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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DRAFT REVISED AFRICAN UNION POLICY ON POST-CONFLICT, RECONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

DRAFT REVISED AFRICAN UNION POLICY ON POST-CONFLICT, RECONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

I. BACKGROUND

1. The AU Commission's Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, initiated a crucial review of the Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy. In 2016, the commemoration of the decade-long journey in implementing the AU PCRD Policy marked a pivotal milestone. This commemoration, not only assessed the policy's trajectory but also served as a crucible for insights, fostering a collective vision. This vision, harmonized with Africa's strategic tapestry encapsulated in 'Silencing the Guns' and Agenda 2063, aspires to orchestrate socio-economic transformation through enduring growth. In 2021, the PSC Communique PSC/PR/COMM.1017 requested *"the Chairperson of the Commission, in close consultations with member states, to review the AU PCRD Policy framework in order to ensure that it is adaptable to the contemporary dynamics in Member States in political transition and post-conflict situations, and to present it for adoption by the Peace and Security Council"*.

2. The draft revised AU PCRD Policy, shaped by insights from African experts drawn from the five regions of the continent. The PAPS Department organized a meeting of experts in Accra, Ghana, (September 2022). This high-level engagement, prompted by a decision from AU Heads of State (February 2022), gathered 30 specialists to strategically retool the existing policy, focusing on conflict prevention and transitions.

3. This first experts' meeting comprehensively assessed the AU PCRD architecture, mechanisms, and processes, with an emphasis on optimal implementation strategies across various domains. Building on these outcomes, a workshop was scheduled in June 2023, in Cairo, Egypt. This collaborative effort involved key stakeholders, aiming to refine and finalize the review process. This collective endeavor reflected a commitment to enhancing the AU's approach to reconstruction and development on the continent.

4. Subsequently, a dedicated session on Women, Peace, and Security, aimed to mainstream WPS issues throughout the entire Policy. Experts drawn from diverse regions engaged in in-depth discussions to ensure that gender perspectives, women's roles, and specific peace and security considerations were integrated seamlessly into the policy framework. The incorporation of this dedicated session reflects a commitment to fostering gender inclusivity and addressing the unique challenges faced by women in post-conflict settings.

5. The Policy has been meticulously submitted to all AU Member States and RECs/RMs, for inputs. This inclusive approach aimed to gather diverse feedback and perspectives, fostering active engagement from Member States and Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs). The valuable amendments and comments received underscore a collective commitment to ensuring the policy reflects a shared vision, addressing the intricate challenges of post-conflict reconstruction and development in Africa.

II. OVERVIEW:

6. The review spotlighted the six pillars of the AU PCRD Policy framework, elevating astute observations and recommendations to enhance the efficacy of PCRD endeavors. Envisioned as a multifaceted instrument, the policy guides the AU Centre for PCRD in crafting tailored, context-specific, and gender-responsive peacebuilding strategies. Beyond merely silencing guns, its mandate extends to the consolidation of peace, the prevention of conflict relapses, and addressing root causes, notably emphasizing the welfare of marginalized groups.

7. Key entities, including the AU Centre for PCRD, the AU Humanitarian Agency, and the AU Development Agency/NEPAD, are entrusted with pivotal roles in enhancing capacities at continental, regional, and national levels. Their mandate extends to mainstreaming gender in humanitarian and PCRD activities, catalyzing a comprehensive and inclusive approach.

8. The directive champions gender-sensitive PCRD needs assessments, advocating for the integration of gender considerations into national policies aligned with global normative frameworks. A priority emerges in dismantling structural barriers hindering youth participation, with a call for enhanced collaboration across national, regional, and continental structures.

9. Mobilizing resources for PCRD unfolds as a strategic dance, leveraging the AU Centre for PCRD and pan-African partners, including the African Development Bank. International actors are encouraged to engage, emphasizing local capacity building and the utilization of indigenous talent.

10. Sustainable support for PCRD echoes through sound investments, improved resource flows, including official development assistance, and debt relief for conflict-ridden countries. Fostering partnerships with the AU Centre for PCRD becomes paramount, ensuring adequate funding for peacebuilding endeavors in Africa.

11. Key mechanisms coalesce into an overarching PCRD architecture, with the AU Centre for PCRD orchestrating needs-based assessments, and the design and coordination of peacebuilding activities. This holistic approach aims to ensure the complementarity and effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts across the continent.

12. The revised policy, transcending post-conflict scenarios, champions a holistic approach to PCRD, acknowledging the non-linear nature of contemporary conflicts. It integrates peacemaking, conflict prevention, stabilization, and peacebuilding practices while addressing post-conflict settings, engaging diverse stakeholders. Implementation hinges on Member States' commitment to endorse, ratify, domesticate, and execute relevant norms, policies, and strategies.

13. The envisioned end state of PCRD unfolds as a canvas where effective state institutions foster peace, law, and order. Stabilized humanitarian situations and the fulfillment of basic needs intertwine with frameworks protecting human rights and empowering vulnerable populations. The AU's coordinated response, underpinned by clear mandates and responsibilities, becomes the linchpin for the successful execution of this visionary policy.

