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UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia P.O Box 3243 Tel: (251-11)5513 822 Tel: (251-11)5519 321/5514 227
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
689TH MEETING

30 MAY 2017
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM. (DCLXXXIX)

COMMUNIQUE

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Peace and Security Council (PSC/Council) of the African Union (AU), at its 689th meeting held on 30 May 2017, adopted the following decision on the AU Peace Fund and the Partnership between the AU and the United Nations (UN) with respect to predictable financing of AU peace and security activities.

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the AU Peace Fund: *Implementing an Enhanced Governance and Accountability Framework*, as well as of the *Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Relevant Provisions of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2320 (2016) on UN Assessed Contributions for AU mandated or authorised Peace Support Operations (PSOs) authorised by the UN Security Council* and the briefing by the AU High Representative for the Peace Fund and the Financing of the Union;
2. **Welcomes** the statements made by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and that of the AU High Representative for the Peace Fund and the Financing of the Union and **commends** the AU High Representative and the Commission for the high quality of the reports and the work undertaken so far with regard to the Peace Fund ;
3. **Recalls** its earlier decisions on the partnership between the AU and the UN in the area of peace and security, including the financing of AU mandated or authorised PSOs undertaken with the authorisation of the UN Security Council, in particular Communiqué PSC/PR/Comm.(CLXXVIII) and Press Statement PSC/PR/BR.2(CC VII), adopted at its 178th and 206th meetings on 13 March and 15 October 2009, respectively, as well as Communiqués PSC/PR/Comm.(CCCVII) and PSC/AHG/Comm/1.(CCCXCVII) adopted at its 307th and 397th meetings held on 9 January 2012 and 23 September 2013 and Press Statement PSC/PR/BR.(DXXXII) adopted at its 532nd meeting held on 10 August 2015;
4. **Further recalls** Communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM/2(DXLVII) adopted at its 547th meeting held in New York on 26 September 2015, which welcomed the modalities proposed by the Chairperson of the Commission on the follow up steps on the Common African Position on the Review of UN Peace Operations [PSC/AHG/3. (DXLVII)], for the provision of UN assessed contributions to AU mandated or authorised PSOs, and agreed that the operationalization of the proposed arrangements for the financing of AU-led peace support operations undertaken with the authorisation of the UN Security Council should be predicated on the following:
 - i. African ownership, as a key factor to the success of peace efforts on the continent;
 - ii. reaffirmation of the primary role of the UN Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, and of the role of regional arrangements as elaborated in Chapter VIII of the UN Charter;

- iii. acknowledgment that support by the UN to regional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security is an integral part of collective security as provided for in the UN Charter;
- iv. enhanced strategic partnership with the UN, including the development of a framework outlining the steps necessary to activate authorization by the UN Security Council of AU-led missions to be supported by UN assessed contributions;
- v. strengthening of the AU's capacity to plan and manage PSOs;
- vi. enhancement of AU financial oversight mechanisms; and
- vii. strengthening of the AU's Human Rights Due Diligence capabilities, including preventing and combating sexual exploitation and abuses in AU-led peace support operations;

5. **Reiterates** its commitment, in line with the relevant provisions of the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, to the partnership with the UN based on the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security and the role of regional arrangements as provided for in Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, and in accordance with the principles of comparative advantage, division of labour, burden-sharing and consultative decision-making. In this respect, Council **stresses, once again**, that support by the UN to regional organisations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security is an integral part of collective security as provided for in the UN Charter;

6. **Reaffirms** that adherence to the principle of African ownership and priority-setting for the continent's peace and security agenda is critical for the successful promotion of lasting peace, security and stability in Africa. In this respect, Council **underscores the importance** of the decisions of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the financing of the AU peace and security agenda as part of the overall financing of the Union, including Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.561(XXIV) and Assembly/AU/Dec.577(XXV) adopted by the 24th and 25th Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly of the Union, held in January and June 2015, in Addis Ababa and Johannesburg, respectively, by which Member States agreed to contribute 25% of the AU peace and security efforts, including peace support operations, and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605(XXVII) on the financing of the Union adopted by the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in July 2016 in Kigali, which decided to endow the AU Peace Fund with \$400m by 2020 with financing raised from AU Member States.

