COMMUNIQUE OF THE 30th MEETING OF THE MILITARY OPERATIONS COORDINATION COMMITTEE (MOCC)

Addis Ababa, 26th April, 2020: The 30th Meeting of Military Operations Coordination Committee (MOCC) of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Troop Contributing Countries and Federal Government of Somalia was held by Video conference (VC) on 21 April, 2020. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Smail Chergui, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security and attended by Chiefs of Defense Forces (CDF) of Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Somalia, representative of CDS of Ethiopia and Head UNSOS, ASG Ambassador Lisa Filipetto. The CDS of Djibouti could not participate due to technical reasons.

To ensure consensus with the TCCs on African Union’s position, including ensuring inputs to the upcoming renewal of AMISOM’s Mandate as well as on the future of AU’s continued support to Somalia and AMISOM, the meeting considered amongst others the following: Security in Somalia from now up to beyond 2021; specifically discussing the areas of focus of AMISOM TCCs from now up to Dec 2021 including what tasks will be necessary for AMISOM to address Somalia’s security threats beyond 2021; Measures that should be taken to ensure that the gains achieved by FGS and AMISOM are not reversed; Mechanisms that can be established and or utilised to consolidate Regional coordination and Consensus, especially involving neighbours and TCC actions in Somalia. Finally, it discussed Resource mobilisation for AMISOM including the replenishment of AMISOM Trust Fund, due to the financial constraints facing the Mission.

The meeting congratulated the SNSF and AMISOM for the recent successful operations including the capture and holding of Jenale town, and welcomed the tremendous efforts by FGS and SNA to generate new forces (through its partners) who have proved effective and operating jointly with AMISOM. The meeting acknowledged the additional sacrifices being made by some of the TCCs to sustain non-AMISOM troops in Somalia (following the recent drawdown of 1000 troops) as a stop gap measure, but agreed that this was not sustainable in the long run, and called for halt in any further reductions of AMISOM uniformed personnel Members noted the success in the implementation of Somali Transition Plan and UNSCR 2472, albeit some delays, re-prioritisation and capability challenges. The meeting took note of the need for the FGS to continually work closely with the Federal Member States to resolve the political issues and differences as this has direct implications on the security operations of AMISOM in the FMS and with the FMS forces. Despite the current challenges, the meeting appreciated the logistics support, maintenances, construction of infrastructure including Communications links being installed by UNSOS to support AMISOM and SNA.
All the TCCs agreed to continue to support the FGS/SNA, as this is in line with the spirit of AU’s initial decision to deploy AMISOM and wider support to Somalia. The TCCs further agreed to support the efforts of FGS in force generation and called for AU PSC to include the tasks for training, mentoring and joint operations, for AMISOM Military and Police Components in the upcoming AMISOM Mandate. This is not in prejudice to partners offering force generation activities to FGS. The meeting stressed the importance of strengthening Command and Control within the Military Component, creation and operationalisation of mobile forces within each sector and judicious use of the force multipliers and enablers including the incoming Helicopters from Uganda in offensive operations against Al Shabab.

While taking note of the negative effects of COVID -19 on the implementation of the STP, especially restrictions of movements, delay of force generation (trainings by Turkey, UK, EU and US), the meeting welcomed the actions taken by FGS, AMISOM leadership and UN/UNSOS to contain the spread of COVID – 19 and treating those infected by the virus. The meeting welcomed the announcement by the Commissioner on the incoming equipment donated by the Governments of China and Korea to support the efforts to contain COVID -19 in AMISOM.

On the issue of resources the meeting called for high level AU consultations including possibly at a Summit level to consider other supplementary options for the mobilization and provision of required resources to support AMISOM leading up to December 2021 and possibly beyond.

In conclusion, the meeting took note and appreciated the tremendous success of AMISOM (including its T/PCCs) and FGS, operating in a very difficult environment and constraints, in implementing their mandates and responsibilities, and called on the AU, including the PSC, IGAD and the A3 to ensure that these successes and sacrifices are not belittled or undermined, but rather supported and consolidated.