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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
478TH MEETING
19 DECEMBER 2014
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.(CDLXXVIII)

COMMUNIQUE

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The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 478th meeting held on 19 December 2014, was briefed by the Commission on the Report of the 2nd High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa, held at the ministerial level, in Oran, Algeria, from 9 to 11 December 2014, with a view to *Assisting Incoming African Members on the UN Security Council in Preparing to Address Peace and Security Issues on the Continent* and adopted the following decision:

Council,

1. **Takes note**, with appreciation, of the briefing provided by the Commission, on the Report of the 2nd High-Level Seminar and the subsequent statements made by Member States on the Report and its outcomes.
2. **Hails** the High-Level Seminar as one of the forums for enhancing coordination and promotion of African common positions relating to peace and security issues which are of primary interest to Africa and its people in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). In this context, Council **stresses** the importance of the partnership between the AU and the UN, particularly its Security Council, which has the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security;
3. **Recalls** the Communiqué adopted at its 418th meeting held on 11 February 2014, in which Council endorsed the Conclusions of the 1st High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa, which was held from 8 to 10 December 2013, in Algiers, Algeria;
4. **Underlines** that the objective of this Seminar is to help in strengthening the role of the PSC in the promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent and equally, in the promotion and defense of common African positions on peace and security issues concerning Africa in the UN Security Council;
5. **Commends** the Government of Algeria, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), for convening the 2nd High-Level Seminar and **accepts** the offer by the Government of Algeria to host the 3rd High-Level Seminar, in Oran, Algeria, towards the end of 2015;
6. **Welcomes** the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 1st High-Level Seminar, particularly the establishment of the A3 comprising of African Members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in New York, and the participation of their counterparts in PSC meetings in Addis Ababa, as well as the formalization of the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations in New York, as the Secretariat of the A3;

7. **Decides** to convene the High Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa as an annual event to be organized in a timely manner, before the newly elected African Members take their seats in the UNSC, with a view to ensuring that, through the High-Level Seminar, they benefit from the institutional memory of the outgoing African Members of the UNSC and briefings from the AU PSC, as well as from other relevant stakeholders, as to be determined by the Council. Furthermore, Council **underscores** the importance of effective coordination and collaboration among the A3 and between them and the Council in the promotion of African common positions and priorities relating to peace and security on the continent;

8. **Further decides** to endorse, for implementation by the Council, in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities/ Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMMs), the following outcomes of the 2nd High-Level Seminar, namely:

- i) consideration of the draft modalities on a Coordinating Mechanism between the A3 and the AUPSC;
- ii) further strengthening the capacity of the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN, in New York, which is now serving as the Secretariat of the A3. In this context, more funding should be mobilized from within Africa to facilitate deployment, of experienced high ranking officers in relevant fields to help promote African positions and assist in the preparation of UNSC draft resolutions on African issues;
- iii) spearheading measures to ensure that African members of the UNSC are given the status of pen-holders and co-penholders in the preparation of UNSC draft resolutions on peace and security issues in Africa;
- iv) enhancing coordination among the AU PSC (through its Chairperson), the RECs/RMs (through their respective chairpersons), the A3 in New York, the President of the UNSC and other relevant stakeholders; and
- v) strengthening the capacity for conflict analysis and information sharing between the Council, the A3 and the RECs/RMs.

9. **Decides** as follows on essential aspects regarding the convening of the High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa:

- i) hosting of the High-Level Seminar should be based on the principle of rotation among the PSC Member States;

- ii) participation in future High-Level Seminars should be on the basis of the Chairperson of the month and one Member per region, the outgoing and incoming A3, RECs/RMs; AU Commission and UN ; and
- iii) the agenda and the list of invitees for the High-Level Seminar should be articulated by the AU Commission and submitted to the PSC for approval.

10. **Requests** the Commission to take all necessary steps to facilitate the implementation of the outcomes of the 2nd High–Level Seminar as elaborated in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of this Communiqué; and

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