



**9TH ANNUAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN
AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (AUPSC)
AND THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)**

ADDIS ABABA, 12 MARCH 2015

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AUPSC) and the members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held their 9th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, on 12 March 2015. The meeting was convened to discuss peace and security issues in Africa within the context of AU-UN partnership.
2. The AUPSC and members of the UN Security Council reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations and the mandate of the Peace and Security Council with regard to the promotion of peace and security in Africa as provided for in the Constitutive Act of the African Union as well as in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. They also reaffirmed the provisions of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of local disputes and recalled the outcomes of their previous consultative meetings.
3. The AUPSC and the members of the UN Security Council reviewed matters of common concern, in particular the conflict and crisis situations in Africa, and exchanged views on ways and means of enhancing the cooperation between the AUPSC and the UNSC in preventing conflicts and crises in Africa, as well as on the review of UN peace operations.

On the situation in the Great Lakes Region

4. The AUPSC and members of the UN Security Council expressed their deep concern over the security and humanitarian crisis that continues to affect the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as a result of the ongoing destabilizing activities carried out by the armed groups and spoilers, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the National Liberation Forces (FNL). They reiterated their strong condemnation of all violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated by the armed groups, and called for the immediate cessation of all forms of violence.
5. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC reiterated the urgent need to step-up efforts to neutralize all armed groups and spoilers in the region. They expressed their concern about the refusal of the FDLR to disarm and demobilize voluntarily by the deadline of 2 January 2015 set by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) with the support of the AU and the UN. They noted the efforts deployed by the DRC Government to neutralize FDLR and looked forward to the urgent military and other measures to be taken jointly by the DRC Government and MONUSCO in that regard. They took note of the stated commitment of the Congolese authorities to carry out military operations against the FDLR, and strongly encouraged cooperation with MONUSCO, in accordance with its mandate, to

ensure all efforts possible are being made to neutralize the FDLR. They further called for the acceleration of the implementation process of the Nairobi Declarations.

6. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC stressed the importance of the scrupulous and timely implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework Agreement for the DRC and the region for the promotion of lasting peace, security and stability in the Great Lakes Region. They urged the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take further steps to implement its commitment under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, including the establishment of a professional, accountable and sustainable national army that includes a rapid reaction force, in accordance with its commitment to deepen security sector reform and the finalization of the development of a comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and a disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement plan, paying special attention to the specific needs of women and children. They underscored the important role of the Guarantors of the PSC Framework, namely the AU, the UN, the ICGLR and the SADC, in support of the implementation process, and welcomed the convening in Addis Ababa, on 2 December 2014, of the first meeting of the PSC Framework Guarantors. They also welcomed the outcome of the 5th meeting of the PSC Framework Regional Oversight Mechanism, held in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2015, and stressed the need to ensure the implementation of the decisions adopted.

7. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC emphasized the importance of addressing the root causes of the conflict in eastern DRC as well as the need for a comprehensive approach to restore peace and stability in the wider Great Lakes region. They called upon international partners to make every effort to ensure that the dividends of peace can be realized immediately through quick-impact projects at the local and regional levels to ensure economic development and to strengthen regional cooperation and economic integration. They drew the attention of the World Bank Group on the relevance of releasing the USD 1 billion, pledged for the DRC in May 2013.

8. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC welcomed the coordinated good offices work of the Special Envoys/Representatives for the Great Lakes Region, to support the implementation of the PSC Framework.

9. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC commended the contribution of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), including its Force Intervention Brigade, to further peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and welcomed the commitment of troop-contributing countries to MONUSCO in fulfilling its mandate of protection of civilians.