7. **Recalls** resolutions 1809 (2007), 2033(2012) and 2167 (2014), as well as presidential statement PRST/2014/27, in which the UN Security Council, *inter alia*: (a) expressed its determination to take effective steps to further enhance the relationship between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations, in particular the AU, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, (b) reiterated that the growing contribution made by regional and sub-regional organizations can usefully complement the work of the UN in maintaining international peace and security, and that cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations and consistent with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter can improve collective security, and (c) stressed the need to

enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a UN mandate;

8. **Welcomes** UN Security Council Resolution 2320 (2016) which acknowledged the need for more support to enhance AU PSOs and encouraged further dialogue between the UN and AU to this end; stressed the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led PSOs authorized by the Security Council; and expressed the Security Council's readiness to consider the proposals of the AU, for future authorization and support by the Security Council for AU PSOs authorized by the Security Council and under the Security Council's authority under Chapter VIII of the Charter, including on financing and accountability;

9. **Commends** the work undertaken by the Commission and the UN Secretariat to follow up on the relevant provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 2320 (2016), particularly the consultative process undertaken between March and April 2017;

10. **Endorses** the Enhanced Governance and Accountability Framework of the Peace Fund and the management structure, the proposed eligibility criteria and fund management principles as recommended in the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission, taking into consideration representation of AU Member States in the governing structures of the Peace Fund, based on regional representation and the modalities to implement it, in addition to the operating costs of the Fund, and **requests** the Commission to expedite the full operationalization of the Peace Fund Governance and Management Arrangements, in consultation with relevant AU Organs;

11. **Adopts** the report submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission with respect to the three issues identified by the Security Council in paragraph 7 of UNSCR 2320, namely, (a) details of the proposed scope of PSOs to be considered; (b) the progress, benchmarks, and timelines for implementation of the AU Peace Fund, and (c) accountability, transparency, and compliance frameworks for AU PSOs, as a basis for operationalising the financing arrangements. Council **urges** the UN, in close consultation with the AU, to establish financing and mission support models that are fit for purpose and adapted to the requirements of each type of operation;

a. Scope of Operations: In the same way that the UNSC will take decisions on support to AU PSOs on a case-by-case basis, the PSC will equally decide, on a case-by-case basis, which operations it would request UN support through assessed contributions. The Chairperson's report identifies four broad types of operations that the AU is likely to mandate or authorize. These should not be read as a pre-defined list, or preclude the possibility of the emergence of new trends and types of operations based on an evolving security context:

- i. *Observer Missions*;
- ii. *Preventive Deployment and Peace Enforcement Missions* implemented by the AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Mechanisms (RMs) for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution or a coalition of Member States;
- iii. *Stabilization Missions following Peace Enforcement Missions* implemented by the AU or RECs/RMs. The AU envisages a limited bridging stabilization role,

focused on multi-dimensional tasks within its comparative advantage, in the period immediately following peace enforcement operations and in advance of the deployment of a UN Peacekeeping Operation;

- iv. *Missions and Security Initiatives in response to complex national/transnational security threats implemented by the AU, RECs/RMs or coalitions of Member States.*
 - b. Progress, benchmarks, and timelines for implementation of the AU Peace Fund: Council **urges** for the swift operationalisation of the remaining elements of the Peace Fund implementation milestones, in line with the timelines set out in the Chairperson's report.
 - c. Adherence to International Humanitarian Law, Human rights, Conduct and Discipline in the conduct of PSOs: Council **emphasizes** the importance of compliance in these areas, as it goes to the heart of the effectiveness, legitimacy and credibility of the deployment of AU mandated or authorized PSOs. Council **further requests** regular reporting on the implementation of the work plan and an annual report on compliance in on-going AU mandated or authorized PSOs.
12. **Requests** the Security Council, on the basis of the above and the UN Secretary-General's Report on options for authorization and support for AU PSOs, to take practical steps towards the adoption of a substantive Resolution that establishes the principle that AU mandated or authorized PSOs authorized by the UN Security Council should be financed through UN assessed contributions, with decisions on the financing of specific missions to be taken on a case by case basis;
13. **Welcomes** the expansion of the mandate of the High Representative for the Peace Fund and **encourages** him to undertake sustained bilateral engagements with Member States to expedite the endowment of the Peace Fund in line with the Kigali Decision;
14. **Underlines** the critical role to be played by the African Members of the UN Security Council (A3) in advancing AU Peace and Security Agenda at the UN level, in particular with regard to reaching a substantive resolution on the use of UN assessed contributions to support AU mandated or authorised PSOs;
15. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, to follow up on the various aspects of this communiqué, in particular the development of an overall implementation plan for the proposals contained in his report to Council, including areas for joint action with the UN where appropriate, and the establishment, within the Commission, of an inter-departmental follow up structure that will periodically report to Council through the Chairperson;
16. **Commends** Member States that have already made their contributions to the Peace Fund and **appeals** to all other AU Member States that have not yet done so, to take the necessary steps to expedite the payment of their annual contributions to the Peace Fund. Council **reiterates its conviction** that African ownership with regard to the AU Peace and Security Agenda is only possible, if Member States assume their share of the common burden in efforts towards promoting peace, security and stability in the continent.

17. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission and his High Representative to take forward the political engagement with United Nations and relevant partners towards securing a substantive UNSC resolution on these issues in 2017. Council **further requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit this Communiqué and his Report on the Relevant Provisions of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2320 (2016) on UN Assessed Contributions for AU mandated or authorized PSOs authorized by the UN Security Council to the UN Secretary-General for onward transmission to the UN Security Council, for its consideration and action as appropriate;
18. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.