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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**
**1239TH MEETING**

**29 OCTOBER 2024**
**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**PSC/PR/COMM.1239 (2024)**

# COMMUNIQUÉ

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**Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1239th meeting held on 29 October 2024 on Briefing by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the Humanitarian Situation in Africa.**

**The Peace and Security Council,**

***Recalling*** all its previous decisions and pronouncements on Humanitarian Action in Africa, particularly, Declaration [Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.(XV)] adopted by the 15th Extraordinary African Union Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference, held on 27 May 2022, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea; and Communique [PSC/MIN/COMM.1216 (2024)] adopted at its 1216th meeting held at Ministerial level on 19 June 2024; and [PSC/PR/COMM.1081 (2023)], adopted at its 1081st meeting held on 4 May 2022; as well as Press Statement [PSC/PR/BR.1155 (2023)] adopted at its 1155th meeting held on 18 May 2023; and Communique [PSC/PR/COMM.1176 (2023)] adopted at its 1176th meeting held on 29 September 2023;

***Reaffirming*** the commitment of our Council in line with Article 6(f), Article 7(p), and Article 15 of the PSC Protocol, which empowers the Council to engage in humanitarian action and disaster management and facilitate humanitarian action in situations of armed conflicts or natural disasters in Africa;

***Expressing*** the AU solidarity with all refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Continent, and ***reaffirming*** the commitment to redouble efforts towards mobilizing humanitarian aid, in order to alleviate their suffering;

***Taking note*** of the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Gad, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the African Union (AU) and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for October 2024, the presentation by Ms. Rita Amukhobu, Head of the Humanitarian Affairs Division, on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Minata Samate Cessouma, AU Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development and the presentation by Mr. Patrick G. Youssef, ICRC Regional Director for Africa; and

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

1. ***Takes note with deep concern*****,** the worsening humanitarian situation in the Continent resulting from both, natural phenomena and man-made factors, including the negative effects of climate change such as drought and famine, crop and animal diseases, pest infestations, floods, desertification, landslides, mudslides, complex public health emergencies of international concern such as pandemics and epidemics, as well as violent conflicts;

2. ***Commends*** the International Committee of the Red Cross and all other humanitarian aid agencies for their continued effort to address the humanitarian situation in the Continent;

3. ***Encourages*** Member States to comprehensively address the structural root causes of violent conflicts in the Continent, which are the major causes of humanitarian disasters in the Continent; as well as to redouble investments in early warning capacities, disaster prevention and preparedness and disaster risk reduction;

4. ***Strongly condemns*** indiscriminate attacks perpetrated against innocent civilians and civilian facilities and critical infrastructure in blatant violation of the Geneva Conventions, by whomsoever; ***warns*** the perpetrators that they will be held to account for their crimes; and ***strongly urges*** all bel-



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ligerents in conflict situations to scrupulously adhere to and uphold International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and all international instruments on the protection of civilians and to facilitate humanitarian access to the population in need, as well as ensure the dignity, safety and security of humanitarian workers and aid agencies;

5. ***Underscores the importance*** of effectively combating the proliferation of illicit weapons in Africa, and in this respect, urges all countries that supply weapons and ammunition to non-state actors, particularly armed groups and negative forces, which exacerbate violent conflicts in Africa, to desist from such deplorable acts;

6. ***Notes with deep concern*** the dwindling resources for swift and effective responses to humanitarian crises in Africa; in this regard, ***reiterates the request*** for the AU Commission, in consultation with the UN humanitarian Agencies and other key partners, to redouble resource mobilization efforts, in order to ensure the provision of adequate, and flexible funding for humanitarian action in Africa, as well as for the AU Commission to undertake a comprehensive study, identifying the financial shortfalls and make concrete and practicable proposals on how to address the financial challenges for meeting Africa's humanitarian needs;

7. ***Commends*** the AU Commission and all partners for their continued assistance in efforts towards addressing humanitarian crises in the Continent and ***underlines the importance*** of enhancing collaboration among all humanitarian actors, including with the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Agency;

8. ***Reiterates*** the critical role of the AU Humanitarian Agency (AHA) in Kampala, Uganda, in coordinating humanitarian efforts in the Continent, particularly in implementing the post-Malabo 10-year Plan of Action; ***also reiterates the request*** for the AU Commission to lead efforts for an all-Africa mega pledge modeled after the post-Malabo 10-year Plan of Action in the following areas: Addressing Humanitarian challenges in Africa; Climate Change, Disasters, and Forced Displacement in Africa; Food Security and Nutrition in Humanitarian Situations in Africa; Health Challenges in Humanitarian Space in Africa; Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa; and Resource Mobilization and Financing for Humanitarian Action in Africa, and ***emphasizes the need*** for the Agency to be availed with all resources necessary to ensure that it effectively delivers on its mandate;

9. ***Commends*** all Member States currently hosting refugees for their solidarity; ***appeals*** to the international community for continued technical, material and financial assistance to the efforts of these Member States; and ***encourages*** AU Member States to keep their borders open for refugees and to assist asylum seekers in accordance with the provisions of international law and AU legal frameworks;

10. ***Underscores the need*** for expediting the implementation of the Declaration [Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.(XV)] adopted by the 15th Extraordinary African Union Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference, held on 27 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea; and in this respect, ***appeals*** to all Member States and development partners to expeditiously honour their pledges;

11. ***Directs*** the AU Commission to develop systems for the collection and analysis of statistics aimed at the registration of refugees in camps in Africa with a view to improving decision-making and the effectiveness of humanitarian action on the Continent;

12. ***Encourages*** all Member States that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify all relevant AU and international instruments, particularly the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on Specific Aspects of the Right to Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa; the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugees

in Africa and the 2009 Convention on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (Kampala Convention); and

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