EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Eighteenth Ordinary Session
24 – 28 January 2011
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

REPORT OF THE AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF DEFENCE,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 3 – 7 DECEMBER 2010
1. The 4th ordinary meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Security and Safety – STCDSS (which includes the relevant Ministers from the Member States) was held in Addis Ababa, on 7 December 2010. The meeting was preceded by a preparatory meeting of experts, on 3 and 4 December 2010, and by the 6th meeting of the Chiefs of Defense Staff and the Heads of Security and Safety Services of Member States, on 6 December 2010.

2. These meetings were aimed at reviewing the progress made in the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF) and agreeing on the way forward regarding the completion of this process, on the basis of the documents submitted by the Commission.

3. In the course of their deliberations, the participants were briefed on the outcome of the Exercise Amani Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 29 October 2010, whose objective was to test the procedures for the deployment of the ASF and the Commission's ability to manage multidimensional missions.

4. The meeting of the STCDSS adopted the attached Declaration, in which it took note of the various documents submitted to it and agreed on the measures that need to be taken to accelerate the operationalization of the ASF.

5. The next meeting of the STCDSS will be held in Addis Ababa in May 2011. It will review progress made in the operationalization of the ASF and the measures taken as part of the follow up to and implementation of, the attached Declaration.
DECLARATION

3 - 7 DECEMBER 2010
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

DECLARATION
DECLARATION

1. We, the members of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Security and Safety (STCDSS) of the African Union (AU), met at our 4th Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 7 December 2010, to review the progress made in the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF) and to identify the challenges ahead, in order to pave the way for further development. Our meeting was preceded by the 7th meeting of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff and the Heads of Security and Safety Services and a meeting of experts, from 3 to 6 December 2010.

2. This meeting was held within the framework of the relevant provisions of:

(a) the AU Constitutive Act;

(b) the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), which, in Article 13, provides for the establishment of the ASF in order to enable the PSC to perform its responsibilities with respect to the deployment of peace support missions and interventions, pursuant to Article 4 (h) and (j) of the Constitutive Act that stipulates that the ASF shall be composed of standby multidisciplinary contingents, with civilian and military components, in their countries of origin and ready for rapid deployment at appropriate notice; and

(c) the Policy Framework on the Establishment of the ASF and the Military Staff Committee (MSC), as adopted at the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa in July 2004, which, inter alia, provides for the establishment of five regional brigades to constitute the ASF.

3. Our meeting afforded us the opportunity to take stock of the progress made in the establishment of the ASF as spelt out in the PSC Protocol. In this respect, we recognise the tremendous efforts deployed by all concerned towards the development of the ASF at the regional and continental level. Most importantly, we commend the Commission, the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), Member States and AU partners for their efforts in the successful conduct of Exercise AMANI AFRICA and the Regional Standby Forces exercises.

4. While welcoming the significant progress made in many countries and regions as a result of the steadfast efforts exerted at the level of the Commission, the RECs/RMs and individual AU Member States, we continue to be deeply concerned about the continued scourge of conflict and instability on the continent, which inflicts immense suffering on the African people and undermines efforts towards socio-economic development.
5. Against this background, there is need to intensify the efforts aimed at making the ASF fully operational as an enforcement tool of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), to ensure that the continent is adequately equipped to meet the daunting challenges of peace, security and stability. In this respect, we:

(a) stress the urgency of the operationalization of the ASF as an important component of the APSA designed to support African efforts at conflict prevention, management and resolution;

(b) undertake to fully support the Commission, the RECs/RMs and our respective nations in our collective endeavour to ensure the full operationalization of the ASF within the framework of APSA, by 2015.

6. In assessing the different steps taken in pursuance of the relevant provisions of the PSC Protocol, we would like to:

(a) commend the Commission for the initiatives it has taken, in close collaboration with the RECs/RMs, to implement the ASF Policy Framework, guided by our recommendations;

(b) encourage the Commission and the RECs/RMs to vigorously pursue their efforts in ensuring the full operationalization of the ASF; and

(c) express our gratitude to the AU partners within the international community for having provided the essential financial support for the policy development process, the conduct of Exercise AMANI AFRICA and the various Regional Standby Forces exercises.

