UNITED NATIONS AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CONFLICT PREVENTION & RESOLUTION IN AFRICA

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REMARKS BY DR. ALHADJI SARJOH BAH,
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Thank you, President, Ambassador Pedro Comissário Afonso, for your excellent introductory statement. Thank you, ASGs Martha Pobee and Lisa Buttenheim, for your statements on implementing resolution 2719 (2023). Similarly, the African Union (AU) welcomes the participation of the Security Council Report, Center of International Cooperation, and Amani Africa in today’s crucial meeting.

President, the African Union, through the Assembly has welcomed the adoption of resolution 2719 (2023), especially as it marks a significant milestone in the development of joint efforts and partnership between the African Union and the United Nations.

We believe this resolution is a positive development in the pursuit of sustainable financing for AU-led Peace Support Operations (PSOs). This is necessary to ensure that the African Union can continue to act as the continent’s “first crisis responder,” especially when peace operations require immediate continental action. This is why implementing resolution 2719 (2023) requires further collective effort in key areas.

Firstly, we need to establish a common understanding of the resolution. To achieve this, the AU and UN must jointly develop planning guidelines and a framework for implementing the resolution. This will involve discussions on joint assessments, decisions of our Councils (the PSC and UNSC), financial rules, budget processes, and reimbursement frameworks.

Currently, financial regulations for the resolution reflect the perspective of the United Nations. In this regard, the African Union is convinced that our discussions must also consider existing AU financial rules and regulations, reconciling any divergence.

While we welcome resolution 2719 (2023), we note that it falls short of the AU’s request for 100% access to UN-assessed contributions. And this has been a significant concern for some of our Member States.

We, therefore, believe that to respond to the quest for predictable, adequate, and sustainable financing of AU peace and security activities, additional discussions are required to address the 25% gap in the resolution. This is especially important to foster a multilateral approach to collective security.

The African Union is pleased that the existing partnership between the AU and the UN has proven beneficial across Africa. A great example of such a partnership is in Somalia, where AU peacekeepers, with the help of the UN’s logistics support, are playing a vital role in bringing peace and stability to the country. However, there is a need to review and reassess the current support model as we transition to a new mission on 1 January 2025. We must consider an updated support model that can respond to the demands of peace enforcement missions and counter-terrorism operations. This is consistent with the models

Although the above issues remain critical, the African Union has taken some positive steps, in some instances in partnership with the United Nations. These steps include the Commission’s proactive approach of ongoing consultations with the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and the establishment of an AU Taskforce on resolution 2719 (2023).

Additionally, the recent agreement reached during the 23rd meeting of the AU-UN Joint Taskforce to deepen understanding between the AUC and the UN Secretariat remains a promising step towards advancing the implementation of the resolution.

In conclusion, the African Union firmly believes that the ongoing discussions on the resolution are crucial in shaping the strategic collaboration between the AU and the UN. These discussions will also help increase our efforts to support African peace and security. Therefore, we look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders to ensure resolution 2719 (2023) can be implemented and fulfil our responsibility of strengthening partnerships for collective security as a global good.

I thank you.