

AFRICAN UNION

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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
547TH MEETING AT THE LEVEL OF
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
26 SEPTEMBER 2015

PSC/AHG/COMM/2(DXLVII)

COMMUNIQUÉ

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 547th meeting held on 26 September 2015, adopted the following decision on the partnership between the AU and the United Nations (UN), in particular with regard to the funding of AU-led peace support operations undertaken with the consent of the UN Security Council:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on Follow-up Steps on the Common African Position on the Review of UN Peace Operations [PSC/AHG/3.(DXLVII)];

2. **Reaffirms** earlier AU's pronouncements on the partnership between the AU and the UN in the area of peace and security, including:

- (i) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.145(VIII) adopted by the 8th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa from 29 to 30 January 2007, in which the Assembly, having recalled the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, called upon the UN to examine, within the context of Chapter VIII of the Charter, the possibility of funding, through assessed contributions, peacekeeping operations undertaken by the AU, or under its authority, with the consent of the UN;
- (ii) Communiqué PSC/PR/Comm.(CLXXVIII) and Press Statement PSC/PR/BR.2(CCVII) adopted at its 178th and 206th meetings held on 13 March 2009 and 15 October 2009, respectively, in which Council, among others: (a) welcomed the report of the AU-UN Panel established under Security Council resolution 1809(2008) to consider the modalities for support to AU peacekeeping operations (Prodi Panel), (b) stressed that regional arrangements, in particular the AU, have an important role to play in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, and (c) emphasized that support by the UN to regional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security is an integral part of collective security as provided for in the UN Charter;
- (iii) Communiqués PSC/PR/Comm.(CCCVII) and PSC/AHG/Comm/1.(CCCXC VII) adopted at its 307th and 397th meetings, held on 9 January 2012 and 23 September 2013, respectively, in which Council: (a) stressed the need to develop a stronger partnership between the AU and the UN in the area of peace and security, based on an innovative, strategic and forward-looking reading of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, in order to more effectively promote peace, security and stability in Africa, (b) reiterated its call to the UN Security Council to address in a systematic manner the issue of the predictability and

sustainability of the financing of AU-led peace support operations undertaken with the consent of the Security Council, bearing in mind that, in carrying out peace support operations, the AU is contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security in a manner consistent with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, and (c) endorsed and supported the implementation, as an initial step, of all the recommendations of the Prodi Panel report;

3. **Recalls** resolutions 1809 (2007), 2033(2012) and 2167 (2014), as well as presidential statement PRST/2014/27, in which the UN Security Council, *inter alia*: (a) expressed its determination to take effective steps to further enhance the relationship between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations, in particular the AU, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, (b) reiterated that the growing contribution made by regional and sub-regional organizations can usefully complement the work of the UN in maintaining international peace and security, and that cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations and consistent with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter can improve collective security, and (c) stressed the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a UN mandate;

4. **Also recalls** resolution A/Res/67/302 on cooperation between the UN and the AU, adopted on 1 October 2013 by the 67th session of the UN General Assembly, which recognized the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing of development and humanitarian issues for regional organizations, including the AU, when they undertake peacekeeping operations under a UN mandate, and noted the determination of the Security Council to continue working on this issue, in accordance with its responsibilities under the UN Charter;

5. **Reiterates** communiqué PSC/PR/2(DII) adopted at its 502nd meeting held on 29 April 2015, endorsing the Common African Position on the Review of UN Operations, which, among others, calls for the provision of UN assessed contributions for AU-led peace support operations undertaken with the consent of the UN Security Council, as a way of addressing the challenge of providing sustainable and predictable financing for such operations;

6. **Further reiterates** press statement PSC/PR/BR.(DXXXII) adopted at its 532nd meeting held on 10 August 2015, expressing appreciation to the UN High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) for taking into account many of the views expressed in the Common African Position, including its acknowledgement of the strategic partnership between the AU and the UN based on the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter, and the call for the financing of UN-authorized AU-led peace support operations, through the use of UN assessed contributions, on a case-by-case basis;

7. **Takes note** of the document entitled: “The Future of UN Peace Operations: Report of the Secretary-General on the Recommendations of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations”, and **welcomes** the Secretary-General’s emphasis on the need for sustained, predictable and flexible funding mechanisms to support AU peace support

operations and his appeal to Member States to give urgent consideration on how the UN can respond to this initiative, as well as the steps envisaged for the AU and the UN to carry out a joint review and assessment of the various mechanisms currently available to finance and support AU peace operations authorized by the UN Security Council;

8. **Reaffirms its commitment** to the principle of African ownership and agenda-setting of peace initiatives on the continent and, accordingly, **reiterates the need** for Africa to mobilize greater resources from within the continent, in order to actualize this principle. In this respect, Council **underscores the importance** of Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.561(XXIV) and Assembly/AU/Dec.577(XXV), adopted by the 24th and 25th Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly of the Union, held in January and June 2015, respectively, by which Member States agreed to contribute up to 25% of the cost of AU peace and security efforts, including peace support operations. Council **expresses the AU's determination** to ensure that this objective is fully achieved by the year 2020, as part of the AU's commitment to "Silence the Guns" by that date, within the larger Agenda 2063;

9. **Notes with satisfaction** the acknowledgement by the international partners of the growing strategic partnership between the AU and the UN in the area of peace and security, based on the principles of comparative advantage, division of labor and burden sharing;

10. **Further notes with satisfaction** the progress made in addressing the issue of predictable and sustainable financing for AU-led peace support operations authorized by the UN Security Council, as demonstrated by the support package being provided by the UN to the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and **underscores** the need to build upon this experience and the resulting growing political momentum to find a lasting solution to the challenge of financing AU-led peace support operations;

11. **Welcomes** the proposed modalities, as outlined in the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission, for the provision of UN assessed contributions to AU-led peace support operations, involving in particular peace enforcement and/or counter-terrorism mandates, most notably the commitment by the AU, in line with the decisions adopted by the Assembly of the Union, to assume responsibility for up to 25% of all AU peace and security activities, including peace support operations, while the other 75% of the cost of such missions would be provided by UN through assessed contributions;

12. **Agrees** that the operationalization of the proposed arrangement for the financing of AU-led peace support operations undertaken with the consent of the UN Security Council should be predicated on the following:

- (i) African ownership, as a key factor to the success of peace efforts on the continent;
- (ii) reaffirmation of the primary role of the UN Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, and of the role of regional arrangements as elaborated in Chapter VIII of the UN Charter;

- (iii) acknowledgment that support by the UN to regional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security is an integral part of collective security as provided for in the UN Charter;
 - (iv) enhanced strategic partnership with the UN, including the development of a framework outlining the steps necessary to activate authorization by the UN Security Council of AU-led missions to be supported by UN assessed contributions;
 - (v) strengthening of the AU's capacity to plan and manage peace support operations;
 - (vi) enhancement of AU financial oversight mechanisms; and
 - (vii) strengthening of the AU's Human Rights Due Diligence capabilities, including preventing and combating sexual exploitation and abuses in AU-led peace support operations;
13. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to initiate consultations with the UN Secretary-General and relevant international partners towards agreement on the proposed arrangements for the provision of UN assessed contributions for AU-led peace support operations undertaken with the consent of the UN Security Council;
14. **Supports** the initiative by the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a High Representative for the Peace Fund, whose mandate shall include mobilizing additional resources for AU peace and security-related activities, and **requests** her to expedite this appointment;
15. **Further requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit a report on the follow-up and implementation of this decision to Council and, subsequently, to the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, scheduled to take place in January 2016;
16. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.