7. In order to consolidate the progress made thus far and achieve our goal of operationalising the ASF, we:

(a) endorse the four pillars of the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) structure (Policy Development, Operations and Plans, Capability Development, and PSO Support), and urge the Commission to ensure their functionality by the end of 2012. The staffing of the PSOD should be reinforced, in line with the above four pillars and in pursuance of the current recruitment processes, with due respect for equitable regional representation and transparency;

(b) urge the Commission to recruit a Chief of Staff for the ASF without further delay;
(c) endorse the recommendation for the services of seconded officers (police and military) to the PSOD to be for a minimum period of two (2) years, renewable once, for one (1) year maximum;

(d) request AU partners to assist Member States to develop their strategic lift capability, to ensure that the ASF deploys rapidly in crisis situations;

(e) direct the Commission to devise means for sustainable and predictable funding for AU Peace Support Operations (PSOs) to reduce dependence on external donors;

(f) endorse measures concerning funding for courses, infrastructure, as well as standards for financial management procedures being applied for European Union (EU) support to Centres of Excellence;

(g) call on Member States that have dual membership to honour the commitments resulting from that situation. The meeting further calls on the Commission to attach the reports of all the Regional Standby Forces as annexes;

(h) request the Commission to proceed with the implementation of the necessary mechanisms to address the gaps identified in the evaluation report of Exercise AMANI AFRICA, in terms of organizational, structural, capacity building, training, procedural and documentation issues;

(i) urge the Commission to take urgent steps to address the challenges posed in respect of the implementation of ASF Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) concept in the following areas:

   (i) development of relevant Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the Commission and the RECs/RMs by the end of 2011,

   (ii) commencement of the establishment of a Strategic Deployment Stock 2011,

   (iii) development of strategic lift capability by the Commission, RECs/RMs and Member States to enhance the rapid deployment of the ASF, and

   (iv) sustainable and predictable funding, as well as logistics support, for the ASF RDC missions, while continuing the work to clarify the role of the police component in the same framework;
(j) take note of the ASF Strategic Mobility Package and its implementation plan, and encourage the Commission to pursue its efforts in support of the technical evaluation of the capabilities of the Regional Standby Forces by the end of 2011;

(k) take note of the development of the ASF Logistics Support Manual, subject to review by May 2011 and inclusion of legal issues in the Manual;

(l) take note of the ASF Evaluation Concept and request that a specific evaluation manual for the assessment of the Regional Standby Forces be developed. An evaluation team that is representative of the regions and Member States should be constituted before the end of 2012;

(m) take note of the ASF Health Support Manual, and urge the Commission to incorporate it in the ASF Support Manual and utilize it in the interim, subject to future amendments in May 2011;

(n) direct the Commission to continue to use, in the interim, the documents developed in respect of the ASF, notably ASF Logistics Support Manual, Strategic Mobility Package, ASF Health Manual, ASF RDC Concept and the ASF Evaluation Manual for AU operations. In addition, we urge the Commission to further refine these documents in consultation with the RECs/RMs and Member States, and to present them for consideration at our next meeting;

(o) request the Commission to ensure that all documents presented for endorsement are translated into all AU working languages and forwarded to Member States in good time for further comments;

(p) approve the location of the proposed AU Continental Logistics Base (CLB) in Douala, Cameroon, and the development of standards and modalities for its establishment, for consideration at our next meeting;

(q) On the development of the police component, we request that:

(i) the conceptual document proposed for implementation, namely the Guidelines on Formed Police Units (FPUs), be incorporated into Chapter VIII of the ASF Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs),

(ii) the Commission should continue to use the existing nomenclature as provided for in the ASF Policy Documents and
take into account the need to review the ASF Police structure within the framework of ASF Roadmap III,

(iii) police courses be conducted in the RECs/RMs to build the capacity of senior and middle level police officers and develop FPUs training. Also, it is important to clarify the modalities for the preparation of relevant load list;

(r) urge the Commission and the RECs/RMs to work closely together in the development of an integrated ASF civilian standby roster, in conformity with the recommendations of the Dar-es-Salaam Report and to report regularly on its progress;

(s) urge the Commission to provide regular reporting on the further development of the AU Draft Guidelines on the Protection of Civilians;

(t) urge the AU Commission to take the following into account while finalizing the ASF Roadmap III:
   (i) areas of implementation outstanding from ASF Roadmap II,
   (ii) new challenges, including the role of the ASF in humanitarian action, natural disasters and relief operations, maritime safety and security, etc.,
   (iii) lessons learnt from the AMANI AFRICA and the Regional Exercises;

(u) endorse the proposal of the Economic Commission for Central African States (ECCAS) to host a meeting between the Commission and the RECs/RMs to review and finalise the Draft ASF Roadmap III, as well as Nigeria’s proposal to host a meeting to harmonize structures in the peace support operations on the continent;

(v) commend the Commission, Uganda, Burundi, as well as other Member States and AU partners, for their support to AMISOM operations, and urge Member States to contribute to the strengthening of AMISOM, including the provision of the required troops and other personnel, in line with the decisions adopted by the PSC ministerial meeting of 15 October 2010; and

(w) take note of the appointment of General Sekouba Konaté of the Republic of Guinea as the AU High Representative for the Operationalization of the ASF.