OPENING STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER CHERGUI, COMMISSIONER FOR
PEACE AND SECURITY, AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION DURING THE AFTER
ACTION REVIEW OF THE CONDUCT OF AMANI AFRICA II FIELD TRAINING
EXERCISE

MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

MONDAY, 4 APRIL 2016
OPENING STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER CHERGUI, COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY, AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION DURING THE AFTER ACTION REVIEW OF THE CONDUCT OF AMANI AFRICA II FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

His Excellency Oldermiro Baloi, Distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Mozambique

General Graca Chongo, Chief of General Staff of the Mozambique Defence Force

H.E. David Simango, Mayor of the City of Maputo

Distinguished Representatives from African Union Member States,

Distinguished Representative from the Southern Africa Development Community as the Host of the AMANI Africa II Exercise,

Distinguished Representatives from EASF, ECCAS, ECOWAS and NARC

Distinguished Partners,

Member of the

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Allow me from the outset to express our renewed pleasure to be in this beautiful coastland of Maputo. We are enjoying the usual warm reception of the People and Government of the Republic of Mozambique. This hospitality has indeed been extended to all participants of this After Action Review on the AMANI Africa II Field Training Exercise. I would like to express on behalf of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and myself, our profound gratitude to the people and Government of Mozambique for hosting this meeting and providing excellent arrangements towards its success.

2. The People and Government of Mozambique must not only be commended for continued contributions in the promotion of peace, security and
dialogue in Africa but should also be applauded for their achievements in the country’s development agenda, which has lifted the standard of living of its citizens. I am proud of the remarkable gains that has been made since my last visit.

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

3. I join the Minister of Foreign Affairs in recongising the sacrifices of our uniformed and civilian personnel who are deployed in volatile security environments across the continent. Their deployments constantly reminds us of the security challenges that we must collectively address but also the altruism of Africans in being our sisters and brothers keeper especially in times of adversities. With this consistent and collective demonstration of African solidarity, I am confident our sacrifices shall not be in Vein!

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

4. Today meeting marks yet another important step towards enhancing the capacity of Africa to manage our crises more effectively. You would recall that the AMANI Africa II Field Training Exercise was conducted from 19 October to 8 November 2015. During the Exercise, the AU together with the RECs/RMs and Volunteering Member States deployed more than 6,000 uniformed and civilian personnel in both Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and in Lohatla, South Africa – as Strategic and Mission headquarters respectively - to validate the capacity of Africa to plan, launch, manage and liquidate peace support operations through this Exercise. During the Distinguished Visitors Day ceremony, which marked the end of the AMANI Africa II Exercise, I remarked that, the overall conduct of the Exercise was successful.
5. The impression about the success of the Exercise was re-echoed by AU Member States during the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security held in Addis Ababa on 15 January 2016. The Member States however recognized that some challenges still persists in the Full Operational Capability of the ASF and therefore directed the AU Commission to convene an After Action Review and undertake other measures including the verification of pledged capabilities and assessment of the ASF Planning Elements prior to the next meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security, scheduled in May 2016. The Heads of State and Government, during their 25th Ordinary Summit further endorsed the convening of the After Action Review here in Maputo.

6. It is against this backdrop that we are holding this After Action Review on the Conduct of the AMANI Africa II Field Training Exercise. The Exercise Participants comprising of Senior Mission Leadership, RECs/RMs, relevant training centres and some partners have been invited to this meeting, to undertake a thorough review of the Exercise, with a view to determine and document successes achieved, identify some challenges encountered and propose concrete and practical recommendations on how to further enhance the African Standby Force. I encourage all participants to see this After Action Review as yet another learning experience aimed at providing constructive reflections and proposing a way forward, which will further strengthen our capacity towards effective conflict management, including through the African Standby Force, when required.

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen:

7. There are two critical aspects that I consider significant in this After Action Review. The first relates to the need for serious reflection on how to improve mission support requirements for peace support operations. The AMANI Africa II Field Training Exercise confirmed the difficulties that we
continue to face in ongoing peace support operations on how to provide the required logistical support requirements, for our missions. At the same time, there are clear potentials within the continent as evidenced in the provision of strategic lift by Algeria, Angola and Nigeria during the Exercise. Yet, the rapid generation and sustainability of these assets and other support requirements remain a challenge that we must address. I urge the Experts to propose innovative ways through which this can be achieved.

8. The **second aspect** is in relation to the future of the ASF. We have seen progress made in the last decade in the operationalisation of the ASF. In parallel, the changing nature of crises on the continent, including the threats of terrorism requires renewed thinking about the adequacy of the doctrinal, policy and training requirements for force preparation and force employment especially. As a result, there is an urgent need to begin to align the ASF with the nature of contemporary security threats. The envisaged ASF Five Year Work Plan, which will be a main subject of discussion during this review meeting, is an opportunity to commence this process.

9. At the end of this After Action Review, a Report and an ASF Five Year Work Plan will be developed, which will be presented to AU Member States during the next Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security. The endorsements of these documents will lay the foundation for the next phase of the development of the ASF.

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

10. All the achievements that we have made thus far, would never have been possible without the ardent support received from our Member States, South Africa as host country of the AMANI Africa II, SADC as host region, other participating RECs/RMs, financial contributions received from Kenya and some partners as well as other stakeholders. I would like to, on behalf
of the AU Commission, re-iterate our deepest appreciation for the support. We will continue to rely on your assistance in the future enhancement of the ASF.

11. In conclusion, let me once again welcome you to his After Action Review on the conduct of AMANI Africa II Field Training Exercise. I appreciate all efforts that have been put towards the successful convening of this meeting and I wish all participants very fruitful deliberations. At this stage, let me join my brother, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in declaring this Meeting open.

Thank you!