III. THE NEW CONFIGURATION OF THE PCRD Pillars:

14. The revised version of the AU PCRD Policy underwent a significant evolution, transforming from its initial six pillars to a more comprehensive framework now comprised of 9 pillars. This expansion reflects a nuanced understanding of the contemporary challenges facing peacebuilding and PCRD. The new pillars are as follows:

1. Political Governance and Transition:

Objective: Establishing a stable political structures and facilitate transitions for enduring peace.

Implementation Focus: 1. Strengthening governance institutions; 2. Facilitating inclusive political transitions; 3. Promoting accountable leadership.

2. **Security Governance:**

Objective: Emphasizing robust security mechanisms for a secure environment conducive to peace and development.

Implementation Focus: 1. strengthening national and regional security structures; 2. Enhancing border security and management; 3. Promoting disarmament and demobilization initiatives.

3. **Humanitarian Assistance:**

Objective: Addressing immediate needs during crises, ensuring timely and effective humanitarian responses.

Implementation Focus: 1. Rapid deployment of humanitarian aid; 2. Coordination with international organizations; 3. Building resilient emergency response systems.

4. **Socio-Economic Reconstruction and Development:**

Objective: Rebuild societies economically for long-term stability and growth.

Implementation Focus: 1. Infrastructure development; 2. Employment generation programs; 3. Capacity building for sustainable economic development.

5. **Women, Peace, and Security:**

Objective: Promoting gender equality and address the specific needs and roles of women in peacebuilding.

Implementation Focus: 1. Ensuring women's participation in decision-making; 2. Combating gender-based violence; 3. Addressing women's economic empowerment.

6. **Human Rights, Transitional Justice, and Reconciliation:**

Objective: Upholding human rights, justice, and reconciliation as fundamental elements in the aftermath of conflict.

Implementation Focus: 1. Establishing mechanisms for transitional justice; 2. supporting truth and reconciliation commissions; 3. Promoting accountability for human rights abuses.

7. **Youth Inclusion:**

Objective: Recognizing the pivotal role of youth in shaping peaceful societies, focusing on their inclusion in decision-making processes.

Implementation Focus: 1. Establishing youth advisory councils; 2. Providing education and vocational training; Integrating youth perspectives in policy formulation.

8. **Child Protection:**

Objective: Acknowledging the vulnerability of children in conflict situations, seeking to safeguard their rights and well-being.

Implementation Focus: 1. Establishing child protection agencies; 2. Supporting education and psychosocial services for children; 3. Combating child trafficking and recruitment.

9. **Environmental Sustainability:**

Objective: Highlighting the interconnectedness of environmental health with peace and security, emphasizing sustainable practices for the well-being of current and future generations.

Implementation Focus: 1. Implementing eco-friendly practices in post-conflict reconstruction; 2. Protecting natural resources and biodiversity; 3. Building awareness of the environmental impact of conflicts.

IV. **URGENCY TO DISSEMINATE THE CONTENT OF THE REVISED PCRD POLICY:**

15. The urgency to disseminate the content of the recently revised AU PCRD Policy cannot be overstated, as it holds profound implications for fostering sustainable peace and development across the African continent. The expansion from six to nine pillars signifies a strategic shift in addressing the multifaceted challenges inherent in peacebuilding and PCRD. To ensure the effective implementation of this evolved framework, it is imperative to cascade this knowledge swiftly and comprehensively among key stakeholders.

16. Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), national governments, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) form the bedrock of peacebuilding efforts. Disseminating the revised policy among these entities is crucial to align their strategies with the nuanced pillars, fostering a shared understanding of the dynamic landscape of PCRD. This dissemination effort should not be confined to national borders; it must extend to regional actors to create a harmonized approach that transcends geopolitical boundaries.

17. Engaging international entities such as the United Nations (UN), International Financial Institutions (IFIs), African Banks, and Development institutions is equally paramount. These organizations play pivotal roles in shaping the global response to conflict and post-conflict scenarios. Disseminating the revised PCRD Policy among them will not only enhance their understanding but also encourage collaborative efforts, leveraging their diverse resources for more effective peacebuilding outcomes.

18. Additionally, the involvement of the private sector is indispensable. The business community holds a unique position in contributing to peacebuilding and sustainable development. Dissemination among private sector entities will facilitate their integration into PCRD initiatives, encouraging corporate responsibility and investment in projects that align with the revised policy's pillars.

19. The focal point of this dissemination effort should not merely be information transfer but rather a concerted effort to integrate the new pillars into the broader perspectives of PCRD and peacebuilding. This entails fostering a collective consciousness among stakeholders, ensuring that the revised policy becomes an integral part of their strategic planning and operational frameworks. It is through this inclusive dissemination that the AU can catalyze a unified and synchronized approach towards the shared goal of a peaceful, resilient, and prosperous Africa.