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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**  
**First Ordinary Session**  
**16 March 2004**  
**Addis Ababa,**  
**Ethiopia**

**PSC/MIN/Rpt (I)**

**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PEACE AND  
SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC) AT THE LEVEL OF MINISTERS**

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### **I. Introduction**

The First Meeting of the newly elected Peace and Security Council (PSC) at the level of Ministers was convened on 16 March 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the margins of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council. The Meeting was attended by the fifteen elected Members of the PSC.

### **II. Opening**

The opening of the Meeting was conducted by Amb. Said Djinnit, Commissioner for Peace and Security, on behalf of the Commission, given that the Council had not yet elected its Chairperson. In his brief remarks, the Commissioner congratulated the elected Members of the PSC, which elections should pave the way for the full operationalization of the PSC. He also noted that the elections will be followed by the launching of another important organ of the AU, the Pan-African Parliament. The Commissioner informed members of the Council that the Commission was only performing the opening of the Session pending the election of its Chairperson. In this regard, he referred to the relevant provisions of the PSC Protocol and the Draft Rules of Procedure which clearly stipulates the modalities for the election of the PSC Chairperson. After a brief consultation, the meeting requested H.E. Dr. Leonardo Santos Simão, Chairperson of the Executive Council and Foreign Minister of Mozambique, in his capacity as Representative of the current Chairperson of the AU, to preside over its deliberations. Consequently, Mozambique was elected as the interim Chair of the Council for the remaining part of March.

### **III. Consideration of the Draft Rules of procedure of the PSC**

The Meeting reviewed the draft Rules of Procedure of the PSC, after noting that the draft had been considered during several meetings of the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Commission. Subsequently, most of the rules were approved during the meeting. However, some amendments were made with respect to the old Rules 3, 15, 16, 22, 27 and 33.

At the end of its deliberations, and having adopted the Rules of Procedure as amended, the meeting proceeded to discuss issues relating to its entry into force, the operationalization of the Peace and Security Council and the ceremonial launching of the Council at the level of Heads of State and Government.

On the entry into force of the Rules of Procedure, the PSC was of the view that immediately after the adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the PSC by the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in accordance with the mandate given by the Assembly to the Executive Council in Maputo, in July 2003, on the operationalization of the PSC, the Council should begin to function at the level that is possible e.g. the level of Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives, after the Executive Council's decision.

There was an exchange of views on the proposal by the Commission for a formal and solemn ceremony to launch the Peace and Security Council at the level of Heads of State and Government, in order to give visibility to the Council and to reflect the new dynamism for dealing with issues of peace and security in the continent, which the African Union has signalled with the establishment of the Peace and Security Council.

The Council, at the end of its deliberations on these issues, recommended that such a solemn ceremony could take place on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2004, bearing in mind the symbolism of that date and its importance to Africa. It was also recommended that important African and world statesmen including for instance, the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of the UN Security Council should be invited to that ceremonial and solemn launching of the PSC.

In conclusion, the Peace and Security Council decided to recommend the draft Rules of Procedure to the Executive Council for adoption, in fulfilment of the mandate of the Maputo Session of the Assembly.