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**OPENING REMARKS BY DR. ALHAJI SARJOH BAH, DIRECTOR OF CONFLICT
MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PEACE
AND SECURITY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDUCTION OF THE PEACE AND
SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS,**

DEBRE ZEIT, ETHIOPIA, 12-15 MAY 2022,

**Chairperson of the PSC CoE, Dr. Jean Djoukeng Experts of the Republic of
Cameroon**

Distinguished Committee of Experts of the Peace and Security Council;

**Excellency, Ambassador Bulus Lolo, Former Permanent Representative of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria to the African Union;**

**Dr Admore Mupoki Kambudzi, Former Director of the Peace and Security
Department;**

Representatives of UNOAU;

Representatives of the Institute of Security Studies and Amani Africa;

Colleagues from CMD in the PAPS Department

Distinguished Participants;

Good morning.

It is with great pleasure that I address you on behalf of the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Amb. Bankole Adeoye, and to welcome

you to the Training of the Committee of Experts of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the Union.

As a Department, we are indeed honoured to facilitate this exercise that is aimed at reinforcing the capacities of the Committee of Experts as part of broader efforts to enhance the effective implementation of the PSC's mandate on conflict prevention, management and resolution.

Owing to the significance that the Department attaches to this Training, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye will be joining you tomorrow for a short engagement.

I wish to express my appreciation to His Excellency, Ambassador Bulus Lolo, Former Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the African Union, for agreeing to be one of the facilitators. Indeed, your experience having served in the PSC during your tenure in Addis Ababa, as well as your experience in the UNSC will significantly benefit the Committee of Experts and all of us here present.

Please permit me to also welcome and appreciate Dr Admore Mupoki Kambudzi, Former Director of the then Peace and Security Department and the first Secretary of the PSC, who honoured our request to be part of this exercise. It shows his commitment to the stability of Africa. Thank you.

Furthermore, I would like to express gratitude to the experienced Regional Desk Officers who are joining this Training. Their presence is a demonstration of our commitment to deepen our support to the PSC.

We also have amongst us, representatives of UNOAU, the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) and Amani Africa, and we thank them for their continued support to our work.

Distinguished Experts and Participants;

It is important to note that our continent is currently facing serious security threats particularly terrorism and violent extremism, governance deficits, unconstitutional changes of government, natural disasters induced by climate change as well as the effect of pandemics and epidemics. I would like to stress that in the work of the PSC, it is critical to take into consideration the synergy between African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and African Governance Architecture (AGA) – two frameworks that are central to our collective efforts for peace, security and stability. I wish to add that the work of

the PSC will be significantly enhanced when its relationship with RECs/RMs is scaled up and institutionalized. The role of your committee is central to the PSC's efforts to respond to the aforementioned challenges.

I am fully confident that during the course of three days, we will exchange information, share best practice and collectively carve a way to better support the PSC in pursuance of its mandate for the maintenance of peace, security, and stability on the Continent.

Drawing from operational practice and experience, the PSC, over the years, has consistently sought to improve its working methods. Through conclusions of PSC Retreats and PSC decisions, the role of the Committee of Experts as a subsidiary body of the PSC has been elaborated. Needless to say, this Committee is a critical pillar of the Council.

As you have seen in the annotated agenda, the Department has endeavoured to provide a platform through which you could deepen your appreciation of the core mandate, powers, objectives and functions of the PSC as enshrined in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC, Working Methods of the PSC, and the other relevant instruments of the AU.

As part of our new innovations, the Department will take you through its technological innovation that seeks to create a digital footprint and simplify access to the PSC Working Documents. For the past few months, our young and highly motivated information technology (IT) geeks, if I may call them that, under the tutelage of Ms. Neema Chusi, Ag Head of the PSC Secretariat, developed a repository of the PSC Institutional Memory and a PSC Application (App), access to which is yet to be made public. Our intention is that the PSC CoE need to have an opportunity first on how to use the repository of PSC documents before we make it public.

The App will undoubtedly facilitate ease of access to the PSC work and meetings, starting from the Monthly Provisional Programme of Work, Agenda, Speaking Order, and other related information. Moreover, the repository will make PSC information and decisions readily available to PSC Members, the broader AU members as well as the African citizenry.

Distinguished Experts and Participants,

As the AU Commission, we endeavoured to make this induction practical and interactive. Dr Kambudzi, the former Director of the PSD and First Secretary of the PSC, who has enormous institutional memory, will take you through a

drafting exercise of the various working documents and a mock exercise of a PSC meeting. I encourage all of you to take advantage of this opportunity to engage with him and draw from his wealth of expertise.

We may not exhaust everything in these three days. However, I do not doubt that after this induction, the PSC Committee of Experts will have the needed information and knowledge to facilitate the work of the Council and importantly, own the process.

In conclusion, the AU Commission, especially our PAPS Department and the PSC Secretariat, commits to providing all necessary and legitimately expected support to enable you, the PSC Committee of Experts, to effectively discharge your mandate and take ownership of the Council's work, particularly drafting of the working documents and outcomes of the PSC meetings.

We stand ready and look forward to walking this route with you in service to the Council, the Union, the Continent and its citizens.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and I thank you for your attention.