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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
814TH MEETING
3 DECEMBER 2018
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR.(DCCXIV)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 814th meeting, held on 3 December 2018, was briefed by the African Members in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) (A3), namely, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and Ethiopia, on the preparation for the draft United Nations (UN) resolution on "cooperation between the United Nations (UN) and sub-regional organizations: the role of states, regional arrangement and United Nations in the prevention of conflicts", to be presented to the UN Security Council in December 2018, under the Presidency of Cote d'Ivoire.

Council took note of the briefing made by the A3 in Addis Ababa, namely, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and Ethiopia, and commended their efforts deployed championing the drafting of the draft UNSC resolution on cooperation between the United Nations (UN) and sub-regional organizations: the role of states, regional arrangement and United Nations in the prevention of conflicts.

Council recalled the Assembly decisions, namely [Assembly/AU/Dec561(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, as well as 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. Council also recalled the AU-UN Joint Framework for Enhancing Partnership in Peace and Security, signed on 17 April 2017. Council further recalled decision adopted by the 11th Extra-ordinary session held on 17 to 18 November 2018.

Council re-affirmed the terms of its communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(DCLXXXIX), adopted at its 689th meeting held on 30 May 2017, which requested the UN Security Council 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. Council recalled its communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCCXIII)], adopted at 813th meeting held on 29 November 2018, adopted the Draft Policy on Conduct and Discipline for Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and the Draft Policy for Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for PSOs.

Council further re-affirmed the primacy of the UN Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, as defined by the UN Charter and acknowledges the need for Africa to enhance its capacity to address the scourge of conflicts on the continent. In this regard, Council stressed the importance of further strengthening the partnership between the PSC and the UN Security Council consistent with Chapter VII of the UN Charter for the enhancement of coordination on peace and security issues in Africa, to ensure that AU views are taken into account.

Council recalled UN Security Council resolutions 2320 (2016) of 18 November 2016 and 2378 (2017) of 20 September 2017, which stressed the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led peace support operations (PSOs) authorized by the UN Security Council and under the Security Council's authority consistent with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, and expressed its intention to give further consideration to practical steps that can be taken and the conditions necessary to establish the mechanism through which African Union-led peace support operations could be funded through United Nations assessed contributions on, a case by case basis.

Council welcomed the continued collaboration between the AU Commission and Secretariat on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2320 and 2378, particularly with regard to joint planning and consultative decision-making, joint budgeting, improved financial accountability, management and reporting, and greater accountability, transparency, and compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Council renewed its commitment to strengthen the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations in peace and security, good governance, sustainable development, as well as human rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

Council underscored the imperative for close cooperation and coordination, based on respective comparative advantages and complementarity in peace and security, and burden-sharing on the basis of a collective responsibility to respond early, coherently and decisively to prevent, manage, and resolve violent conflict.

Council reaffirmed the importance of mobilizing more significant resources from within the continent in support of the AU peace and security Agenda. In this regard, Council welcomed the significant increase of the contributions to the AU Peace Fund to the highest level in its history, currently at \$74 million, as an illustration of Africa's commitment to financial burden-sharing and ownership. In this context, Council further welcomed the appointment of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Management Committee of the AU Peace Fund, and encouraged the Board and the Chairperson of the Commission to fully operationalize all the Governance mechanisms of the Fund.

Council requested the members of the UN Security Council, on the basis of progress made, to give favorable consideration to a draft resolution that establishes the principle that AU-mandated 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.

Council urged the A3 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.

Council commended the A3 for having tabled the draft resolution aimed at advancing AU peace and security Agenda and congratulated the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire for assuming the Presidency of the UN Security Council.

Council commended the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the important and exemplary role it played during its tenure, championing, promoting and defending the African common positions and concerns within the UN Security Council decision-making process and congratulated the Republic of South Africa for its election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Council encouraged the A3 to continue upholding unity of purpose and action in their interaction with the UN Security Council.

Council appealed to all members of the UN Security Council to extend their valuable support towards its consideration and adoption in December 2018, as a landmark step towards contributing to Africa's efforts as contained in AU Agenda 2063 to silence the guns in the Continent.

Council looked forward to the outcome of the UN Security Council with regard to the draft UN resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and sub-regional organizations: the role of states, regional arrangement and United Nations in the prevention of conflicts to be tabled by the A3 in December 2018.

Council agreed to remain seized of the matter.