On the situation in the Central African Republic

10. The AUPSC and members of the UN Security Council expressed their concerns at the security and humanitarian situation in Central African Republic (CAR). They strongly condemned the resurgence of violence in October 2014 in Bangui, the continuous cycle of provocations and reprisals as well as the human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed by armed groups. They called on all parties and stakeholders, particularly the leaders of the ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka groups, as well as all other armed groups, to immediately and permanently lay down their arms, release all children from their ranks, and embark upon the path of dialogue towards achieving lasting reconciliation and peace. They further stressed the urgent need to end impunity in the country and to bring to justice the perpetrators of such violations and abuses.

11. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC reiterated their concerns at the dire humanitarian situation in the CAR. They also stressed the importance of the voluntary and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons and their full participation in the political dialogue and elections. They urgently appealed to the international community to provide financial and other forms of support to countries hosting refugees from the CAR. They further recalled the need for an inclusive and effective DDR process.

12. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC reaffirmed their commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the CAR. They called upon the transitional authorities to further take concrete actions for the promotion of an inclusive and comprehensive political dialogue and reconciliation process both at the local and national levels. They welcomed the ongoing local consultation process and the upcoming Bangui Forum meeting and urged all actors in the electoral process, including the Transitional Authorities and the National Elections Authority (NEA), to accelerate preparations to hold free, fair, transparent and inclusive presidential and legislative elections that will mark the end of the transition. In this regard, they urged the international community to extend all necessary support, including economic and financial, to the CAR.

13. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC welcomed the successful and smooth transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in CAR (MISCA) to United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) and noted with satisfaction that the completion by MISCA of the initial stabilization phase of the situation in the CAR has created conducive conditions for the deployment of the UN peacekeeping operation. They also commended Sangaris and EUFOR RCA for the work done in laying the foundation for increased security ahead of and in support of MINUSCA's deployment.

14. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC emphasized that the continued role of the region, including the Secretary-General of ECCAS and its mediator, as well as of the African Union, together with the United Nations, will be critical for the promotion of lasting peace and stability in the Central African Republic. They urged the signatories to the Brazzaville Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities

of 23 July 2014 to immediately and fully implement its provisions, in particular articles 4 and 8, and called upon the International Mediation, led by President Denis Sassou N'Guesso, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the African Union (AU), and the UN to facilitate the early conclusion of an agreement on the disarmament of the armed groups, in the framework of the Brazzaville process and in view of the upcoming legislative and presidential elections.

On combating the Boko Haram Terrorist Group

15. The AUPSC and members of the UN Security Council expressed their strong condemnation of the horrendous terrorist attacks committed by Boko Haram, including killings of civilians, use of women and children as suicide bombers, kidnappings, hostage taking, pillaging and destruction of civilian property, recruitment and use of children, sexually-based violence and other abuses. They expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the people and the governments of Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad. They noted with satisfaction that in its communiqués on the Boko Haram terrorist group, the PSC has emphasized that all operations against Boko Haram shall be conducted in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law.

16. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. They recalled the placing of Boko Haram on the Al-Qaida sanctions list on 22 May 2014, and demanded the immediate cessation of all hostilities and abuses by this terrorist group. They also demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all those abducted who remain in captivity, including the schoolgirls abducted in Chibok, Borno State in April 2014. They underscored the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice in accordance with international law.

17. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC expressed their deep concern over the humanitarian crisis caused by the activities of Boko Haram, which has resulted in the large-scale displacement of Nigerians within the country and into neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger. They commended the support provided to the refugees by the Governments of the said countries, including with the assistance of humanitarian actors and relevant United Nations entities, and called on the international community to provide its support.

18. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC acknowledged the efforts of the Nigerian Government in combating the threat posed by Boko Haram terrorist group, in particular the regaining of territories earlier taken over by the terrorists, as well as adoption of other initiatives at the national level toward ameliorating the conditions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The members of the AUPSC and UNSC noted that the terrorist activities of Boko Haram pose a threat to international peace and security in the region and welcomed the collective efforts of the countries of the region to address this threat, noting with interest in this respect the establishment by the

States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), namely Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria and the Republic of Benin, of the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to combat the Boko Haram terrorist group. They urged the region to enhance regional military operations and coordination to more effectively and immediately combat Boko Haram. In this regard, they welcomed the convening of a meeting of experts in Yaounde and N'Djamena in February 2015 to finalize the concept of operations. They stressed that all operations of the MNJTF must be conducted in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law.

