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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
790<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA  
16 AUGUST 2018

PSC/PR/COMM. (DCCXC)

COMMUNIQUE

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The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), dedicated its 790<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 16 August 2018, in Addis Ababa, to consideration of Africa's Security Priorities in line with Agenda 2063 and adopted the following decision:

**Council,**

**1. Takes note** of the opening statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the AU, H.E. Ambassador Susan Sikaneta, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the PSC for the month of August 2018. Council also **takes note** of the presentations made by representatives of the AU Commission Departments of Economic Affairs, Political Affairs and Social Affairs, as well as by the representative of the Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate on the status of progress in the implementation of the Agenda 2063 First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, including the challenges being faced.

**2. Recalls** the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063, namely, an integrated Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development; an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law; a peaceful and secure Africa; an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics; an Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially women and youth and caring for children; and Africa as a strong united, resilient and influential global player and partner. **Also recalls** the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2013, in Addis Ababa, in which the Assembly of the Union pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020, as well as decision Assembly/AU/Dec/630 (XXVIII) by the which the 28<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2017, adopted the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Gun in Africa by the Year 2020. Council further recalls all its previous decisions and pronouncements, particularly Press Statement [PSC/PR/BR. (DCCLXVI)], adopted at its 766<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 24 April 2018, which was dedicated to an Open Session on the theme: "Africa's Peace and Security Landscape by the Year 2023 (End of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063): A Prospective Analysis of Peace and Security Challenges".

**3. Takes note** of the progress registered in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and **underscores the importance** for Member States to pool and coordinate their efforts, in order to achieve the full implementation of the Agenda 2063 Flagship Programmes. Furthermore, and mindful of the symbiotic relationship between peace and development, Council, **also underscores the need** for Member States to identify and address their security priorities, in order to create conducive conditions for the successful implementation of the various Agenda 2063 Flagship Programmes.

**4. Expresses deep concern** over illegal exploitation of Africa's natural resources, particularly land, minerals, flora, fauna and water resources, and **encourages** Member States to further

strengthen their governance systems, particularly in the management of natural resources, including fighting corruption. In this respect, Council **emphasizes the urgent need** for Member States to ensure best practices in natural resources governance systems, in order to ensure that the African people are the primary beneficiaries of the natural resources in their countries. Furthermore, Council **emphasizes the need** for Member States to put in place necessary measures and to effectively combat systemic corruption, money laundering and illicit financial flows. In this context, Council **encourages** all Member States to adhere to all relevant AU instruments and **requests** the Commission to provide the necessary support to enable Member States to successfully recover illicit funds in foreign bank accounts

**5. Also expresses concern** over the exponential population growth rates in parts of the Continent which is not squarely matched by the provision of basic needs, such as food, shelter, health and education. In this respect, Council encourages Member States to redouble efforts in growing their national economies, in order to be able to satisfy the growing needs of the populations.

**6. Further expresses concern** over the alarming figures of irregular migration, human trafficking and proliferation of organized criminal networks and armed groups in parts of the Continent. In this context, Council **strongly condemns** the acts of smugglers and traffickers and all their accomplices and **underlines the importance** for Member States to consolidate their efforts to combat these scourges and enhance their coordination and cooperation, with a view to further strengthening existing mechanisms for facilitating regulated migration. Council **reiterates the importance** of Member States to effectively address the root causes of and drivers of unregulated, illegal and forced migration. In this context, Council **requests** the Commission to expedite the establishment of observatory centers in all of the five geographical regions of the Continent.

**7. Urges** Member States to sign and ratify all existing AU treaties and protocols relating to the establishment of continental financial institutions, particularly the Africa Central Bank (ACB), African Investment Bank (AIB) and the African Monetary Fund (AMF), as they are key to the realization of Agenda 2063.

**8. Emphasizes the need** for further strengthening the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and to ensure its full implementation simultaneously with the African Governance Architecture (AGA). In this regard, Council **requests** the Commission to accelerate the finalization of the comprehensive study on the implementation of both, APSA and AGA and to submit the report of the study for consideration by Council, as soon as possible before the AU Extra-Ordinary Summit that is scheduled to be held in November 2018.

**9. Also emphasizes the importance** of effective implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020. In this context, Council **requests** the Commission to accelerate the finalization of the Evaluation and Monitoring

mechanism, as soon as possible, before the end of 2018 and submit it to Council for consideration and appropriate action.

**10. Commends** the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) for their efforts in implementing the various AU Flagship Programmes, which will significantly contribute towards accelerating the pace of continental integration. Council **requests** the Commission to organize, as soon as possible, a consultation between the Council and the policy organs of the RECs/RMs to address, among others, issues relating to the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity, as well as division of labor based on comparative advantages. The consultation may also be seized as a window of opportunity for discussing issues relating to financing and compliance with AU decisions in the implementation of Agenda 2063.

**11. Also commends** the African Development Bank, United Nations and its Agencies, particularly, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Development Programme, and other Partners for their support to the development and implementation of Agenda 2063;

**12. Once again emphasizes** the need to make full use of all available conflict prevention tools, in particular, early warning, preventive diplomacy, mediation, peace building and post-conflict reconstruction and development, with a view to preventing the outbreak of fresh conflicts in the continent and relapses of countries emerging from violent conflicts.

**13. Encourages** all Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign, ratify and domesticate all existing AU normative instruments, and to fully embrace and uphold the African Governance Charter as the best practical means and ways of preventing most of the governance related violent conflicts in the Continent.

**14. Welcomes** the normalization of diplomatic relations between Eritrea and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as well as the recent signing, in Khartoum, Sudan, of a permanent cessation of hostilities and power-sharing agreement between the parties to the conflict in South Sudan, as significant contributions not only towards the creation of the necessary conducive conditions for the successful restoration of peace, security and stability in the entire region of the Greater Horn of Africa, but also for effective integration and development of the Continent within the context of Agenda 2063.

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