be presented by the AUC to the proposed Joint Retreat of the AU Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) and the Policy Organs on Peace and Security of the RECS/RM in March 2020 and subsequently to the STCDSS.

17. **AU Compliance and Accountability Framework:** As directed by the 11th meeting of the STCDSS, the AU Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSO and the AU Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) for PSO were adopted by the AU PSC during its 813rd meeting held on 29 November 2018.1 These policies are currently being implemented, including through their incorporation into current and new policies, guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures such as the Guidelines for African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Troop Contributing Countries (TCC), Rules of Engagement, the Multi National Joint Task Force against Boko Haram (MNJTF) Protection of Civilian (PoC) Strategy and Implementation Plan, AU Draft Selection, Screening and Certification Policy and the Case Management workflow, AMISOM SOPs regarding Boards of Inquiry (BoI) for Death and Disability, Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) reimbursement, IHL/IHRL and Conduct and Discipline. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of the Declaration of the 11th meeting of the STCDSS, the Commission requests

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1 These policies were part of the endorsement of the report of the AU PSC by the 32nd Assembly of the Union in February 2019
Member States to provide updates on their efforts to incorporate these policies into their national legislation and training efforts.

18. **Draft ASF Exercise Planning Guidelines:** The AUC developed the ASF Exercise Planning Guidelines to guide and harmonise exercise planning and conduct amongst the AU and RECs/RMs. The draft ASF Exercise Planning Guidelines are in line with efforts to ensure continuous enhancement of the ASF. These Guidelines were validated in Harare, Zimbabwe by the AU, RECs/RMs, Training Centres in March 2019 and approved by the 11th ASF Training Implementation Workshop in October 2019.

19. **Draft ASF Pledged Capabilities Verification Guidelines:** The AUC has developed a draft ASF Pledged Capabilities Verification Guideline for the conduct of periodic verifications to ensure updated data on the status of ASF pledged capabilities. It is also intended to ensure that ASF pledged capabilities are predictable and ready for rapid deployment. The Guidelines were validated in an AU, RECs/RMs, Training Centres meeting in Abuja, Nigeria in June 2019 and are hereby attached as Annex B for consideration by the 12th Ordinary meeting of the STCDSS.

20. **ASF Training:**

   a. **11th ASF Training Implementation Workshop (TIW) Report:** The AUC conducted the 11th ASF TIW from 23 – 25 October 2019 in Windhoek, Namibia. The main objective was to take stock of the implementation of the ASF Training Directives (2018 – 2020) and ascertain training priorities for 2021-2023. The TIW also considered among other things, the need to: (i) review the current ASF training architecture to ensure it is more responsive to emerging threats and realities, (ii) facilitate the conduct of ASF component-specific exercises, (iii) explore lessons-learned exercises on ad hoc coalitions. One of the recommendations of the ASF TIW is that the ASF Planning Elements (AU, RECs/RMs) need to meet at least once a year to enhance cooperation, coordination and complementarity of effort. The report of the 11th ASF TIW is attached as Annex C for consideration by the 12th ordinary meeting of the STCDSS.

   b. **Draft ASF Senior Mission Leadership (SML) Induction Training Package:** The AUC has developed a SML Induction Training Package which was piloted in AMISOM in November 2019. The SML training package is aimed at ensuring that the SML in AU PSO are properly prepared and equipped to facilitate effective mission leadership and management. This package has incorporated current and future PSO trends and trajectories. It had been noted that attendance of previous SML Training was no guarantee for eventual appointment and deployment to PSO. The approach with the new SML package is to train SML once they are appointed.

   c. The Commission is also currently facilitating development of a Generic AU PSO Curriculum Design and reviewing the Civilian Foundation Course and AMISOM PDT. The AUC has conducted three pilot training programmes on AU Protection of Civilians and a Training of Trainers course which guided the finalization and publication of the AU Protection of Civilians Training Standards. In the same vein, Training Standards on AU Compliance Framework has been drafted and will be completed in

\[ \text{Paragraph 3(d) of the Declaration of the 2nd Extraordinary meeting of the STCDSS highlights that Full Operational Capability (FOC) is a process that includes continuous training and capacity building.} \]
2020 to enhance understanding of PSO personnel on issues relating to IHL and IHRL compliance in PSO prior to and during their deployments.

