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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
770TH MEETING

2 MAY 2018
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCLXX)

COMMUNIQUE

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The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 770th meeting held on 2 May 2017, adopted the following decision on the AU Peace Fund:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing made by Dr. Donald Kaberuka, the AU High Representative for Financing of the African Union and the Peace Fund within the framework of the implementation of Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605(XXVII) on the Financing of the African Union, including the Peace Fund, adopted by the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016;

2. **Recalls** its earlier communiqués and press statements on the AU Peace Fund, in particular press statement [PSC/PR/BR.(DCXXI)] adopted at its 621st meeting held on 5 September 2016 and communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM. (DCLXXXIX)] adopted at its 689th meeting held on 30 May 2017. Council **further recalls** the UN Security Council Resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017) which laid the foundation for championing the Common African Position on ensuring predictable and sustainable financing, on the case by case basis, through UN assessed contributions for AU mandated/authorized peace support operations subsequently authorized by the UN Security Council, within the framework of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter,

3. **Takes note** of the progress made in the revitalization of the AU Peace Fund and **appreciates** that from 2017, the fund received the highest levels of Member States' contributions since its establishment in 1993 and **appeals** to all AU Member States, who have not yet done so, to meet their financial contributions for 2017 and 2018. In this context, Council **commends** the AU High Representative for his tireless efforts on the revitalization of the Peace Fund;

4. **Welcomes** the establishment by the Chairperson of the Commission of an Inter-Departmental Task Force to drive the operationalization of the Peace Fund and the AU – UN partnership with respect to securing predictable and sustainable financing for AU-mandated / authorized peace support operations in line with the PSC's request in its communiqué adopted at its 689th meeting held on 30 May 2017;

5. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to accelerate the operationalization of the governance and management arrangements of the Peace Fund, including the appointment of the Board of Trustees by mid-June 2018, for submission to the Assembly of the Union in July 2018, to be followed by the operationalization of the remaining elements by September 2018, namely:

- i. Development of Peace Fund financial and procurement rules and regulations, bearing in mind the need for rapid action, flexibility and effective response to crises on the continent, while at the same time ensuring that proper accountability, oversight and fiduciary standards are fully met,
- ii. Development of standard operating procedures and manuals,
- iii. Establishment of the Executive Management Committee,
- iv. Open and transparent recruitment of the staff for the Peace Fund Secretariat

Staff,

- v. Establishment of the Independent Evaluation Panel,
 - vi. Putting in place terms of reference for the Peace Fund Manager;
6. **Further reiterates the need** to redouble efforts to champion and mobilize predictable and sustainable financing within the framework of the AU-UN Partnership and **agrees** to further discuss the matter with the UN Security Council during the upcoming 12th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the two Councils, in July 2018;
7. **Commends** the African Members of the UN Security Council for their efforts which led to the adoption of UN Security Council Resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017) and **appeals** to them to continue spearheading the African Common Position on predictable and sustainable financing through UN assessed contributions for AU mandated/authorized peace support operations with specific financing decisions to be made on a case-by-case basis;
8. **Decides** to schedule a special session with the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council and the African Members of the UN Security Council to discuss the issue of predictable and sustainable financing through UN assessed contributions for AU mandated/authorized peace support operations in the coming months;
9. **Requests** the AU Commission to disseminate to regularly update Council and all Member States on the developments regarding the operationalization of the AU Peace Fund, including the status of Member States contributions;
10. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.