19. The AUPSC and the Members of the UNSC commended the efforts of the LCBC member States and Benin, in the fight against Boko Haram threat in the region since January 2015. They paid tribute to all soldiers who lost their lives in the conduct of those operations and also extended condolences to their governments and members of their families. They condemned any hostility towards those operations and stressed that those responsible for these acts should be held accountable. They further stressed the importance of support to and cooperation with the Force.

20. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC took note of the AUPSC communiqué of 3 March 2015 on Boko Haram, as well as of the letter sent by the Chairperson of the Commission to the UN Secretary-General, formally transmitting the communiqué and the Concept of operations of the MNJTF to the UN Secretary-General and, through him, to the UNSC, for their information and action. They agreed to consider the issue of Boko Haram as a matter of priority, and looked forward to consideration of Security Council actions, as appropriate, considering that the Boko Haram terrorist activities constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region.

21. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC underscored the need for the international community, multilateral and bilateral partners to provide support to the States of the region in order to enhance the operational capacity of the MNJTF, including through the provision of financial and logistical assistance and relevant equipment. They welcomed, in this regard, the assistance already offered by bilateral and multilateral partners and noted with satisfaction the conclusions of the Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), held in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 16 February 2015, including the establishment of a Special Fund as well as the decision to support Cameroon and Chad with an emergency financial aid, troops and other forms of military assistance.

22. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC stressed that, in addition to the much-needed military and security operations against Boko Haram and other terrorist groups, sustained national, regional and international efforts should also be deployed towards the improvement of livelihoods, education and job creation, as well as towards the protection of human rights, including those of women and girls, and the promotion of justice and reconciliation. In this respect, they appealed for the mobilization of the required financial and technical support to the countries of the region, including in their efforts to revive the Lake Chad.

On Mali and the Sahel

23. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC welcomed the initialing, in Algiers, on 1 March 2015, of the “Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali”, by the Government of Mali, Movements of the “Algiers Platform” and all Members of the Mediation Team. They urged the Coordination of “Azawad Movements” that has not yet initialed the document to do so without further delay.

24. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC called on all Malian parties to continue to engage constructively with sustained political will, spirit of compromise and in good faith towards a final settlement and stressed that the ownership and commitment of the Malian parties is crucial for the success of the whole process. They also underscored the critical importance of the full, faithful and immediate implementation of the final agreement and called on the Malian parties to demonstrate commitment towards its complete implementation. They also underscored the key role of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and MINUSMA and that of the AU High Representative for Mali and Sahel and MISAHEL, as well as that of the countries of the region and other international stakeholders, in supporting and overseeing the implementation of the final Agreement, for which primary responsibility rests with the Malian parties.

25. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC commended the Algerian Government and the Members of the international mediation team comprising the countries of the region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria), as well as the AU, ECOWAS, the UN, the EU and the OIC, for their efforts to resolve the conflict in Mali.

26. The AUPSC and members of the UNSC expressed their full support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and highlighted its contribution to peace and security in this country. They paid tribute to MINUSMA’s troop and police contributing countries for their continued commitment and sacrifices.

27. The AUPSC and members of the UNSC noted with grave concern that MINUSMA is the target of asymmetric attacks from terrorist and extremist groups operating in Mali and the wider Sahel region, and expressed their strong condemnation of all attacks against MINUSMA peacekeepers, personnel and property.

28. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC noted with concern that the effective implementation of MINUSMA’s mandate continues to be challenged by a number of factors. They encouraged the UN Secretary General to further enable MINUSMA to reach its full operating capability as soon as possible, in particular reaching its the ceiling of 11 200 uniformed personnel.

29. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC underscored the need to take the necessary measures to enable it to effectively fulfill its mandate. They stressed the importance of the Mission reaching its full operational capacity as soon as possible and encouraged expedited efforts to deploy the remaining troops and police as well as related enablers to reach MINUSMA's authorized uniformed personnel ceiling, with adequate capabilities, training and equipment, including the reserve battalion intended to provide a rapid response capacity. They took note of the conclusions of the Niamey meeting of MINUSMA's troop contributing countries, held on 5 November 2014, in particular the readiness expressed by African TCCs to further contribute to efforts aimed at enhancing MINUSMA. They also took note of the pronouncement on the matter made by the Summit of the countries participating in the Nouakchott Process on enhancement of security cooperation and operationalization of APSA in the Sahelo-Saharan region, held in Nouakchott, on 18 December 2014.

30. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC reaffirmed their commitment to peace, security and socioeconomic development in the Sahel region. They stressed the need for a coordinated approach in the rapid implementation of the AU and the UN strategies for the Sahel Region. They welcomed the preparedness expressed by the United Nations to support the Nouakchott Process.

On Libya

31. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC stressed that there can be no military solution to the current crisis in Libya, and that only dialogue will bring about durable peace, security, stability and reconciliation. In this respect, they expressed support to the efforts being deployed by the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the SRSG to facilitate an inclusive political dialogue among the Libyan stakeholders, including the meetings held in Geneva, Switzerland, Ghadames, Libya, Skhirat, Morocco, and Algiers, Algeria, which could result in the establishment of a national unity government. They urged all concerned Libyan stakeholders to rise above narrow political and other considerations in order to end the violence afflicting their country and meet the expectations of their people.

32. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC expressed their deep concern at the prevailing security situation in Libya and the continued terrorist acts in the country, as well as the resulting humanitarian crisis and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. They noted, with concern, that some foreign terrorist groups have found safe haven in parts of Libya and expressed serious preoccupation at the negative consequences of the current situation on the country, as well as on regional peace, security and stability.

33. The AU PSC and the members of the UNSC also acknowledged the important role of the countries of the region, through the Ministerial Committee of the Neighborhood. In this respect, they commended Algeria for its efforts aimed at facilitating the convening of a reconciliation conference that will bring together all relevant Libyan stakeholders. They called upon the stakeholders to engage constructively in the current dialogue process in order to achieve a successful outcome. They welcomed the establishment of the International Contact Group for Libya and underlined its critical and important role in coordinating international engagement in Libya. They look forward to the next meeting of the Group, which is scheduled to take place in Niamey, Niger, on 1 April 2015. They commended the AU and UN Special Envoys/Special Representatives for their efforts in facilitating the Libyan peace process and encouraged them to continue their efforts.

On Darfur

34. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC expressed concern at the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur, in 2014, including through continued clashes between Government forces and rebel armed groups, an escalation of inter-tribal fighting and other local clashes, including the involvement of paramilitary units and tribal militias, and an increase in criminality and banditry, all of which have resulted in substantial displacement of civilian populations. They commended UNAMID for its efforts towards the stabilization of the situation and its proactive protection of civilians, as well as support to humanitarian personnel in order to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable civilian populations in Darfur. They pledged full support to UNAMID and strongly condemn all attacks against the Mission.

35. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC reiterated their support to the efforts being deployed by the AU High Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP), with the support of the AU-UN Joint Chief Mediator and the UN Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, to facilitate an immediate cessation of hostilities in Darfur that would pave the way for the participation of the Darfuri armed movements in the national dialogue announced by the Sudanese authorities in January 2014. They reiterated the importance of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as the basis for peace, emphasizing that the effective implementation of the Agreement will go a long way in fostering peace, stability and reconciliation in Sudan. They called on the Government of Sudan and the armed movements to extend full cooperation to the AUHIP-led efforts and to display the required flexibility to move the process forward.

36. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC recalled the relevant provisions of UN Security Council resolution 2173 (2014) regarding UNAMID, including the implementation of its review, and the upcoming recommendations for the future mandate, composition, configuration, and exit strategy of UNAMID, as well as its relationship with other UN actors in Darfur and Sudan. They took note with interest of the Agreement reached in February 2015 between the AU, the UN and the Government of Sudan on the establishment of a Joint Working Group on the UNAMID exit strategy. They agreed to closely coordinate their efforts on these issues, including through the Joint Working

Group, and they looked forward to receiving the Group's agreed recommendations.

On Somalia

37. The AUPSC and members of the UNSC noted with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in Somalia despite the many remaining challenges. They commended AMISOM and the Somali security forces for having successfully conducted operations "Eagle" and "Indian Ocean", which resulted in the recovery of several strategic locations and further weakening of the Al Shabaab terrorist group. They underlined the need for the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to intensify its efforts aimed at stabilizing and securing the recovered areas, including the provision of basic public services and quick impact projects, so as to consolidate the gains made. They also stressed the critical importance of more sustained efforts towards building capable and effective Somali security forces. They urged the FGS to expedite the integration of the various militias under a unified national command.

38. The AU PSC and members of the UNSC noted the decision taken by the AU Commission to thoroughly investigate the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse leveled against some AMISOM personnel. They underlined the importance of holding to account those found responsible for any such abuses.

39. The AU PSC and the members of the UNSC also welcomed the political progress made in the past months, including the state formation process and the passing of the electoral act. The AU PSC and members of the UNSC underlined the importance of the prompt establishment of the National Independent Electoral Commission. They further underlined the importance they attached to the forthcoming UN Electoral Assistance Mission. They called on the FGS and other Somalis stakeholders to expedite their efforts, in a spirit of national unity, to ensure the conduct of credible elections in 2016, including the adoption of the new Constitution.

40. The AU PSC and members of the UNSC acknowledged the critical role of AMISOM in the stabilization of Somalia, particularly in view of the continued threat posed by the Al Shabaab terrorist group. Accordingly, they stressed the need for enhanced support to AMISOM, including through new contributors sharing the financial burden of supporting AMISOM. They look forward to the outcome of the forthcoming joint benchmarking exercise which will inform the next steps regarding the military campaign, taking into due consideration the political situation in Somalia.

On South Sudan

41. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC reiterated their commitment to the unity and territorial integrity of South Sudan. They expressed deep concern at the prevailing situation in South Sudan, characterized by continued fighting, a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, and continuing human rights violations and abuses committed against the civilian population, including sexual

violence, as well as the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. They noted with utmost disappointment the failure by the South Sudanese parties to reach an agreement, by the deadline of 5 March 2015, at the last round of the IGAD-led peace talks in Addis Ababa, which had been convened to complete consultations on outstanding matters to end the tragedy unfolding in their country.

42. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC urged the parties to recommit to an unconditional end to hostilities as provided for in the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, as well as to negotiate in good faith and without preconditions and conclude their consultations on outstanding matters, with particular focus on the establishment and structure of the Transitional Government of National Unity as soon as possible. In this respect, they reiterated their determination to impose sanctions against all parties that threaten the peace, security or stability of South Sudan, in particular those who continue to undermine the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and obstruct the political process, in line with their relevant pronouncements in support to the communique of the IGAD 28th Extraordinary Summit and UNSC resolution 2206 (2015).

43. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC underscored the need for enhanced humanitarian assistance to the internally displaced populations in South Sudan and to the countries of the region that are hosting South Sudanese refugees, including to the victims of sexual violence.

44. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC expressed their gratitude to the IGAD and its current Chair, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia, for their relentless efforts to bring lasting peace and reconciliation in South Sudan. They welcomed the call by the Chair of IGAD to further enhance the mediation process, in close consultation with the other leaders of the region, the AU and the UN, and expressed their readiness to support this process. They reiterated their commitment to continue to support the people of South Sudan to achieve their legitimate aspiration for lasting peace, stability and national reconciliation.