21. ASC Roster and related processes:

a. Revision and update of the ASC Selection Guidelines Manual (SGM) and Generic Job Descriptions and work force planning exercises: The SGM for the African Standby Capacity (ASC) Roster which was published in 2015 is currently being reviewed by the AUC to strengthen the recruitment and selection process for roster members by aligning the ASC selection processes with those of the AU Human Resources. There is also an on-going effort to interact with the RECs/RMs to review their regional rosters for quality assurance and ensure responsiveness to the needs of the ASF.

b. Revamping of the ASC Database and Population of the Roster: To increase the efficiency and performance of the ASC system, the ASC Database was upgraded and relaunched in March 2019 in English and French. This has contributed to enhanced features of the ASC Database, including mobile access and automated CV generation for people interested in registering to become a member of the ASC Roster. Efforts to populate the roster with suitable and qualified civilian experts also continue to be facilitated, with focus to increase the number of women on the roster. The AUC has also prioritized selection of roster members in areas of expertise that are limited in the ASC Roster and critical for mission startup. This is to ensure that the ASC Roster has all the positions that will be required for deployment in missions when required.

c. Guidelines for the ASF Standby Roster and other related guidance documents: The AUC is currently developing guidelines to provide guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the AU and RECs/RMs on RECs/RMs on standby for 6 months.

22. Update on Mission Support:

a. Continental Logistics Base (CLB): The AUC has sought assistance from AU Member States for the secondment of staff officer, at own cost, pending the approval of the CLB Structure and recruitment of substantive staff. As of 31 October 2019, the CLB has five (5) seconded Staff Officers two (2) from Cameroon and one (1) each from Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Additionally, one (1) officer from South Africa and 5 (five) support staff are expected to also deploy soon.

b. The AUC also conducted a Movement and Logistics Operational Planning (MLOP) course at the CLB for 30 AU and RECs/RMs personnel in April 2018 and another one from 11-17 May 2019, with the support from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

c. In preparation to receiving additional equipment at the AU CLB, the AUC has embarked on infrastructural development to enhance the storage capacity and security of the facility. In this regard, the Commission availed $319,000 in the 2019 budget for renovation of three (3) additional warehouses and construction of a perimeter fence. Two existing warehouses have been renovated and the third one is 80% completed.

d. Draft Legal Framework on prepositioning of AU Owned Equipment in the Regional Logistics Depot: The AUC conducted Logistics Capability Assessments in four (4) out of the five (5) RECs/RMs and intends conducting the assessment of NARC as soon as a date is confirmed. The objective of
the Logistics Capability Assessments is to ascertain progress made in the development of logistics capacities, identify gaps, ascertain the capacity and modalities of each REC/RM for the prepositioning of African Union Owned Equipment (AUOE). An AU-RECs/RMs Logistics Capability Assessments Harmonisation workshop is also scheduled in December 2019 to discuss the outcome of the assessment visits and confirm the RECs/RMs that are ready to receive and store the AUOE equipment. A draft Legal Framework on the Prepositioning of AUOE in the Regional Logistics Depot will be discussed during this workshop.

e. **ASF Command Control Communication Information System (C3IS):** The contract for the provision of the ASF C3IS has been signed by DENEL SOC Ltd. The AU and DENEL SOC Ltd also conducted an inaugural meeting on the ASF C3IS Project on 3rd and 4th October 2019 to develop the management plan and master schedule of the project.

f. **ASF Strategic Lift Capability:** Angola, Cameroon and Uganda have each offered Strategic Air Lift Capability to the AU for the ASF. Efforts are currently underway to finalise the agreement between the said AU Member States and the AU for the provision of these capabilities.

g. **Revision of the Health Support Manual:** The AU Health Support Manual (HSM) for AU PSO that was approved in 2011 is being reviewed by the AUC. The review has taken into account emerging threats and new developments, lessons from previous and current PSO as well as capabilities and requirements to respond to such threats. Once finalized, the document will be submitted to the next STCDSS for consideration.

