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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
436th MEETING
23 MAY 2014
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM/1.(CDXXXVI)

COMMUNIQUÉ

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 436th meeting held on 23 May 2014, adopted the following decision on the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA):

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the implementation of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army [PSC/PR/2.(CDXXXVI)];
2. **Welcomes** the progress made by the RCI-LRA in the implementation of its mandate, in spite of the numerous challenges being encountered. In particular, Council **notes with satisfaction** the decrease in the number of attacks, killings and abductions carried out by the LRA, the neutralization of key LRA commanders and the relative improvement of the humanitarian situation in the affected areas;
3. **Commends** the Special Envoy for the LRA Issue, Francisco Madeira, and the Commander of the Regional Task Force (RTF) of the RCI-LRA, Brigadier General Samuel Kavuma, as well as the different RTF contingents, for their relentless efforts and steady progress towards the elimination of the LRA;
4. **Expresses appreciation** at the close cooperation between the AU Special Envoy for the LRA issue, and the outgoing Special Representative of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General for Central Africa, Abou Moussa, which made it possible to sustain the commitment of the member countries of the RCI-LRA and strengthen their collaboration within the framework of the Initiative, as well as to maintain the mobilization of the international community, and **looks forward** to continued close collaboration with the new UN Special Representative for Central Africa, Abdoulaye Bathily;
5. **Expresses gratitude** to the European Union (EU), for the its continued financial support to the RCI-LRA, and to the United States of America for its logistical, technical and operational support to the RTF. Council **also expresses gratitude** to the UN, as well as to Luxemburg, for their assistance. Council **notes with satisfaction** the contribution of a number of other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, to the efforts aimed at neutralizing the LRA;
6. **Notes** that, in spite of the progress made, the LRA continues to operate in the Central African Republic (CAR) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Council **also notes with concern** that the situation in the CAR and the conflict in South Sudan have impacted negatively on the operations of the RTF and created opportunities that the LRA is trying to exploit to reorganize and resume large-scale attacks against civilians;
7. **Welcomes** the conclusions of the 4th meeting of the Joint Coordination Mechanism (JCM) held in Addis Ababa on 25 March 2014. In this respect, Council **urges** the member countries of the RCI-LRA to provide enhanced support to their contingents, **appeals** to

partners to continue to provide political, logistical and financial assistance to the RCI-LRA and **requests** the Commission to expedite efforts towards the rehabilitation of affected areas, including the early completion of the detailed assessment of the needs on the ground and the mobilization of the required resources;

8. **Welcomes** the steps taken by the Commission to develop a coordination mechanism between the RCI-LRA and the African-led International Support Mission in the CAR (MISCA), in line with its relevant communiqués, as well as with relevant UN Security Council presidential statements and resolutions, including the technical assessment mission undertaken to the CAR from 14 to 19 May 2014, and **encourages** it to pursue its efforts;

9. **Urges** the Commission to continue mobilizing the necessary support for the RTF, including through the holding of a Second Support Forum to generate additional resources for the Initiative;

10. **Decides** to extend for an additional period of 12 months the mandate of the RCI-LRA, as spelt out in the communiqué PSC/PR/COMM (CCXCIX) adopted at its 299th meeting held on 22 November 2011;

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