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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1252ND MEETING

18 DECEMBER 2024
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1252 (2024)

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1252nd meeting held on 18 December 2024 on Update on the Progress made towards Silencing the Guns in Africa.

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.630(XXVIII)] through which the 28th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa, from 30 to 31 January 2017 endorsed the AU Master Roadmap (AUMR) of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020; and Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.843(XXXVI)] adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government as its 36th Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, from 18 to 19 February 2023, through which the Assembly extended the duration of AUMR implementation to 2030 and underlined the responsibility of Member States to fully implement the AU relevant normative frameworks and instruments;

Faithful to its mandate as stipulated in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;

Determined to ensure the realization of Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063, namely: '*a Peaceful and Secure Africa'*, which is a critically necessary precondition for the realization of the AU Agenda 2063 and ultimately, the realization of the AU Vision of '*An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena*', as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030);

Taking note of the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Abdi Mahmoud Eybe, Permanent representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the African Union and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for December 2024; and the briefing by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; as well as the presentation by Dr. Solomon Dersso, the Founding Director of Amani Africa; and

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council,

1. ***Takes note*** of the Update on the Progress made towards Silencing the Guns in Africa;

2. ***Commends*** all Member States and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), the AU Commission; International Partners, Civil Society, the Private Sector and the Media for the invaluable contributions towards the implementation of the AUMR;

3. ***Also commends*** the efforts of the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas and ***stresses the need*** for the Chairperson of the Commission to ensure that the Office of the High Representative is sufficiently capacitated to enable it more effectively discharges its mandate;

4. ***Encourages*** Member States to continue to embrace, deepen and consolidate good governance and democracy as a sine qua non for promoting durable peace and security and development and also as critical success factors for effectively silencing the guns in the Continent;

5. ***Underlines the essence*** for demonstrable political will, commitment and the collective action of Member States, RECs/RMs and all other concerned stakeholders to more effectively implement the

AUMR and create conducive conditions for effectively preventing and ending all violent conflicts in the Continent;

6. ***Reiterates the call*** for all warring parties, in Member States grappling with violent conflicts, to immediately and unconditionally stop all hostilities, establish permanent ceasefire and embrace genuine, inclusive dialogue as the only viable approach towards consensual and durable solutions;

7. ***Reaffirms*** the call for streamlining of the security sector governance, security sector reforms (SSR) and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) in the AU conflict prevention and resolution efforts, as well as in post-conflict reconstruction and development initiatives, in accordance with the relevant practical steps outlined in the AUMR and, in this regard, ***requests*** the AU Commission to continue to provide technical support to Member States on security sector governance, DDR and SSR;

8. ***Re-emphisizes*** enhancing cooperation, including through information sharing and joint operations, at bilateral, regional and Continental levels in order to more effectively combat the circulation of illicit small arms and light weapons as an essential precondition for effectively silencing the guns in the Continent;

9. ***Calls*** for further strengthening the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) as well as the need to close the gap between early warning and early action, in order to more effectively prevent, contain and de-escalate violent conflicts in the Continent;

10. ***Also underscores the need*** for more enhanced synergies and collaboration in the implementation of the Master Roadmap among the various AU Departments, Organs, Institutions, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) and relevant international organizations, including within the context of the AU-UN Joint Framework for Peace and Security;

11. ***Encourages*** Member States to comprehensively address the root causes and structural drivers of violent conflict and instability guided by the nexus among, peace, security and development, including through deliberate socio-economic programs to empower the people, as well as to adopt 'Whole of Government- Whole of Society' inclusive approaches, as reflected in the Tangier Declaration on the peace, security and sustainable development nexus,, and to regularly report to the AU Commission on their plans of actions and activities towards silencing the guns, focusing on the five Aspects of the AUMR for the purpose of promoting experience and lessons sharing;

12. ***Also encourages*** Member States to consolidate state authority and to establish effective state presence throughout their national territories, with a view to avoiding the creation of ungoverned spaces that can be exploited by criminal, armed and terrorist groups to foment instability;

13. ***Encourages, in particular***, those Member States in protracted and complex political transitions to expedite the transitional processes aimed at restoring constitutional order within the stipulated timelines and, in this regard, ***notes*** that the Council will continue its informal constructive engagement with such Member States;

14. ***Highlights the importance*** of mainstreaming women and youth participation, as agents of change, at all levels in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap;

15. ***Calls on*** all Member States, RECs/RMs and other stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of all Assembly and PSC decisions on peace and security issues; while expediting, in particular, the implementation of the Malabo Declaration on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes

of Government adopted by the 16th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of States and Government held on 28 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea;

16. ***Renews the essence*** of reinvigorating preventive diplomacy as an effective tool for conflict prevention, management and resolution and, in this regard, ***underlines the need*** for the utilization of all available tools, including the Good Offices of the Chairperson of the Commission, the Panel of the Wise, FEMWISE, Youth-Wise, Special Envoys, I-RECKE platform and NETT4Peace, as multi-stakeholder approach to silencing the guns;

17. ***Stresses the critical importance*** of ensuring adequate, flexible, sustainable, and predictable financing of the AU peace and security activities, with a view to guaranteeing effective implementation of the AUMR, and in this context, ***calls*** for the immediate and full implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2719, in order to guarantee funding for the AU-led Peace Support Operations, as well as the need for exploring innovative means and ways of internal financial resource mobilization, including through engagements with the African private sector and African (Continental) financial institutions, without foreclosing the effective utilization of the AU Peace Fund;

18. ***Requests*** the AU Commission to convene a high-level reflection forum in 2025 (being five years since the extension of the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap) to comprehensively assess and take stock of the progress made and challenges in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap to Silence the Guns in Africa; emphasize that the platform will also provide an opportunity for Member States and other critical stakeholders to share experiences, lessons and best practices in the promotion of sustainable peace, security and development in the Continent;

19. ***Restates*** the pre-requisite of political will in silencing the guns on the continent and, in this regard, ***encourages*** Member States to report on their implementation of the AUMR paying attention to all the five key aspects raised in the AUMR, namely political, social, economic, environmental and legal , in order to assess the actual trends in the AUMR implementation process and address gaps, and ***directs*** the AU Commission to develop a standardized reporting framework and template for Member States and other relevant stakeholders, based on the Monitoring and Evaluation Matrix of the AUMR;

20. ***Requests*** the AU Commission, through the High Representative for Silencing the Guns, to regularly brief the Council on the implementation of the AUMR, at least twice a year; and

21. ***Decides*** to remain actively seized of the matter.

African Union Commission (AUC)

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PSC Outcomes Communiqués

2024-12-18

Communiqué of the 1252nd Meeting of the Peace and Security Council held on 18 December 2024 on Update on the Progress made towards Silencing the Guns in Africa.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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