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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1085TH MEETING

18 MAY 2022
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1085 (2022)

COMMUNIQUÉ



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1085th meeting on Disarmament and Control of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in Africa held on 18 May 2022:

The Peace and Security Council,

Faithful to articles 7.1(n) and 14.3(c) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and **recalling** its previous decisions and pronouncements on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Africa, particularly Communiqués [[PSC/PR/COMM.\(DCCCLX\)](#)] adopted at its 860th meeting held on 18 July 2019, [[PSC/PR/COMM.\(CMXLIII\)](#)] adopted at its 943rd meeting held on 3 September 2020 and [[PSC/PR/BR.1029 \(2021\)](#)] adopted at its 1029th meeting held on 8 September 2021;

Also recalling the [Bamako Declaration](#) (2000) of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) adopted in Bamako, Mali, on the African Common Position on Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, in preparation for the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects that was to take place in New York in 2001; and **further recalling** the Regional Economic Communities policy instruments, including the 2001 SADC Protocol, the 2004 Nairobi Protocol, the 2006 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention and the 2010 Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Convention aimed at solving the problem of illicit SALW in the various regions;

Noting the introductory remarks by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the African Union, H.E. Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono, in his capacity as the PSC Chairperson for the month of May 2022 and the statement by H.E Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; **also noting** the statement by the Director of the United Nation Regional Center for Disarmament in Africa (UNREC-ODA), Mr. Anselme Yabouri, of the Head of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Secretariat, Mr. Dumisani Dladla and of the representatives of the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs);_and

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:

1. **Expresses deep concern** over the continued militarization of communities and the recruitment of child soldiers on the Continent, resulting in the widespread of irregular armament and formation of non-state armed groups and organized criminal gangs which undermines definitive stabilization efforts; in this regard, **highlights** the continued relevance of the [Bamako Declaration](#) on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and **requests** the Commission to make efforts to understand the typologies of Non-State Armed Groups operating in the continent and the related policy implications;

2. **Takes note with serious concern** of the new threats posed by the illegal use of new weaponry such as Autonomous Weapons Systems and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), also known as drones, by criminal groups; and **underlines the need** for Member States to urgently promulgate legislation to regulate their acquisition and use, in order to ensure that non-state actors are not allowed to access them;
3. **Welcomes** the ongoing efforts and progress made by the Commission in partnership with Member States to commemorate the African Amnesty Month for the voluntary surrender of weapons illegally held by civilians and **encourages** Member States to seize the opportunity provided by the extension of the campaign to the year 2030, which allows them to further encourage communities and civilians to surrender all illegal firearms, as provided for under the Africa Amnesty Month, and to actively involve civil society, media and the private sector to this end;
4. **Stresses** the continued need for enhanced cooperation between and among Member States, as well as coordination among the RECs/RMs to ensure effective implementation of all regional and continental disarmament and arms control commitments and initiatives at national and regional levels, in order to combat the circulation of illicit SALWs and the cross-border movement of non-state armed groups;
5. **Encourages** the Commission to work through the AU-Regions Standing Committees on SALW and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) to provide required support to the RECs/RMs, so as to effectively implement their regional instruments on the fight against illicit SALWs; Ammunition Management and DDR;
6. **Directs** the Commission to integrate arms control, Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) programs, into the broader peace, security and sustainable development agenda in Africa, by specifically identifying the gaps and weaknesses as well as building partnerships and capacity to effectively address them;
7. **Also directs** the Commission to elaborate a continental strategy on the fight against illicit firearms in Africa, including emerging weapon systems, which should include an African Common Position in preparation for the 4th Review Conference for the UN Programme of Action to be held in 2024;
8. **Further directs** the Commission to work closely with the African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) to raise awareness on the negative impact of the arms embargo imposed on countries emerging from conflicts, where insurgent and terrorist groups continue to freely acquire illicit weapons, while the governments cannot purchase weapons due to the arms embargoes, thereby prevented from meeting their primary responsibility of ensuring the safety and security of their populations; and further **underlines the importance** of ensuring that all DDR programmes are explicitly integrated into conflict resolution efforts, negotiated political settlements and cessation of armed hostilities with clear obligations on all parties and timelines;

9. **Encourages** the Commission to continue its partnership with the United Nations through the Inter Agency Working Group on the implementation of the AU DDR Operations Guidance Notes, as well as the revised Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS); and
10. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

African Union Commission (AUC)

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PSC Outcomes

Communiqués

2022-05-18

Communiqué of the 1085th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council, Held on 18 May 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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