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**REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON
THE CONTINENTAL LAUNCH AND COMMEMORATION OF THE AFRICA AMNESTY MONTH 2025,
KAMPALA, UGANDA, 2 - 3 OCTOBER 2025**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) undertook a field Mission to Kampala, Uganda, from 2 to 3 October 2025, to launch and commemorate the Africa Amnesty Month 2025. This was pursuant to Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.645 (XXIX)], which declared the month of September of each year, till 2020, as “Africa Amnesty Month” (AAM) for the surrender and collection of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW), and the subsequent decision adopted by the Assembly of the Union, at its 14th Extraordinary Session, held on 6 December 2020, through which the Assembly extended the annual commemoration of the Africa Amnesty Month to 2030.

II. PARTICIPATION

2. The commemorative event was led by H.E. Tebelelo Alfred Boang, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for October 2025. It comprised representatives of the fifteen (15) Members of the PSC. As host, the Republic of Uganda was represented at the highest level, by Right Honourable Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda and Minister for East African Community Affairs. She was accompanied by Honourable General David Muhoozi, the Minister of State for Internal Affairs; Honourable Major General Kahinda Otafiire, Minister of Internal Affairs; Honourable Jacob Marksons Oboth-Oboth, the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs; Honourable Peter Lokeris, the Minister for Karamoja Affairs; and Lt. General Joseph Musanyufu, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The AU Commission was led by Ms. Neema Chusi, the Head of the PSC Secretariat.

3. Furthermore, the Members of the Diplomatic Corps, local communities, Representatives of the Civil Society Organisations, Members of Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, representatives of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA), Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF), Uganda Police and Civilians who were involved in the disarmament process from Karamoja representatives of the former youth warriors (Karachuna), Ruwenzori and Northern Uganda.

III. OBJECTIVES

4. The continental launch and commemoration of the 9th Africa Amnesty Month aimed at achieving the following objectives, namely, to:

- a) Raise public awareness and popularize the AAM, and encourage civilians to voluntarily surrender their illegally owned weapons to designated State authorities, without fear of disclosure, arrest or prosecution;

- b) Encourage Member States to develop programs that seek to effectively address the root causes and drivers of proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) and the associated criminal activities;
- c) Encourage the international community to continue to support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programs in Member States, as part of the efforts to fight against the proliferation of illicit SALW, including in commemorating the AAM; and
- d) Also encourage the participation of civil society to promote the surrender of illicit SALW during the AAM without disclosure or prosecution;

IV. METHODOLOGY

5. To achieve the objectives of the mission, statements were delivered by the Representatives of the Republic of Uganda, the PSC delegation, the representative of RECSA and UNODA and Civil Society Organizations, and testimonies by the Karachunas. The methodology also included Awarding Youth Contest 2025 on Peace Slogans and a symbolic burning of 100 illicit weapons at Gaddafi Barracks, Jinja, Uganda.

V. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING THE COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

6. During the event participants:

- a) Recalled the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.645 (XXIX) which declared the month of September of each year, until 2020, as “Africa Amnesty Month” (AAM) for the surrender and collection of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW), and also the decision adopted by the Assembly of the Union at its 14th Extraordinary Session held on 6 December 2020, through which the Assembly decided to extend the annual commemoration of the Africa Amnesty Month for a period of ten (10) years, from 2021 to 2030;
- b) Also recalled the Communique [PSC/ PR/COMM.1105 (2022)] adopted by the PSC at its 1105th meeting held on 15 September 2022, on the commemoration of the 2022 Africa Amnesty Month that had been held from 4 to 7 September 2022, in Lomé, Togo, in which the PSC acknowledged that commemorating the AAM in the Member States creates more awareness to the people on the implementation of the Africa Amnesty Month; and decided to continue launching the AAM events in the Member States, with the participation of the youth, women, media, academia as well as Faith-Based Organizations and other relevant groups;
- c) Took note of the welcoming remarks by Honourable General David Muhoozi, Minister of State for Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, the Statement by Tebelelo Alfred Boang, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for October 2025, the statement by Ms. Neema Chusi on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, H.E. Ambassador Jean Pierre Betindji, Executive Secretary of the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), as well as the Representative of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs; on the occasion of the launch and commemoration of the Africa Amnesty Month in Kampala, Uganda;

