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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1151ST MEETING

28 APRIL 2023
ADDIS-ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1151 (2023)

COMMUNIQUE



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1151st meeting held on 28 April 2023 on the topic: Briefing on One Year of African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) Operations: Progress, Challenges, and Funding.

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling all its previous decisions on the situation in Somalia and on the operations of ATMIS, as well as UN Security Council Resolution 2628 (2022) which authorized the reconfiguration of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) into ATMIS;

Noting the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Abdelhamid Elgharbi, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tunisia to the AU and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for April 2023, the introductory remarks by the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye; the briefing by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Somalia and Head of ATMIS, H.E. Ambassador Souef Mohamed El-Amine; as well as the statement by the representative of the Republic of Uganda, on behalf of the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN);

Reaffirming the AU's solidarity with the people and the Federal Government of Somalia in their aspirations for sustainable peace, security, stability, and prosperity, which will benefit the Horn of Africa region and the Continent as a whole; **also reaffirming** the unwavering commitment of the AU to respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and unity of Somalia; and

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

1. **Takes note with satisfaction** the progress registered, thus far, in the implementation of the ATMIS priority tasks, for the past one year, and the coordinated joint and independent operations by the Somali Security Forces (SSF) and ATMIS to disrupt, degrade, and deny Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups the freedom of movement and action across ATMIS sectors, which led to the liberation of several towns and villages from Al-Shabaab, thus facilitating the delivery of basic public services by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to the Somali people; and in this regard, **applauds** the SSF and ATMIS for this progress;
2. **Acknowledges** efforts and sacrifices made by the African men and women in finding peace and stability in Somalia; **Pays tribute** to the ATMIS Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) and, in particular, to the individual ATMIS personnel for sacrificing their lives in the cause of peace and stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa region as a whole; and wishes a quick recovery to all those sustaining injuries from Al-Shabaab attacks;
3. **Acknowledges** the efforts by the FGS for taking full ownership and leadership of the country's stabilisation process, as demonstrated in the launch of the National Stabilisation Strategy, which renews the momentum to restore State authority and provision of basic public goods and services in liberated areas; **welcomes** the cooperation between the FGS and the Federal Member States marked by the holding of regular meetings in the framework of the National Consultative Council to discuss state-building priorities; **reiterates** the unwavering commitment of the AU to continue supporting the FGS in solidifying the country's ability to assume full responsibility for the country's security and facilitate efforts towards the implementation of national priorities within the context of the Somali Transition Plan (STP); and in this respect, **appeals** to the international community to continue to

support this Somali-owned and led process, which serves as a foundation for a successful transition and durable peace and stability in the country;

4. **Underlines the importance** of operational successes against Al-Shabaab, as further evidence of increasing SSF capacity to lead security operations, which is a key element towards the successful gradual handover of security responsibilities from ATMIS to SSF by 31 December 2024, and **stresses** that the process of reforming and restructuring the Somali Police Force (SPF) remains critical to the long-term stabilization of Somalia;

5. **Commends** ATMIS for its contribution towards the successful implementation and realization of the STP, as well as the Somali National Stabilisation Strategy, including through providing the requisite security and enabling access of partners to newly liberated areas following Somali-led and ATMIS-supported operations, as well as the enhancement of the institutional capacity of the SSF, supervision of election in May 2022; and **calls upon** all partners to ensure coordination, unity of purpose, coherence, and complementarity of efforts of all stakeholders to the FGS in line with STP;

6. **Welcomes** the progress made in the reconfiguration of ATMIS, including the readiness and planning of the AU and ATMIS to facilitate the drawdown of the 2,000 troops, which include the identification of the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) for either handover or closure to also accelerate creation of mobile forces, and to enhance force generation and integration, and force protection, as well as the completion of the ATMIS equipment review process alongside the development of a new Statement of Unit Requirements (SURs) for the mission; **requests** ATMIS and FGS to complete all outstanding tasks to ensure the completion of Phase I of the transition plan whose timelines have been amended for the drawdown of 2,000 ATMIS troops to be completed by 30 June 2023, taking note of the need for the commencement of preparations for the drawdown of 3000 ATMIS troops during Phase 2 of the transition to be completed by 30 September 2023;

7. **Commends** the AU Commission for the joint assessment and advisory inspection of pledged capabilities, including additional air assets and field hospital, from Ethiopia and Kenya; and **requests** the FGS to continue taking more effective actions to address issues related to force generation, in order to ensure the timely and orderly transition of security responsibilities from ATMIS to Somali security forces;

8. **Appeals** to the UN Security Council to positively consider the repeated request from the FGS for the lifting of the arms embargo imposed on the country, particularly in light of the progress made, thus far, in delivering on the benchmarks outlined in Security Council Resolution 2662 (2022), in order to ensure that the country is sufficiently equipped with arms to effectively address the security threats posed by Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups active in Somalia, as it prepares to take over security responsibilities from ATMIS at the end of the transition by 31 December 2024;

9. **While taking note** of the notable achievements of ATMIS for one year, Council **expresses deep concern** over reported funding gaps, which have had an effect on the drawdown of forces from Somalia on 30 June 2023 and 31 December 2024 respectively; **strongly stresses** the need to strengthening the SSF prior to the drawdown so as to avoid leaving a security vacuum to be exploited by terrorists;

10. **Further expresses deep concern** over the inadequate, unsustainable, and unpredictable financing for ATMIS, including the significant funding shortfalls, which continue to persist, mindful of its impact on the overall implementation of ATMIS mandate and preparation for the drawdown of troops, with the situation likely to deteriorate if additional funding is not received; and in this regard, **recalls** its appeal to the UN Security Council outlined in paragraph 9 of the Communiqué

[PSC/PR/COMM.1075 (2022)] adopted on 12 April 2022 requesting the holding of a special session on predictable, adequate, sustainable and multi-year funding for ATMIS for its full duration, which has still not yet been facilitated;

11. **Recalls** the decision of the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union which approved the immediate utilization of the Peace Fund and its Crisis Reserve Facility to bridge the financial gap of ATMIS; and **proposes** to the 46th Session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2023 to approve a dedicated budget to cover part of the current ATMIS deficit and operating costs through the utilization of the African Union Peace Fund;

12. **Reiterates** its call to the international community to join the AU's efforts to mobilize the additional resources for ATMIS operations;

13. **Welcomes, and endorses** the outcome of the TCCs meeting of the Heads of State convened between Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda in Entebbe, Uganda on 27 April 2023 and **supports** the call for partnership and enhanced solidarity among Somalia's neighbouring countries in the fight against Al-Shabaab; and **expresses** its support to the TCCs in the fight against Al-Shabaab promoting peace, security and stability in Somalia and in the region as whole;

14. **Reaffirms its commitment** to continue supporting Somalia in its peace efforts including through the use of the AU Peace Fund, as decided by the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held on 18 and 19 February 2023 to address the growing ATMIS funding deficit; and in this context, **once again expresses** sincere appreciation to the European Union, UN and other development partners, including the UK for their continued support to ATMIS; and **appeals** to the international partners for additional support for ATMIS operations;

15. **Requests** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to transmit this Communique and the Report on the Situation in Somalia and the Operations of ATMIS, as well as the outcome of the meeting of the TCCs Heads of State and Government, adopted on 27 April 2023 in Entebbe, Uganda, to the United Nations Security Council;

16. **Agrees** to undertake a field mission to Somalia to engage with the Somali authority and assess the operations of ATMIS; and

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

2023-04-28

Communiqué of the 1151st meeting of the Peace and Security Council, held on 28 April 2023, on Briefing on One Year of African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) Operations: Progress, Challenges, and Funding.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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