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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

806TH MEETING

7 NOVEMBER 2018

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM. (DCCCVI)

COMMUNIQUE

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 806th meeting held on 07 November 2018, adopted the following decision on the situation in Somalia and on the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM):

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Somalia, as well as statements made by H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Idriss Farah, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for the month of November 2018, as well as by Dr. Admore Kambudzi, Acting Director for Peace and Security on behalf of the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security H.E. Ambassador Smail Chergui. Council **also takes** note of the briefings made by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission in Somalia and Head of AMISOM, H.E. Ambassador Francisco Madeira and the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations to Somalia and Head of UNSOM, Professor Nicholas Haysom. Council **further takes note** of the statements made by the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the AU, H.E. Ali Shariif Ahmed; the Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the AU, H.E. Ambassador Woinshet Tadesse of Ethiopia, in her capacity as representative of the Chairperson of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and by the representative of the European Union (EU);
2. **Recalls** all its previous decisions and pronouncements on the situation in Somalia and AMISOM, in particular Communiqué [PSC/MIN/COMM.3 (DCCLXXXII)], adopted at its 782nd meeting held on 27 June 2018 and Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM (DCCLXIX)] adopted at its 769th meeting held on 30 April 2018. Council **further recalls**, in particular, paragraph 13 of the Communiqué of its 782nd meeting in which Council emphasized the need for the reconfiguration of AMISOM to be consistent with the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan (STP), as well as paragraph 16 in which Council requested the Commission to work closely with the UN to undertake, within the next three months, a comprehensive review of AMISOM multidimensional capacities and capabilities; as well as paragraph 22 in which Council called for the development of a new AMISOM Concept of Operations;
3. **Reiterates** the importance of periodic reporting by the Commission on developments in Somalia and on the progress being made in the implementation of the AMISOM mandate, particularly as it relates to AMISOM's support to the STP as requested in the Communiqué of its 753rd meeting;
4. **Commends** the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) for the significant progress achieved in its efforts towards inclusive politics, including the development of legislative

frameworks for the 2020 elections, resource sharing with federal member States, constitutional review, programmes for de-radicalization and counter violent extremism, security sector reform, economic recovery, in the context of the new political dispensation in the Horn of Africa. In this respect, Council **welcomes** the improving neighborly relations with Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti, as well as the warming up the country's diplomatic relations with the Gulf States. Council **further commends** the FGS for the on-going efforts in implementing the STP, which is a demonstration of the FGS' commitment to take full ownership of security responsibilities in the country;

5. **Also commends** AMISOM and its Police and Troop Contributing Countries (P/TCCs) for the progress made so far in implementing the priority tasks outlined in the Communiqué of the 782nd PSC meeting, referred to above, and 2431 (2018) of the UN Security Council in support to the STP, towards transition and drawdown of AMISOM;

6. **Further commends** the Commission and AMISOM for facilitating the conduct of the AMISOM Operational Readiness Assessment (ORA), development of the new AMISOM Concept of Operations (CONOPs) 2018-2021, and submission of the first quarterly report to the AU PSC for its consideration and transmission to the UNSC within the required timeframes. Council **welcomes** the development of the new CONOPs and **looks forward** to its consideration and adoption as soon as possible;

7. **Takes note** of the findings and observations of the ORA, including the identification of capacity gaps and enabling requirements to inform future planning, as well as providing a baseline for the reduction of 1,000 troops by February 2019, reconfiguration of AMISOM and development of a new AMISOM CONOPs to support the implementation of the STP;

8. **Also takes note** of the timing for the AMISOM Mid-Term Review in early 2019, as well as the conduct of Joint Operations with Somalia Security Forces (SSF), reduction of 1000 troops and reconfiguration process of AMISOM to support the implementation of the STP and AMISOM CONOPs. Council **requests** the UNSC, taking into account the calendar of activities at the AU, to postpone the consideration of the proposed Mid-Term Review of AMISOM to March 2019, after the completion of the AMISOM reduction of 1,000 troops;

9. **Emphasizes** that the STP, endorsed by Council at its 769th meeting, provides the most viable pathway for AMISOM's trajectory for transition and handover of primary security responsibilities to the Somali National Security Forces (SNSF). In this regard, Council **stresses the need** to ensure that any alignment or flexibility that AMISOM is expected to apply during the transition process is within the framework of the STP;

10. **Also emphasizes** that successful transition in Somalia is hinged on close collaboration among all the key stakeholders, namely, FGS, Federal Member States (FMS), AMISOM, UN and other partners. In this regard, Council **urges** the FGS and FMS to engage in constructive dialogue to resolve their current political differences, with a view to ensuring more collaboration and synergy, in implementing federal and regional priorities that will contribute towards the preservation and consolidation of peace and security in the country;
11. **Underscores the importance** of its upcoming visit to Somalia and the need to engage with all stakeholders, assess the situation, and support ongoing initiatives in support of the resolution of the current tension between the FGS-FMS, further emphasizing the importance of a peaceful resolution of any differences, in order to successfully held the Somali people in turning a new page in its political history, from decades of conflict, through the on-going trajectory of stability, peace, development and prosperity;
12. **Notes with concern** that although there is many training programmes for Somalia national defence forces under the facilitation of several stakeholders, there is limited visibility of their results and the coordination of these stakeholders with AMISOM, which is expected to facilitate combat mentoring for the trained Somali national defence forces personnel. In this regard, Council **encourages** the FGS to expedite implementation of the National Security Architecture and strengthen the linkages across force generation, training and retention of SSF personnel to lead joint operations with the support of AMISOM;
13. **Stresses** the importance of a conditions based draw-down and transition of security responsibility to the FGS and SSF, in order to preserve the momentum and gains already achieved. In this regard, Council **reiterates its call and support** for sustainable and predictable financing of AMISOM, in order to ensure that the Mission has the required capabilities to effectively support the transition process. In the same context, Council **stresses the need** for the United Nations Support Office to Somalia (UNSOS) support package and delivery to be tailored to support AMISOM to deliver on the STP priorities, particularly through the reconfiguration of the Mission and the undertaking of mobile combat operations;
14. **Pays tribute** to the heavy sacrifices made by AMISOM T/PCCs, especially those that have paid the ultimate price for the promotion of peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Somalia. In the same context, Council **wishes** quick recovery to all those AMISOM personnel who are nursing injuries;
15. **Reiterates** its gratitude to the UN, the EU and other bilateral partners for their continued support to AMISOM operations against Al Shabaab, as well as for their support to the efforts of the FGS;

16. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit this Communiqué and his Report on Somalia, as well as the AMISOM ORA Report to the African Members of the UN Security Council (A3), as well as to the UN Secretary-General for circulation to the members of the Security Council as working documents, as appropriate;
17. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.