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**THE 6TH MEETING OF AFRICAN CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF AND
HEADS OF SAFETY AND SECURITY, AND THE 3RD ORDINARY
MEETING OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**11th to 15th MAY 2009
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

DECLARATION

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1. We, the members of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) of the African Union (AU), met at our 3rd Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 15 May 2009, to review the progress made in the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF) to further identify the challenges ahead, in order to chart the best way forward to achieve operationalization by 2010. Our meeting was preceded by the 6th Meeting of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff, Safety and Security and the Meeting of Experts from 11th to 14th May 2009.

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 terms of 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, which stipulates that the ASF shall be composed of standby multi-disciplinary contingents, with civilian and military components, in their countries of origin and ready for rapid deployment at appropriate notice;

 - c. the Policy Framework on the Establishment of the ASF and the 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 an 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 adoption of the ASF Roadmap II during the Consultative Meeting held in Addis Ababa from 30th to 31st July 2008, between the AUC and RECs/RMs and the Chiefs of Staff and Brigade Commanders of the regional brigades.

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 AUC, the RECs/RMs and individual AU Member States, we continue to be deeply concerned about the continued scourge of conflicts and instability on the continent, which cause immense suffering among African people, as well as undermine 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 AUC, the RECs/RMs and our respective nations in the endeavour to ensure the operationalization of the ASF in the framework of APSA;

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, in particular through the formulation of the ASF Roadmap II, the ongoing efforts to improve upon the Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) Concept, the Continental Logistics Bases (CLBs), work on the Strategic Lift Capability Concept, the Formed Police Unit (FPU) Concept, development of the Civilian Dimension and the elaboration of an ASF Training Plan 2009 – 2010, as well as the various training efforts;
- b. encourage the Commission and the RECs/RMs to vigorously pursue their efforts in order to meet the 2010 deadline for the full operationalization of the various ASF components;
- c. express our gratitude to the AU partners within the international community for having provided the essential financial support for the policy development process.

7. In order to consolidate the progress made thus far, and achieve our goal within the stipulated timeframe, we:

- a. endorse the proposal to develop Rules of Procedure for the STCDSS to enable the committee deliberate on issues appropriately and without waste of time;
- b. undertake to set up a Finance Committee to make proposals in respect of finding predictable and sustainable means of funding for AU missions and the ASF;
- c. considered the trends that emerged from our deliberation on the issue of the CLB and the view that the discussions should not be limited to the choice of the location of the CLB, but that priority should be given to the establishment of

the five regional logistics depots, while the issue of the CLB should be settled subsequently. On this note, we decided that:

- (1) the organizers should also pay attention to the establishment of the five regional logistics depots;
- (2) the reports drafted by the experts mandated by the Commission in 2007 and 2009 should be distributed to member states;
- (3) the issue of the CLB will be decided subsequently in the light of the original reports of the technical evaluation missions carried out in 2007 and 2009;

d. request the AUC to come out with the cost implications of the Communication and Information Systems (CIS) requirements of the PSOD and that Africa should look inwards in provisioning for the requirements, in view of African ownership and the sensitivities that go with information;

e. take note of the ongoing work in respect of further develop the ASF Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) concept and urge the Commission to go ahead and conduct the remaining workshops of the RDC concept and harmonize it for further action;

f. recognize work in respect of the Strategic Lift concept and request the Commission to ensure that those tasked to develop the concept should work closely with those regions that have already taken the lead in working on their strategic lift concept, in order to enrich their final product. The concept should cover legal aspects as well;

g. urge the Commission to ensure that Exercise AMANI AFRICA is conducted within schedule. Similarly we encourage member states to second officers to the AU PSOD for Exercise AMANI AFRICA and be able to sustain them during the period of their secondment;

h. On the issue of Police Component development we urge the Commission to:

- (1) develop Police Standby Databases at the AUC for Strategic Level Police Mission leaders and the RECs/RMS for Individual Police Officers (IPOs) and Formed Police Units (FPU);

- (2) take necessary steps to enhance advocacy/sensitization of Police Contributing Countries (PCC) and Police Chiefs and Heads of Gendarmerie on ASF Police activities;

- (3) take action to increase the staff level at the AUC and the RECs/RMs. The recruitment of Police Commissioner at the AUC should be taken as a matter of priority;

(4) review the Police Standby Arrangement upwards from the 240 Individual Police Officers (IPOs) per REC/RM to 720 and the FPU from 2 to 6 per REC/RM;

(5) conduct Police Training Needs Analysis (TNA) and develop curriculum to enhance the operationalization of the ASF Police Component;

(6) ASF Police RDC composition and capability should be urgently addressed by the AU and the RECs/RMs in liaison with Police Contributing Countries (PCCs);

(7) harmonise the existing differences in Police Structure at the AU and RECs/RMs in line with identified core functions as a matter of urgency;

i. request the Commission to take the following actions in respect of the development of the Civilian Component:

(1) work jointly with the RECs/RMs to develop job descriptions for the more than 60 functions (that have been agreed upon) as well as developing the recruitment process for these positions;

(2) encourage the RECs/RMs to start with the identification and recruitment for the more than 60 positions (which translate into between 300 and 400 for the roster);

(3) establish an AUC/REC/RM Task Team to design an ASF roster based on the discussions of the Civilian Dimension Staffing, Training and Rostering workshop . The development of a roster by the AU and RECs/RMs should not preclude the AU from recruiting directly in the event that the individuals in the roster do not meet the requirements for the vacancies;

(4) develop human resource policies for PSOs that shall address the needs of mission staff and encourage RECs/RMs should be encouraged to do the same;

(5) inform member states about the vacancies so as to give them the opportunity to identify and submit names of candidates for the posts. Undertake further consultations with Member States on the vacancies and RECs/RMs should be able to recruit for the vacancies. Additionally, regional equity should be taken into consideration while filling the vacancies;

(6) ensure alignment of capabilities and capacities between the AU and the RECs/RMs.

- (7) establish the Civilian Component, where applicable, following a similar process to that of the other ASF components.
- (8) request the Commission to proceed with the short – term (six months) recruitment of a civilian specialist to assist in kick-starting the ASF Civilian Planning Element;
- j. on the issue of some member states belonging to more than one regional brigade, we are of the view that such a decision is a matter of national sovereignty, choice, and capacity to fulfill their obligations to both brigades at the same time;
- k. agree that the name ASF be retained for the continental mechanism, while the capabilities at the regional level should be changed to regional standby forces, to reflect a common nomenclature for the force at all levels.
- l. On the issue of PSOD recruitment, we request that:
- (1) the Commission should adhere to the principles of rotation, transparency and equitable geographical distribution regarding all types of positions within the PSOD and to be in accordance with the recruitment procedure of the AUC;
- (2) the Commission should take urgent steps to provide further details i.e. Cost implications, Terms of Reference of the respective vacancies (for the 58 posts) to enable the member states respond appropriately.
- m. urge the Commission to ensure that documents for meetings are provided in all AU working documents at all times.