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

a. **The Civilian Strategic Support Group (CSSG):** The 3rd CSSG Meeting was held on 17 and 18 October 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and discussed ‘Strengthening relations between the AU, RECs/RMs and Missions for the Enhancement of the Civilian Component of the ASF’. The meeting served as a platform to share experiences amongst the Continental and Regional PLANELMs on the deployment of civilians in AU PSOs and recommended enhancing existing coordination mechanisms between AU and RECs/RMs for effective PSO. The 4th CSSG meeting scheduled for 5 and 6 December 2019 aims to ascertain, amongst other things, the functions and roles of civilians in PSO wherein own forces deploy in own territory under the authority of an external mandating organisation.

b. **The Military Strategic Support Group (MSSG):** To date, three MSSG Workshops have been conducted and have provided support to the PSOD in developing documents on Recruitment and Deployment of Military Staff in PSOD; Terms of Reference for Pre-Deployment Visits (PDVs) of Military units for AU PSOs; Guidelines for Selection and Staffing of Military Component; and Contingency plans for potential conflict areas. The MSSG is currently finalising the Statement of Unit Requirements (SUR) for AMISOM for the Infantry Battle Group, Mission Enabling Unit, and Combat Engineering Unit. It will also develop a Guidance document for Command and Management of G5 Sahel Joint Force in the next MSSG workshop scheduled to hold in early 2020.
c. **The Police Strategic Support Group (PSSG):** The PSSG also drafted and finalised the draft Guidelines for the Selection of Individual Police Officer(s), Guidelines for Formed Police Units (these Guidelines outline what is required of Police Contributing Countries (PCCs) for the preparation of IPOs and FPUs for deployment) and the Standard Operating Procedures for Assessment for Mission Service for Individual Police Officers.

24. **Harmonization of ACIRC:** Reference is made to the decision of the 32nd Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Assembly/AU/Dec.718). In implementing this decision, the ACIRC Volunteer Nations Ministers of Defence (MoD) met from 31 August to 03 September 2019, in Pretoria, South Africa to discuss modalities for implementation of Assembly/AU/Dec.718. They recommend that (a) each VN should determine the future status and utilisation of its voluntary pledges by June 2020; (b) ACIRC achievements and best practices should be preserved and integrated into the ASF; (c) ACIRC VNs should continue to second their staff officers to the AUC at own cost, for a minimum period of twelve (12) months, as a transitional arrangement till the termination of ACIRC; (d) harmonization of ACIRC within the ASF to be completed by June 2020; and (e) the Heads of State and Government of ACIRC VNs shall consider the recommendations of the Ministers of Defence on the side lines of the 33rd AU Assembly scheduled for February 2020 and submit their report to the said Assembly for consideration. The Report of the ACIRC Volunteer Nations Ministers of Defence Report is attached as Annex D.

25. **Draft AU Border Governance Strategy:** Reference is made to the recommendation of the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the African Chiefs of Defense Staff and Heads of Safety and Security Services (ACDSS) which requested the Commission to “encourage Member States to consider the Draft African Union Border Governance Strategy. The recommendation also included a request for Member States to “provide written submissions to the Commission within a maximum period of three months in order to allow the Commission to resubmit the document to the next meeting of the STCDSS””. In this regard, on 17 October 2018, the Commission disseminated the Draft African Union Border Governance Strategy and the Report of the Member States’ Experts Validation Meeting on the Draft African Union Border Governance Strategy to all Member States for their written inputs. The Commission hereby attach the revised AU Border Governance Strategy as Annex E and submits it for consideration to the 12th STCDSS, before transmission to the Executive Council for adoption.

26. **Draft AU Policy on Management of Recovered Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in PSOs:** The draft Policy was developed pursuant to communiqué of the 584th meeting of the PSC, held on 29 March 2016, and the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa. Following this, the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held on 10-11 February 2019 in Addis Ababa, adopted decision Assembly/AU/Dec.719 (XXXII) in which it, *inter alia*, welcomed the development of the draft policy and looked forward to its timely adoption by the STCDSS. The purpose of the policy is to improve the management of recovered SALW in PSOs and reduce the illicit circulation of SALW within and outside of areas of responsibilities of AU PSO. The policy is further intended to prevent the use of illicit SALW against civilians and mission personnel and ensure transparency of a mission and the host nation. The draft policy was developed and validated through a series of consultations with Member States, ad-hoc coalitions and RECs/RMs with a SALW mandate as well as with the UN, regional and international experts. The draft Policy is attached as an Annex F for consideration by the 12th STCDSS.

