Press Release

31st Meeting of the expanded Operations Coordination Committee (MOCC)

Addis Ababa, 21st October, 2020: The 31st Meeting of the expanded Military Operations Coordination Committee (MOCC) of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was held virtually on 21 October, 2020. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Smail Chergui, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security and attended by the Chiefs of Defense Forces/Staffs (CDF/S) of Ethiopia, Kenya, Burundi, Somalia; Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Sierra Leone, representatives of IGP Ghana; Assistant Secretary General Ambassador Lisa Filipetto, Head of UNSOS and Ambassador Birgitte MARKUSSEN, Head of European Union Delegation to the African Union. The CDFs of Djibouti and Uganda could not participate due to technical reasons.

In his opening remarks, the Commissioner for Peace and Security expressed sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to the AMISOM Troop and Police Contributing Countries, the Federal Government of Somalia, the United Nations, the strategic partners for participating in the meeting. He noted that the meeting is taking place within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic which has imposed serious restrictions on AMISOM operations and commended all stakeholders for the determination and commitment in pursuing their engagements in Somalia.

The meeting took note of the confirmation of the electoral model, as well as the scheduled timeframe for the elections and commended the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Federal Member States (FMS) for achieving this huge milestone. The meeting also re-emphasised the call of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) for the AU-UN co-leadership of the Independent Assessment which should go beyond security to include broader stabilisation and early recovery as outlined in paragraph 15 of AUPSC Communique 923 and paragraphs 10 and 11 of AUPSC Communique 949. The meeting emphasized that a clear strategic direction for Somalia post 2021 is critical for future operations.

The meeting further noted the increased security threat posed by Al Shabaab and agreed on the need for AMISOM’s leadership to engage with the Somali Government on the conduct of a threat analysis to inform future operations. AMISOM was requested to continue supporting the efforts of the FGS and FMS’ in reviewing the Somali Transition Plan which will serve as a guide for the review and realignment of the AMISOM CONOPs. The meeting endorsed the proposal for enhanced joint planning between AMISOM and SNSF as well as other stakeholders conducting operations in Somalia. Relatedly, AMISOM was also requested to come up with a proposal on how Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) can assist with the training of Somali Security Forces (SSF) to address the longstanding challenge of Force Generation. It was reiterated that having an enhanced capacity of the Somalia National Security Forces to takeover identified Forward Operating Bases (FOB) will enable AMISOM to implement its reconfiguration plan and future operations presented during the meeting.
The meeting appreciated the deployment of an AMISOM Aviation Unit from Uganda, the progress made in finalising the deployment of the Ghana Formed Police Unit (FPU) to Baidoa and the ongoing efforts for the deployment of the Djibouti FPU to BeletWeyne.

The meeting concluded by reiterating the need for an enhanced financial and logistical support to AMISOM, and for AMSIOM to provide a secured environment for the forthcoming election in Somalia. AMSIOM was commended for its continuous efforts in contributing to peace and state building processes in support of the Somalia Transition Plan to enhance peace and stability across Somalia.