PRESS RELEASE

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL IN AUGUST 2021 DURING THE CHAIRSHIP OF CAMEROON

31 August 2021, Addis Ababa: The Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for the Month of August 2021, the Permanent Representative of the Republic Cameroon to the African Union Commission, H.E. Ambassador Churchill EWUMBUE-MONONO has declared that his country’s chairship was very intensive, engaging, productive and fulfilling.

In a Press briefing to mark the end of Cameroon’s Chairship, Ambassador Ewumbue-Monono stated that despite the holiday season, the Council held 14 sessions in August 2021, one at the ministerial level, nine at Ambassadorial level, four at the level of Experts.

The Council also had two informal consultative meetings: one between its Chairperson and his counterpart of the UN Security Council, on 25 August 2021 and, the other with the Chair of the EU Peace and Security Committee on 27 August 2021. Moreover, the Chairperson of the PSC co-launched the 2nd edition of *The African Union Peace and Security Council Handbook* with Amani Africa on 30 August 2021.

The outcome of these meetings and side events have been thirteen policy documents, including five Communiqués, two Press Statements, four Summary Records of proceedings, two Press Releases and an audio-visual press briefing.

During the month of August, the PSC and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolutions (RECs/RMs) held their 2nd Annual Joint Consultative Meeting, virtually, as part of their regular dialogue within the framework of Article 16 of the PSC Protocol, which institutionalizes the relationship between the PSC and the RECs/RMs in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa. The Council also engaged with other AU organs and Departments of the AU, such as the ACHPR and the Health Humanitarian and Social Development Department, as well as external partners such as the ICRC, EU and the UNDP on thematic and country-specific issues. The Council also engaged on country-specific issues with six (6) Member States, on AU support to Political Transition and Post-conflict situations.

Although the month of August is usually a vacation period, the participation in the PSC virtual meetings were usually very high with an average of 60 participants. The Ministerial Meeting of the
19th August, for instance, registered a total of 108 participants. This was followed by that on the cooperation between the PSC and the RECs/RMs of the 26 August with 104 participants.

The contribution of Cameron’s Chairship in August, 2021 to the advancement of Peace and Security in Africa are enormous. It revamped some issues such as Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), the AU Humanitarian Agency (AUHA), Border Governance and the Cooperation between the PSC and the RECs/RMs. In addition, the PSC Committee of Experts examined the priorities for utilizing the Peace Fund, as well as the development of the common African position strategic paper on financing AU Peace Support Operations.

The Cameroon Chairship further introduced public diplomacy and effective communication to create greater visibility. It started with a programmatic Press Release on 2 August and ended with an evaluative Press Release on 31 August 2021. The Chairship was also calm and peaceful as no new crises were introduced on the PSC agenda during the month.