AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC)

REMARKS TO THE

INDUCTION SESSION FOR THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE:

“A STRATEGIC FOCUS ON ENHANCING THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE IN ADVANCING PEACE AND SECURITY”

BY

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DAR ES SALAM,

27 May 2024
Chief of Staff of the Tanzania People’s Defence Forces, Lt. General Salum Haji Othman

Generals and Esteemed Defence Advisors,

Head of the PSC Secretariat

Head of the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD)

Esteemed Officers,

Representatives of ISS, ICRC, KAIPTC, UN and ENACT-CVE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my singular pleasure to address the Military Staff Committee (MSC) today. Your distinguished service and leadership at the continental level are a testament to your unwavering commitment and dedication to our shared cause of peace and security across Africa.

Allow me to add that your extensive experience and strategic insight continue to play a crucial role in shaping our continent's peace and security landscape, and your guidance inspires those serving in our respective capitals and missions across the continent.

As we navigate the evolving landscape of peace and security, the role of the Military Staff Committee (MSC) of the PSC becomes more crucial.

However, the MSC must adapt to meet the demands of a changing doctrine emerging in Africa. Our continent's troops must be prepared for new
responsibilities, and the MSC's role in this regard will remain pivotal in ensuring readiness.


Adopting the Common African Defence and Security Policy marked a significant step towards achieving peace, security and stability across the continent. The policy enshrines key principles such as respect for human rights, non-aggression and mutual respect and serves as a powerful framework for enhanced regional cooperation. By embracing this policy, the African Union has taken a vital step towards realising a stronger, more united and peaceful Africa.

While the MSC's critical role in advising and assisting the PSC on matters of military and security must continue, the state of peace and security in Africa requires us to go beyond static assessments. We must shift towards a more dynamic and complementary approach. This requires us to engage more actively with the regional economic communities and defence organisations.

At the Commission, reflecting on past experiences is essential. In this context, we must draw insights from missions like ATMIS, SAMIM, and MNJTF to refine our strategies. Similarly, learning from our successes and failures will enable us to effectively adapt our tactics to address emerging threats.

With the rapid evolution of threats across the continent, our military must evolve from static to mobile operations, adopting a more agile, adaptive and intelligence-driven approach. This shift requires us to invest in advanced capabilities, such as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, to counter emerging threats and maintain our strategic advantage effectively. By embracing this transformation, we
can better prepare our troops for the unpredictable challenges of the future and ensure Africa's enduring security.

Active participation in field missions continues to be crucial for the MSC. Being on the ground, we gain firsthand knowledge of operational challenges, allowing us to provide real-time advice. I was particularly pleased to see the MSC visit our mission in Somalia, ATMIS, last year and look forward to the MSC visiting other in-theatre AU PSOs this year.

But we must also invest in intellectual growth, promote best practices, and enhance professional development. This requires strengthening ties with war colleges across the continent. I encourage the MSC to increase knowledge-sharing and collaboration among military academies.

And as you will be aware, the main challenges across the continent persist, including peace, political and institutional instability, climate change, deficits in economic governance, poverty, and marginalisation of women and youths. These concerns extend beyond military operations and require the MSC's contribution.

In this context, bilateral security arrangements are crucial, especially in countries like Somalia and the Central African Republic (CAR). They are essential as we need to support state-building efforts by contributing to security sector reforms, capacity-building, and institution strengthening.

Let me conclude by reaffirming the importance of the MSC's leadership in advancing Africa's security and stability. Your innovative approach and collaborative efforts are critical in shaping a more peaceful and prosperous future for our continent. To that end, I thank you for your commitment to our shared vision and urge you to continue your vital work, knowing that your tireless dedication will bring us ever closer to lasting peace and stability.

I thank you.