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3 This includes lessons on ACIRC regarding the conduct of exercises, decision-making process, Framework Nation and Standby Roster arrangements, among others.
27. Review of the 1977 OAU Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism: Since the adoption of the 1977 OAU Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism, the security landscape has changed significantly, with the emergence of other phenomenon, including a proliferation of Private Military and Security Companies and foreign fighters. This has rendered the Convention outdated as it does not contain provisions that could guide Member States to effectively address current phenomenon, trends and trajectories. Additionally, the Convention does not contain mechanisms for monitoring, implementation and redress. Member States participating in the 2nd Africa Forum on Security Sector Reform (SSR), held on 22-24 October 2018 in Addis Ababa, strongly recommended that steps be taken to review the Convention and adapt it to the current security environment, as well as strengthen mechanisms to monitor its implementation. The STCDSS is expected to request the AU Assembly to authorize the Commission to commence the review process of the OAU Convention to address its current gaps and enhance its relevance to contemporary threats to peace and security. Background information to be presented include the Conclusions of the 2nd African Forum on SSR and the OAU Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism.

28. AU Counter - Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED) Strategy: Pursuant to Communique adopted at its 837th meeting of the AU PSC, held on 4 April 2019, a Technical Working Group was constituted to develop and review a draft Strategy. The purpose of the AU C-IED Strategy is to have in place a broad, holistic and comprehensive continent-wide approach to building C-IED capacities for preventing, countering and responding to the threat posed by IEDs. Adequate funding by member States through the AU Program Budget will ensure effective implementation of the strategy.

29. Mapping Study on Illicit Small Arms Flows in Africa: This Study was conducted pursuant to the request of the 430th meeting of the PSC held on 24 April 2014 and the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held on 3-4 July 2017 in Addis Ababa [Assembly/AU/Dec.645(XXIX)]. The study provides Member States, AU Policy Organs, and RECs/RMs with an updated assessment of the extent and nature of illicit small arms proliferation across the continent and is expected to inform evidence-based small arms control policies and targeted response measures. The study was considered by the 860th meeting of the AU PSC, held on 18 July 2019, which welcomed its findings and endorsed its recommendations. The STCDSS is requested to take note of the findings of the study and encourage Member States and relevant relevant security institutions to implement its recommendations. The study is available in all AU languages in a booklet form.

30. Africa Amnesty Month: The Africa Amnesty Month was launched by the decision of the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly on the Inaugural Report of the PSC on the Implementation of the Master Roadmap on Silencing the Guns. The Press Statement of the 788th PSC Meeting further states that the STCDSS should remain seized of the annual preparations for the Africa Amnesty Month. The STCDSS is requested to commit to the implementation of the Africa Amnesty Month and the provision of annual reports as directed by the AU Assembly and the PSC.

31. Update on current activities of the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL): The African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) continues to support cooperation among the national police agencies in the continent in the fight against transnational organized crime. As part of these efforts, the AFRIPOL General Assembly, at its 3rd meeting held in Algiers, Algeria, from 2-3 October 2019, adopted the draft Regulations on Data Processing for the African Police Communication System (AFSECOM). The draft AFSECOM Regulations provide the principles and rules governing processing and
sharing of data on criminal activities to enhance coordination among Member States in the fight against transnational organized crime. This is part of efforts to address issues of terrorism and illicit arms proliferation and illicit financial flow. The draft AFSECOM Regulations is attached as Annex G and is hereby submitted to the 12th STCDSS for consideration.

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

a. African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)

32. Somalia continues to make steady progress in its reform agenda, including preparations for elections in 2020/2021. However, there are challenges between the Federal Government and Federal Member States relating to political agreements between Federal Government and Federal Member States on the status of Mogadishu, electoral model, resource sharing, fiscal federalism, judicial model, presidential or parliamentary political system, unicameral or bicameral parliament.

