The 6th EU Support Programme to the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA IV) Steering Committee Meeting concludes in Lusaka, Zambia

The 6th Steering Committee Meeting of the European Union (EU) Support Programme on African Union Peace and Security Architecture (EU-APSA), concluded, with a commitment for enhanced cooperation between the EU and the African continent in addressing peace and security challenges. Held from 6 to 7 December 2023, the meeting was preceded by the 4th Steering Committee Meeting on Implementation of Early Response Mechanism (ERM) which primarily avails funds for interventions during the early stages of crises.

Hosted by the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the meetings were attended by representatives of the AU Commission, RECs/RMs and the EU Delegation to the AU. Both meetings created a platform for participants to discuss achievements, challenges and the future of both programmes. Participants exchanged views on best ways and means to enhance coordination and information sharing to pave the way for better synergy and coherence between the AU, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) and the EU in their efforts towards conflict prevention, management and resolution.

The AU expressed its appreciation to the EU delegation to the AU for their continued support and renewed partnership in addressing security challenges on the continent. The AU further expressed its gratitude to the different RECs/RMs for their solidarity and commitment in advancing the agenda of peace, security and sustainable economic development.

The next Steering Committee Meeting is proposed to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Notes to the Editor

About the EU -APSA Programme

The overall objective of the EU-APSA IV Programme is to reduce the incidence, duration and intensity of conflicts. One of the ways the Programme aims at achieving this objective is by; strengthening cooperation amongst stakeholders namely AU and RECs/RMs and also strengthening their capacities for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

About the Early Response Mechanism (ERM)
The ERM is a Programme supported by the EU to provide the AU and the RECs/RMs with funding for urgent and unforeseen needs in crisis situations.

**About the Steering Committee**

The Steering Committees are decision-making bodies for issues related to the implementation of activities by both programmes between AUC and EU.

For media inquiries, please contact:

**Ms. Lulit Kebede, Communication Officer | Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security |**
African Union Commission | **Email: lulitk@africa-union.org**

**Information and Communication Directorate, African Union Commission | E-mail: DIC@africa-union.org**
Web: [www.au.int](http://www.au.int), & [peaceau.org](http://peaceau.org) | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | **Follow Us:** Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | YouTube