CONCLUSIONS

1. As part of the implementation of Article 16 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) and the relevant provisions of the January 2008 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the area of Peace and Security, the 3rd meeting of the Senior Officials of the AU and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RM) and the European Union (EU) took place in Zanzibar, Tanzania, from 4 to 6 November 2010. The meeting was hosted by the East African Community (EAC).

2. The participants of the meeting included Senior Officials from the AU Commission, the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); the North Africa Regional Capability (NARC); the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); the Common Market for Eastern and the Southern Africa (COMESA); the Coordinating Mechanism of the Regional Standby Brigade of East Africa (EASBRICOM); the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), as well as the United Nations Office to the AU and the European Union Delegation led by the Director for Panafrican issues at the General Directorate for Development and Relations to ACP States.

3. The purpose of the meeting, which was held within the context of the implementation of Article 16 of the PSC Protocol, was to discuss the findings of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Assessment Study and to develop a Roadmap for the full operationalization of the APSA. The Roadmap will serve as the framework for support by the EU and other partners. The meeting also reviewed the implementation of the current capacity building programme.

4. Recalling the Akosombo Declaration of December 2009, the meeting commended the findings and recommendations contained in the APSA Assessment Study and the progress made by the AU and RECs/RMs in developing APSA structures and policies at the continental and regional levels.

5. The meeting welcomed the progress made in the implementation of programmes under the Africa Peace Facility (APF), in particular the increased cooperation between the AU-RECs/RMs and the EU, as demonstrated by the steps taken towards the operationalization of APSA. The meeting noted the difficulties that were encountered and requested the AU-RECs/RMs and the EU to review and agree on the modalities,
management and implementation structures at the AU and RECs/RMs that would facilitate and coordinate the efforts aimed at strengthening the next financing agreement under APF II. The meeting stressed the need for further improvement to enhance working methods and effectiveness of future support to the APSA. In this respect, the meeting:

- strongly recommended that the Management Structure of the Programme should be revised for optimal performance with a view to enabling the future APSA support programme to efficiently contribute to the operationalization of APSA;
- requested the EC to look into the possibilities to derogate from the 70% expenditure rule due to the political importance of efficient support to the operationalization of APSA;
- called on the European Commission to improve the disbursement mechanisms to enable the AU/RECs/RMs implement the programme without any hindrance.

6. The meeting elaborated an AU-RECs/RMs Indicative Roadmap that will provide strategic guidance for the full operationalisation of the APSA. The Indicative Roadmap will also serve as a reference document outlining further priorities and capacity needs for future support by AU partners.

7. The meeting welcomed the AU-RECs/RMs APSA Roadmap as a contribution towards the realization of the objectives of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa in 2010 and to the third Africa/EU Summit.

8. The meeting reiterated that the full operationalization of APSA constitutes a crucial part of the Africa-EU Partnership on Peace and Security, as enshrined in its second Action Plan, and emphasized the need to further strengthen the involvement of the RECs/RMs in the process under the overall leadership of the AU.

9. In this respect, the meeting agreed on the following as the way forward:

   (i) AU-RECs/RMs to finalize the elaboration of the APSA Roadmap;
   (ii) AU and EU to identify the priority areas of EU support at the next Joint Expert Group Meeting;
   (iii) AU to present, at the third Africa-EU-Summit, the AU-RECs/RMs Indicative APSA Roadmap;
   (iv) The meeting recommended that the Africa-EU Summit should endorse this process and reiterate its commitment to the full operationalization of the APSA.