33. Insecurity remains the greatest impediment to sustainable progress in Somalia due to al-Shabaab terrorism activities that pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in parts of Somalia. Al-Shabaab continues to conscript, train and deploy fighters, both local and foreign, raise considerable revenue, through extortions, and impose levies on businesses across South Central Somalia. Further, al-Shabaab still operates in unrecovered areas and within population centers from where they carry out asymmetric attacks against AMISOM and Somali Security Forces (SSF), key government officials and installations, as well as civilians.

34. As part of efforts of creating peace in Somalia, the FGS, supported by AMISOM and international partners is facilitating implementation of the Transition Plan (TP) through a Comprehensive Approach to Security (CAS). Even though encouraging progress has been registered in the implementation of the TP, the timelines and priorities have not been kept mainly due to lack of sufficient resources to train, equip and provide welfare to Somali National Security Forces (SNSF). There is need for the FGS to put additional effort on force generation and integration of regional forces in view of their commitment for transition of security responsibilities from AMISOM, with Somali National Security Forces (SNSF) in the lead, as a priority by 2021 and the need for securing 2020/21 elections. In line with this, the drawdown of 1000 AMISOM troops is scheduled to be facilitated by 28 February 2020, to be guided by a threat assessment that will be completed in December 2019, which will also inform a review of AMISOM equipment for optimization, a reconfiguration plan, realignment of AMISOM’s 2018-2021 CONOPs and renewal of AMISOM’s mandate in May 2020.

35. Taking note of the intended transition of AMISOM in 2021, there is need for the AU to conduct of a strategic review to ascertain AU’s role and presence in Somalia post 2021 and how to continue supporting Somalia in sustaining the gains achieved.

b. Multinational Joint Taskforce (MNJTF) against Boko Haram

36. Update on support to the Implementation of Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy (RSS) for the Lake Chad Basin: In line with the Communique of the PSC adopted at its 816th Meeting held on 5th December 2018, the Commission is supporting the Implementation of the Lake Chad Basin RSS.
The Strategy seeks to ensure that stabilization efforts in the Lake Chad Basin do not become overly military by establishing a platform alongside the operations of the MNJTF for addressing development and humanitarian conditions deemed to be at the root of the crisis. In this regard and at the request of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), the AUC led the development of a Template and Guidance Notes for the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) envisaged as the building blocks for the implementation of the Strategy. The AUC has also developed a tracking and monitoring mechanism to capture AUC-wide support for the implementation of the RSS while ensuring that implementation is holistic along the nine pillars of the Strategy. Through the APSA tools, the Commission continues to engage international development partners in the design and implementation of programmes that aim to strengthen and establish community-level peace architectures, including capacity building for local actors engaged in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations in the Lake Chad Basin.

37. The AU supports the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) through the provision of additional logistics and technical support to the operations. This includes support to the implementation of the LCBC Regional Stabilisation Strategy (RSS), implementation of a PoC Strategy, and a database of persons associated with Boko Haram who have defected or captured.

38. The AU also supports the MNJTF with services and equipment using funds provided by the European Union, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Support Implementation Agreement (SIA) between the AU, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and MNJTF TCCs. The MNJTF mandate and authority is expected to be renewed by the AU PSC in December 2019 and to take effect in February 2020.

39. The AU has noted the progress achieved by MNJTF, including through the conduct of Operation YANCIN TAFKI, conducted since 19 January, 2019 which has considerably weakened and degraded the capability of Boko Haram. The operation was undertaken in coordination with national forces of the MNJTF TCCs to remove the Boko Haram terrorist group from the islands of Lake Chad that stretches through the border areas of Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon.

c. Group of Five (G5) Sahel Joint Force

40. The year 2019 was marked by many enhancements within the Joint Force of the G5 Sahel (JF-G5S) through the gradual operationalization of the Sector command posts and the conduct of a number of operations against Terrorist Armed Groups (TAG). The Force Headquarters is also under construction in Bamako since its destruction in June 2018 by TAG. However, despite the achievements, the engagement of the TAG in the Liptako - Gourma areas in general and particularly in central Mali and north-eastern Burkina Faso remains a major security concern. Many attacks are carried out against the defense and security forces of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, as well as the JF-G5S by the Group for Support to Islam and Muslims (in Arabic JNIM).

