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P.O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.: (251-11) 551 38 22 Fax: (251-11) 551 93 21  
Email: [situationroom@africa-union.org](mailto:situationroom@africa-union.org)

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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
593<sup>RD</sup> MEETING  
26 APRIL 2016  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR (DXCIII)

PRESS STATEMENT

## PRESS STATEMENT

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 593<sup>rd</sup> meeting, held on 26 April 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, received presentations on terrorism and violent extremism in Africa and the AU efforts, made by the African Centre of the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and the Committee for Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA).

Council recalled its previous decisions on terrorism, particularly communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.(CDLV) on terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, adopted at its 455<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 2 September 2015, at the level of Heads of State and Government. Council noted that, despite the commendable progress made in tackling the threat of terrorism at the international, continental and national levels, terrorism continues to spread geographically, in Africa at an alarming rate, with increasing frequency and lethality, targeting more civilians than it ever did before.

Council reiterated its deep concern over the increasing capacity of terrorist organizations to recruit new members, including Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and to finance their activities through a variety of means connected to transnational organized crime, such as piracy, kidnap-for-ransom (KFR), drug and human trafficking, selling of antiquities, and illegal exploitation and selling of natural resources. In this regard, Council called on Member States to provide each other with the required assistance and cooperation within the overall efforts guided by the African Peace and Security Architecture to eradicate terrorism and violent extremism in Africa.

Council expressed its deep concern over the increasing operational capacity of terrorist groups in Africa, particularly in the acquisition of weapons. In this regard, Council requested CISSA to provide a detailed report on the nature and sources of weapons used by terrorists in Africa, to be presented to the PSC in July 2016. Council emphasized the need for renewed determination from Member States to meet their obligations under the different regional and global counter-terrorism instruments, in particular, identifying the financial sources of terrorism and the recruitment and radicalization of African youth, with a view to enhancing the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

Council called for enhanced efforts to strengthen mechanisms for the effective sharing of information and intelligence between concerned countries at bilateral and regional levels, particularly within the Nouakchott and Djibouti processes, the different regional fusion centres, and AFRIPOL whose roles have become critical in the fight against terrorism. Council also called on the Commission to continue to provide support and to facilitate the development of technical and operational capacities of Member States for effective prevention and combating of terrorism.

Council reiterated its call to the Member States, which have not yet done so, to urgently take the necessary steps to become party to the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of terrorism and its 2004 Supplementary Protocol, and to the relevant international instruments adopted under the auspices of the United Nations.

Council renewed its call for all State Parties to the relevant African and international instruments to implement in full all the provisions contained therein, including the legislative and judicial measures, border control, financial controls, sharing of information and intelligence, strengthening capacities of the relevant agencies, and cooperation and coordination at regional, continental and international levels.

Council reiterated its call for enhanced collaboration between the AU and international partners in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, as this scourge is a global phenomenon which poses a serious threat to international peace and security.

Council agreed to remain seized of the matter.