On the review of the United Nations Peace Operations

45. The AUPSC and the members of the UN Security Council stressed the critical role of the United Nations peacekeeping operations in the maintenance of international peace and security. They noted with satisfaction the African Union's increased contributions to the maintenance of peace and security, including through the deployment of AU-led peace support operations, including peacekeeping operations, in response to conflict situations on the continent, notably in Burundi, Darfur, Mali, Central African Republic and Somalia. They further noted the challenges faced by the AU-led peace support operations relating to funding and logistical gaps.

46. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC paid tribute to the memory of the African Union and United Nations peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the cause of peace and expressed grave concern about the security threats and recurrent targeted attacks against peacekeepers in

many Missions.

47. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC noted that the nature of the security environment into which peacekeeping operations are deployed has changed significantly and that the current challenges facing UN peacekeeping operations include particularly transnational threats, armed non-state actors, illicit trafficking and other related emerging security threats like the rise of terrorism and violent extremism. They underscored the need to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in facing the above-mentioned challenges and to achieve progress on a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach to the maintenance of international peace and security.

48. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC welcomed the initiative by the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to establish a High Level Independent Panel, under the leadership of former President Jose Ramos Horta, to undertake a review of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. They stressed the importance of this review for all regions, in particular for the African Continent which continues to host the largest numbers of peacekeeping operations and took note, in this regard, of the consultations conducted by the Panel from 9 to 13 February 2015, with the Chairperson of the AU Commission as well as with the AUPSC.

49. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC expressed their support to the High-Level Panel and looked forward to the outcome of this comprehensive review. They noted that this review provides an opportunity to further the common objective of the UN and the AU towards building an innovative and forward looking partnership between the two Organizations, within the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

On Women, Peace and Security

50. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC looked forward to the publication of the Global Study on Women, Peace and Security and the High Level Review on resolution 1325 in October 2015 on the 15th anniversary of the resolution. They commended efforts of the AU to develop a continental framework on WPS, and recognized the need to build networks of women mediators for use by both the AU and the UN Security Council. They further highlighted the importance of implementing the AU-UN Framework of Cooperation concerning the prevention and response to conflict related sexual violence in Africa signed in January 2014, and the ongoing cooperation between the two bodies on this issue.

On Enhancing AUPSC/UNSC Cooperation in preventing conflicts and crises in Africa

51. The AUPSC and the members of the UN Security Council acknowledged the progress achieved in the ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and stressed the importance of further strengthening this cooperation and developing effective

partnership consistent with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, to address common collective security challenges in Africa.

52. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC stressed the need to strengthen the cooperation in preventing conflicts and crises in Africa between the United Nations and the African Union, including between the AUPSC and the UNSC and expressed their determination to enhance the cooperation at the operational and institutional levels in that area.

53. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC underlined the importance of ensuring effective interaction through the exchange of information and analysis at the conflict prevention stage as well as coordination and clear understanding of respective roles in managing peace processes. In this regard, they acknowledged the value in establishing a regular and substantive informal dialogue, at all levels, between members of both Councils throughout the year to complement annual consultations. They underscored the fact that regional organizations such as the African Union and its regional Mechanisms are well positioned to understand the root causes of armed conflicts owing to their knowledge of the region which can be a benefit for their efforts to influence the prevention or resolution of these conflicts.

54. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC recalled the importance of the creation of the Security Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. They further called for strengthening the role of the Ad Hoc Working Group to discharge its mandate to propose recommendations to the Security Council to enhance cooperation in conflict prevention and resolution, between the United Nations and the African Union. In this respect, they agreed to conduct a joint field mission to a conflict situation/area, in Africa, to be identified through consultations between the two Councils, in the course of 2015.

55. The AUPSC and the members of the UNSC agreed to convene their 10th annual joint consultative meeting in New York, in 2016. The date of the meeting will be determined through consultations between the Chairperson of the AUPSC and the President of the UNSC.