41. In addition to attacks conducted by TAG, intercommunity conflicts in Mali and the Sahel mostly between farmers and herders have killed hundreds of civilians. These conflicts over access to resources are now exploited by TAG and have become a major challenge for the protection of civilians. In this regard, the AU Commission conveyed a Ministerial Meeting in Bamako Mali on 28-29 November 2019 on access to natural resources and conflict between communities and culminated in the adoption of the Bamako Declaration.
42. Against the foregoing, attention should be marked on the operationalization and capacity building of the JF-G5S and the protection of civilians in the region. The AUC will continue conducting its quarterly operational assessment visits to the headquarters of the JT-G5S to ensure support to the full operationalization of the force.

d. Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lords Resistance Army (RCI-LRA)

43. Although military operations of the RTF disrupted LRA command and control, their (LRA) potential capabilities to commit atrocities remains. The LRA has been exploiting the security vacuum in south-eastern Central Africa Republic (CAR) and north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and continue committing atrocities against civilians in these countries. In view of the foregoing, the 795th meeting of the PSC, held on 20 September 2018, decided to maintain the RCI-LRA, pending the development of a strategy to progressively phase out the RCI-LRA without leaving any security vacuum in the affected areas. The PSC therefore requested the Commission to develop an exit strategy, with realistic timelines, for the liquidation of the RCI-LRA. However, the above decisions have not been implemented due to logistical challenges. With the closure of the RTF HQ in Yambio in June 2017, closure of the MONUSCO’s Joint Intelligence Operations Centre (JIOC) in Dungu, north-eastern DRC, in 2017, and the suspension of EU funding, the AUC have had challenges in facilitating the activities of the RCI-LRA, except the updates and briefs received from the Invisible Children. As a result, there are no RTF operations against the LRA on the ground other than efforts of national forces in north-eastern DRC. In this regard, efforts should be consolidated with support from Member States to facilitate implementation of the decision of the 795th meeting of the PSC for the liquidation of the RCI-LRA.

e. African Union Mission Against Ebola in the DRC (MAEC)

44. The Ministry of Health (MoH) of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) officially declared on the 1st of August 2018 the existence of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the Eastern part of the country, in the North-Kivu and Ituri provinces. In this regard, the Government of the DRC called for International support. Subsequently the 862nd PSC meeting of July 2019, authorised the African Union Mission Against Ebola in the DR Congo (MAEC) and through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa-CDC) deployed a multidisciplinary team in the affected DRC provinces.

45. The Eastern provinces of North Kivu and Ituri have experienced decades of violence, with scores of armed groups. The security crisis is deepening since the beginning of the EVD epidemic and hampered the activities of the Ebola Response Team. Further the World Health Organization has warned it may not be possible to contain the DRC latest Ebola outbreak in the two affected provinces, if violent attacks on health workers and treatment centers continue. The AU continues to deploy efforts to stem the disease.
IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

a) Provide guidance for enhancing efforts on silencing the guns in Africa
b) Endorse the AU PSO Doctrine.
c) Endorse the ASF Pledged Capabilities Verification Guidelines.
d) Adopt and endorse the 11th ASF Training Implementation Workshop (TIW) Report.
e) Endorse the AU Policy on Management of Recovered Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in PSOs and encourage PSOs to utilise this policy in the implementation of their mandates.
f) Endorse the review of the 1977 OAU Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism.
g) Request Member States to support implementation of the mandates of current AU mandated and authorised PSOs.
h) Endorse the draft Regulations on Data Processing for the African Police Communication System (AFSECOM)
ANNEXES:

Annex A: Draft AU PSO Doctrine
Annex B: Draft ASF Pledged Capabilities Verification Guidelines
Annex C: 11th ASF Training Implementation Workshop (TIW) Report
Annex D: Declaration of Ministers of Defence of ACIRC Volunteering Nations
Annex E: Draft AU Border Governance Strategy
Annex F: Draft AU Policy on Management of Recovered Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in PSOs
Annex G: Draft Regulations on Data Processing for the African Police Communications System (AFSECOM)