JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

SIXTH MEETING OF THE AFRICAN UNION - UNITED NATIONS JOINT TASK FORCE ON PEACE AND SECURITY


The AU Commission and the UN Secretariat were represented respectively by Commissioner Ramtane Lamamra (Peace and Security), Commissioner Aisha Abdullahi (Political Affairs) and the Under-Secretaries-General Jeffrey Feltman (Political Affairs), Hervé Ladsous (Peacekeeping Operations) and Ameerah Haq (Field Support). They were accompanied by other senior officials from the two organizations.

The JTF reviewed the situations in Mali, Somalia, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), and Guinea Bissau. It discussed the AU-led Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord’s Resistance Army (AU RCI-LRA). It was briefed by the AU on the activities of its Panel of the Wise on election-related issues in Africa.

On Mali, the AU and the UN discussed modalities for expediting the operationalization of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) and support for the Malian Defense and Security Forces (MDSF), including defining the necessary command and control structures, within the context of Security Council resolution 2085 (2012) and relevant AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) decisions. They agreed to work together in the setting up of a Mali Integrated Task Force (MITF), which would facilitate cooperation to address political, security, human rights and humanitarian concerns on the ground. They also agreed to examine possible modalities for immediate support. They agreed to intensify efforts to ensure the protection of human rights, including the deployment by both organizations of human rights monitors to Mali. They looked forward to the successful convening of the donors’ conference on Mali, on 29 January 2013.

On Somalia, the UN and AU exchanged views on how to move the process forward against the background of the positive political and security gains made on the ground. They agreed to work together to finalize a joint letter to the Security Council, highlighting areas of convergence in the findings of the UN Strategic Review and the AU
Review of AMISOM, in time for the Security Council’s consultations on Somalia scheduled for 25 February 2013. They also agreed to convene a meeting prior to these consultations to further discuss the Reviews, including issues relating to security sector development and other potential areas of cooperation.

Discussions on the situation in the eastern DRC focused on creating a new strategy to end the cycle of violence that continues to reoccur in eastern DRC. They discussed the new Framework Agreement to be submitted to the concerned Heads of State. They also discussed the Neutral International Force (NIF) in the context of its envisioned integration into MONUSCO as an Intervention Brigade with a mandate to conduct robust peace enforcement operations. Both organizations agreed to continue to work together to strengthen the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM).

Regarding the situation in the CAR, the UN and AU noted with satisfaction the successful process leading to the peaceful resolution of the crisis in the country. They agreed to work together towards the implementation of the Libreville agreements.

Concerning Guinea-Bissau, the AU and UN agreed to strengthen joint efforts, following on the recommendations of the ECOWAS-AU-CPLP-EU-UN Joint Assessment Mission to Bissau, in December 2012. The meeting welcomed the appointment, by the Secretary-General, of former President José Ramos-Horta as Special Representative for Guinea-Bissau.

With regard to elections in Africa, the AU provided an update on follow-up to the report of the Panel of the Wise on “Elections-related Disputes and Violence,” including the recent visit by the Panel to Kenya, and other initiatives associated with elections. In this context, the UN and AU agreed to combine efforts with the view to preventing election-related violence.

On the AU’s LRA initiative, the UN and AU expressed the need to strengthen coordination between the two organizations and to work towards the mobilization of further support for the African troops deployed to fight the LRA.

The next JTF meeting will take place in New York, on the margins of the UN General Assembly, in September 2013.