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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
761ST MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
5 APRIL 2018

PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCLXI)

COMMUNIQUE

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The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 761st meeting held on 5 April 2018, received a briefing on the prevention of ideology of hate, genocide and hate crimes in Africa and adopted the following decision:

Council:

1. **Takes note** of the briefings made by the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, H.E. Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma, the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General for the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Adama Dieng, and the former Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC) and member of the Senate of Rwanda, Dr. Richard Sezibera. Council **also takes note** of the statements made by Dr. Admore Kambudzi, Ag. Director, Peace and Security on behalf of the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, the representatives of Ethiopia and Cote d'Ivoire, in their capacities as African Members of the United Nations Security Council, and the European Union (EU);
2. **Recalls** its previous decisions on the prevention of ideology of hate, genocide and hate crimes in Africa, particularly decision [(PSC/PR/COMM.(DCLXXVIII))] adopted at its 678th meeting held on 11 April 2017, as well as other related AU and international instruments;
3. **Emphasizes** that hate speeches, identity-based conflicts, hatred, the exacerbation of ethnic, racist tendencies, among others contribute to the ideology of hate which leads to hate crimes and genocide. Council **further emphasizes** that extremist ideology among religious groups is fostering a new ground for hate speeches and crimes and if unchecked could lead to genocide. In this regard, Council **reiterates its commitment** to promote religious tolerance with a view to preventing recurrence of mass atrocities, hate crime and ideologies of genocides on the continent;
4. **Expresses deep concern** over the negative consequences that may arise from the misuse of media, particularly social media, which has the potential of escalating the ideology of hate and genocide in the society. Council **underscores** that, although social media can contribute to consolidate cohesion within and between communities, it however has the potential to disrupt national unity and peace. In this regard, Council **urges** Member States to develop mechanisms for monitoring the use of media, with a view to ensure that media are not misused to propagate the ideology of hate, genocide and hate crimes. In this regard, Council **stresses the importance** of strengthening early warning mechanism at all levels, national, regional and continental, in order to prevent situations, which could lead to genocide and be able to act in a timely manner;
5. **Emphasizes** the importance of addressing the root causes of the ideology of hate, genocide and hate crimes within and between communities and **encourages** Member States to enact laws and put in place legal frameworks that penalize hate speeches, ideologies of extremism among religious groups, as well as marginalization and discrimination of ethnic and tribal groups;

6. **Underscores** the need for embracing the culture of peace, reconciliation, healing and justice in a manner that promotes interconnection among these four fundamental elements of social stability and to prevent conflicts and mass atrocities such as genocide, in line with Assembly decision Assembly/AU/Dec.501 (XXII) and Declaration Assembly/AU/Dec.2 (XXX), in which the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government declared 2014-2024 as the Madiba Nelson Mandela decade of reconciliation in Africa and declaring 2018 as the Nelson Mandela Centenary. Council **stresses the importance** of promoting civic education, particularly among the youth, dialogue and the culture of peace, national reconciliation and healing, as well as prevention of hate crimes and genocide;
7. **Stresses the need** to prosecute perpetrators of hate and genocide crimes, in line with the AU Constitutive Act and other relevant instruments, which clearly demonstrates AU's commitment to fighting impunity and promoting justice, reconciliation and healing. In this regard, Council **reiterates its appeal** to all AU Member States, which have not yet done so, to investigate, arrest, prosecute or extradite those fugitives accused as genocide perpetrators currently residing in their territories;
8. **Reiterates the need** for the use of proper terminology and clear analysis in order to avoid any risk of genocide denials, negationism and revisionism. In this regard, Council **decides** that the correct nomenclature of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda shall be: *"The 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda"*;
9. **Welcomes** the resolution 72/550 adopted on 26 January 2018 by the UN General Assembly which designates 7th April of each year as the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. In this regard, Council **decides** to designate 7th April of each year as the African Union Day of Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda;
10. **Encourages** Member States to endorse and implement Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians in peace keeping operations, to monitor and report any human rights abuses in conflict areas and any situations that could lead to hate crimes and genocide;
11. **Calls upon** all Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify all African and international instruments related to the prevention of hate ideology, genocide and hate crimes;
12. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.