- d) Also took note of the keynote addresses by the Right Honourable Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, and Minister for East African Community Affairs; Honourable Major General Kahinda Otafiire, the Minister of Internal Affairs; Honourable Jacob Marksons Oboth-Oboth, the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs; Honourable Peter Lokeris, the Minister for Karamoja Affairs; and by Lt. General Joseph Musanyufu, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Internal Affairs
- e) Reiterated the AU's commitment towards implementing the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by 2030 in order not to bequeath a conflict-ridden Continent to future generations and, importantly, to realize the Aspirations enshrined in Agenda 2063;
- f) Commended the Government and people of the Republic of Uganda for successfully hosting the launch and the commemoration of the Africa Amnesty Month 2025 in Kampala, Uganda and for the hospitality accorded to the PSC delegation;
- g) Also Commended the Government of the Republic of Uganda for its exemplary efforts in advancing disarmament and arms control, through establishing a comprehensive National Policy on Firearms, Ammunition, and Related Materials by developing a legal and regulatory framework for SALW control, and encouraged other Member States to emulate the example of Uganda and use the DDR lessons learnt from the Republic of Uganda;
- h) Commended all stakeholders for the technical and financial support provided to Member States in the implementation of the Africa Amnesty Month; and requested them to scale up the support in order to enhance national capacities in advancing DDR programs, and through empowering Member States and Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs);
- i) Encouraged all Member States to provide comprehensive reports on the implementation of Africa Amnesty Month to enable the AUC to collect and collate data and measure progress made to silence the guns;
- j) Highlighted the critical role of the media in awareness creation and in supporting community-based re-integration; and underscored the importance of local leadership and community involvement in voluntary disarmament;
- k) Underscored the role of Member States, RECs/RMs and partners in commemorating the Africa Amnesty Month in their respective countries as part of the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap to Silence the Guns in Africa;
- l) Encouraged civilians to voluntarily surrender their illegally owned weapons to the dedicated state authorities under the AAM, without fear of prosecution, which also enhances confidence building between the State and people;
- m) Also encouraged Member States to develop annual plans on the commemoration of the AAM, including promoting Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programs where appropriate;

- n) Encouraged the participation of Civil Society Organizations, including the youth and women, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector, and the media to actively participate and support their respective governments to promote the surrender of illicit firearms owned by civilians during the AAM;
- o) Emphasized the need to comprehensively address the root causes and factors that contribute to the proliferation of illicit weapons, including by positively responding to the legitimate socio-economic aspirations of the population;
- p) Stressed the need for enhanced international support to Member States and RECs/RMs in the design and implementation of initiatives to commemorate the AAM, including as part of the Silencing the Guns initiative;
- q) Reiterated the need for Member States to promote the surrender of illicit SALW as provided for under the Africa Amnesty Month by encouraging dialogue and a general culture of peace, and through public awareness programs, including increasing human and financial resource allocation, including by involving civil society, the private sector, faith-based organizations and other stakeholders in the process;
- r) Also reiterated the need for Member States to further enhance their cooperation and collaboration, including through sharing information and intelligence, strengthening border management, as well as conducting joint operations in combating illicit trade/trafficking in SALW trafficking;
- s) Further reiterated the need for the AU Commission to work in collaboration with the RECs/RMs, in supporting the implementation of DDR programs in Member States, particularly those emerging from violent conflict and crisis situations, upon request;
- t) Commended the success of the Uganda Amnesty Law of 2000, which led to the voluntary surrender of 16,741 ex-combatants, while 15,438 were forced to surrender – totaling 31,909 individuals; and encouraged civilians with illicit arms to lay down their arms and seek peace, which will lead to socio-economic transformation and development in the society by providing them with a startup package, counseling and a certificate guaranteeing them amnesty;
- u) Also emphasized the need to mobilize sustained international support for Member States and Regional Economic Communities in the execution of initiatives aligned with the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa; and
- v) Also encouraged all Member States to participate and champion national amnesty initiatives, integrating them into broader national security and development agendas; stressed the importance of sustained political goodwill and increased investment to expand DDR programs to more countries, to reach more communities and to destroy more weapons.

VI. CONCLUSION

7. Members of the PSC expressed appreciation to the people and Government of the Republic of Uganda for successfully hosting the launch and commemoration of the Africa Amnesty Month for 2025, for the hospitality accorded and the fruitful engagements with the PSC delegation.

ANNEX:



Figure 1: 2025 Africa Amnesty Month, 2-3 October 2025 Kampala & Jinja Uganda: From left - Ambassador Tebelelo Alfred Boang, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the AU and Chair of the PSC for October 2025; and Rt Hon Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs during the official launch of the 2025 Africa Amnesty Month.



Figure 2:: 2025 Africa Amnesty Month, 2-3 October 2025 Kampala & Jinja Uganda: From left - Ambassador Tebelelo Alfred Boang, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the AU and Chair of the PSC for October 2025 signing the official launch of the 2025 Africa Amnesty Month.



Figure 3: 2025 Africa Amnesty Month, 2-3 October 2025 Kampala & Jinja Uganda: Members of the African Union Peace and Security Council.



Figure 4: 2025 Africa Amnesty Month, 2-3 October 2025 Kampala & Jinja Uganda: Representatives of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSEA).



Figure 5: 2025 Africa Amnesty Month, 2-3 October 2025 Kampala & Jinja Uganda: Above are the Ndeere cultural group entertaining the participants and below are the members of the local community.



Figure 6: 2025 Africa Amnesty Month, 2-3 October 2025 Kampala & Jinja Uganda: Winners of the Africa Amnesty Month youth contest 25.





Figure 7: 2025 Africa Amnesty Month, 2-3 October 2025 Kampala & Jinja Uganda: Members of the AU Peace and Security Council led by Ambassador Tebelelo Alfred Boang, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the AU and Chair of the PSC for October 2025; Ms. Neema N. Chusi, representative of the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; Senior officials from the government of the Republic of Uganda including Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth, Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs Hon. Peter Lokeris, Minister, Office of the Prime Minister (Karamoja Affairs), Lt. Gen. Joseph Musanyufu, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Internal Security, representatives of Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) and Uganda police, Representative of the United Nations, Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA) and Members of the community.



