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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321

Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1198TH MEETING

31 JANUARY 2024
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1198 (2024)

COMMUNIQUÉ



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1198th meeting held on 31 January 2024 on a) Consideration of the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy; and b) Second (2nd) Commemoration of Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation.

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling the Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec. 815(XXXV)] adopted by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held on 5-6 February 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, requesting the AU Commission to expeditiously review the 2006 Policy on PCRD and **referring** to the Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development adopted in Banjul, The Gambia, in July 2006;

Also recalling Declaration [Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.XVI] adopted by the 16th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held on 28 May 2022, instituting 31 January of each year as “Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation” and Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.501(XXII)] adopted by the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, declaring 2014 to 2024 as the Nelson Mandela Decade for Reconciliation in Africa;

Further recalling its previous decisions and pronouncements on PCRD in Africa, particularly Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1188 (2023)] adopted at its 1188th meeting held on 29 November 2023, and Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1122 (2022)] adopted at its 1122nd meeting held on 28 November 2022;

Committed to the implementation of its previous decision on Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation, Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1135(2023)];

Noting the opening statement by H.E. Ambassador Amma A. Twum-Amoah, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to the African Union and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of January 2024 and the statement and presentation by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security;

Further noting the recorded message by H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation, and the statements by H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Gad, the Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt representing the Champion of PCRD, and by H.E. Ambassador Prof. Miguel Cèsar Dominges Bembe, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola;

Reaffirming its commitment to promote the effective implementation of post-conflict reconstruction and development, as well as peacebuilding activities to consolidate peace and prevent the resurgence of conflict, in line with Article 3 (c) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;

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

On the consideration of the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy

1. **Welcomes** the successful completion of the comprehensive review of the 2006 AU Policy of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD); **applauds** the AU Commission, particularly the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, for its efforts in facilitating the work of experts in Accra, Ghana, in September 2022, Cairo, Egypt, in June 2023 and Dar es Salam, Tanzania, in August

2023, pursuant to PSC Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1047(2021)] and Assembly Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec. 815(XXXV)];

2. **Expresses profound gratitude** to the experts for their dedication and expertise in enriching and realigning the 2006 AU PCRD Policy to ensure it responds to emerging peace and security challenges on the Continent, incorporating a peacebuilding component to cover the entire conflict cycle and countries in political transition;
3. **Commends** H.E Abdelfattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and AU Champion on PCRD, for his continued efforts in promoting sustainable peace and development and for graciously hosting the PCRD Centre;
4. **Adopts** the revised AU PCRD Policy, now encompassing nine pillars and **decides** to submit it to the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union scheduled to take place on 17-18 February 2024 for consideration;
5. **Emphasises** the imperative of Continent-wide dissemination of the revised AU PCRD Policy to all AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), Civil Society Organizations, and the private sector, as well as to partners and the broader international community for them to partner in peacebuilding efforts on the Continent;
6. **Underscores** the need for all stakeholders and peacebuilders to integrate the new pillars in their strategic planning and operational frameworks in order to foster a unified and synchronised approach to post-conflict reconstruction and development and overall peacebuilding efforts towards a peaceful, resilient, and prosperous Africa;
7. **Requests** the Commission to expedite the establishment of a comprehensive PCRD and Peacebuilding architecture, including revitalising the Interdepartmental Task Force to ensure optimal implementation of the revised AU PCRD Policy; **further requests** the Commission to mobilise for requisite human, technical and financial resources internally and from the UN and other partners, including the private sector, to ensure full implementation of PCRD and to enable the PCRD Centre in Cairo, Egypt, to effectively discharge its mandate;

On the second commemoration of the Africa Day for Peace and Reconciliation

8. **Welcomes** the institutionalisation of the commemoration of the Africa Day for Peace and Reconciliation pursuant to the Malabo Declaration [Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.XVI] of May 2022, and **underscores** the need for concerted efforts in promoting the culture of peace, tolerance, justice, forgiveness, and reconciliation as an essential step for conflict prevention, especially in post-conflict communities;
9. **Applauds** H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation, for his concerted efforts and commitment to promoting the culture of peace and reconciliation in pursuit of lasting peace, security and stability on the Continent, as well as his continued efforts in spearheading the mobilization of political, technical, and financial support for the prevention, management, resolution, and transformation of conflicts on the Continent;
10. **Expresses appreciation** to the Government of the Republic of Angola for the successful hosting of the 3rd Edition of the Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace and Non-violence-2023 Luanda Biennale; and **encourages** the implementation of its outcomes, in particular, promoting

education, defending science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and disseminating culture and art to foster a culture of peace and non-violence as well as promotion of regular inter-generational dialogue forums, and ensure continuous communication between political leaders and young people;

11. **Welcomes** AU's achievements in the promotion of democracy, good governance, and constitutionalism, buttressed by inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, and the quest for an integrated Continent in line with Agenda 2063; in this regard **commends** the AU Commission's tireless efforts in peacemaking, undertaken through mediation, dialogue and reconciliation processes and **highlights** the crucial role of the AU Special Envoys, High Representatives, Panel of the Wise and other mediators in promoting dialogue, reconciliation and national healing;

12. **Underscores** the importance of justice in the reconciliation process as a fundamental pillar of peaceful and just societies;

13. **Emphasises** the need to create spaces for meaningful intercultural dialogue to ensure that people of different ethnicities, religions and communities engage and promote mutual understanding; and **highlights** the importance of sensitising the youth to the importance of peace and reconciliation through educational activities focused on peaceful resolution of conflicts;

14. **Expresses concern** over the deterioration of State institutions, the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government and the outbreak of conflict in some Member States, including the growing threat of terrorism and violent extremism; and **underlines** the need to strengthen the pillars of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA) to adequately address structural and cyclical instability, especially the role of the Panel of the Wise in providing timely response to early warning through preventive diplomacy;

15. **Underscores** the imperative of further enhancing cooperation and complementarity of efforts between the AU Champion, AU High Representatives and Envoys, RECs/RMS, and other actors on the Continent; and

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

2024-01-31

Communiqué of the 1198th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council held on 31 January 2024, on (i) Consideration of the AU PCRD Policy; and (ii) 2nd Commemoration of Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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