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RETREAT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

YAOUNDE, CAMEROON
15 -16 NOVEMBER 2012

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE RETREAT OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON ITS WORKING METHODS,
YAOUNDE, CAMEROON, 15-16 NOVEMBER 2012**



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I INTRODUCTION

1. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) held a Retreat to review its working methods in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 15 to 16 November 2012. The Retreat considered a number of issues relevant for improving its working methods for the effective functioning and reached the conclusions below:

II CONCLUSIONS

A) CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

i. Rotation of Chair of the Council

2. Council agreed to maintain the principle of rotating the Chair of the Council according to the English alphabetical order. In this regard, Council agreed that the new members should queue at the rear so as not to change the subsisting order of succession.

3. Council further maintains that the Chairperson of the month must always be available at AU Headquarters for prompt convening and chairing of meetings.

ii. Stand-in-Chairperson

4. In the absence of the Chairperson, the stand-in-Chairperson of the month, who must be the next Chairperson, takes over the Chair of the Council. In this regard, the Chairperson must inform the Commission on time.

iii. Effective membership

5. Council stressed the need for effective membership in the Council, including satisfying its obligations as elaborated in Article 5 (2) of the PSC Protocol and took note of Article 5 (4) and stressed the need for periodic review by the Assembly of the Union with a view to assessing compliance by members of the PSC with the provisions of Article 5 (2) of the PSC Protocol.

B) ORGANISATION OF WORK

i. Establishment of the Annual Programme of Activities of Council

6. Council decided that it will henceforth prepare an Annual Work Programme of Activities covering all areas of its mandate.

7. To this end, it has decided to energize the Committee of Experts to, among others, prepare its Annual Work Programme in collaboration with the Commission.

ii. Elaboration of the provisional monthly programme of work

8. Council re-affirmed ownership of its work and emphasized the principle of collective responsibility and consultation among members of Council and the Commission in the elaboration of the monthly programme of work of the PSC. In this regard, the incoming Chairperson, with the support of the PSC Committee of Experts, shall elaborate a monthly programme of work two weeks before assuming chairmanship. The programme shall be adopted by the PSC in the first meeting of the Council at the beginning of the month.

iii. Time Management

9. For time effectiveness, Council stressed the need for strict allocation of time to speakers, including ensuring that the allocated time is observed in all the meetings of the Council.

iv. Meetings

10. Council's proceedings shall be conducted as follows:

- a) Consultation restricted to Members and those specifically invited to provide briefing. Non-Members are not allowed to listen to consultation;
- b) Closed sessions limited to Members only;
- c) Open sessions.

v. Documents for PSC Meetings

11. For meetings on the follow-up of situations of which Council is currently seized with, the Commission should elaborate and keep standing reports which it updates on a regular basis. Reports to be submitted to this effect must be directly hinged on emerging situations in order to guide the deliberations towards making the necessary decisions. The Commission should submit all working documents at least in two AU working languages (English and French) within 3 working days before the meeting, to enable members make informed contributions and decisions.

vi. Invitation and participation of non-Council members

12. Council will determine, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the PSC Protocol, participation in its meetings.

C) DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

13. Council stressed the role of the Committee of Experts in preparing for PSC meetings, particularly in drafting decisions. In this regard, each PSC Member should designate a Representative to the Committee.

D) FORMAT OF OUTCOMES OF PSC MEETINGS/SESSIONS

14. In line with the Dakar Conclusions, Council decided to maintain the current format, which is as follows:-

- a) Communiqué on a decision of a closed PSC meeting;
- b) Press Statement on the outcome of a PSC meeting at which no decision was taken.

E) FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PSC DECISIONS

15. Council agreed to review the implementation of its decisions every 6 months, starting from January 2013. In this regard, an implementation matrix will be prepared as part of the Annual Work Programme of the PSC.

F) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE PSC

16. Council called on Members, in consultation with the Commission, to immediately operationalize the subsidiary bodies, namely the Committee of Experts, Committee on Terrorism, and Committee on Sanctions, among others.

G) PREPARATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

17. In line with Article 7 (1) (q) of the PSC Protocol, Council agreed that the report shall be presented to the Assembly by the Chairperson of the PSC for the month during which the Summit takes place. The Commission should elaborate and submit the report early enough for Council's consideration.

H) IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC ARTICLES IN THE PSC PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE PSC'S COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES

- i. **PSC and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution**

18. Council agreed that its meetings with Regional Mechanisms should be organized. In this regard, the meetings shall be included in the Annual Work Programme of the PSC.

- ii. **Panel of the Wise**

19. Council agreed on the need for a sustained engagement with the Panel of the Wise.

iii. AU Organs

20. Council agreed on the need to better engage and regularly interact with other AU Organs namely, the Pan-African Parliament, the African Commission on Human People's Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

iv. Relations with CISSA

21. Council agreed on the need for close and regular interaction with the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa.

I) RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS SECURITY COUNCIL/NON-AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

22. Council emphasized the need to improve working relations with the United Nations and its Security Council, as well as with Non-African Regional Organisations, particularly on adequate preparations for consultative meetings.

J) CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

23. Council agreed to deploy efforts to facilitate interaction with Civil Society Organisations.

K) FRAMEWORK FOR PSC FIELD MISSIONS

24. Council agreed on the need to undertake field missions, especially to the conflict areas.

L) ENHANCEMENT OF THE PEACE-FUND

25. Council agreed to intensify efforts to mobilize resources from within the Continent to enhance the Peace Fund. In this regard, and in line with Article 5 (2) (f), Council stressed the need for Members to shoulder their responsibility and lead by example.

M) ADVOCACY FOR UN FUNDING FOR AU PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN AFRICA

26. In line with the Dakar Conclusions, advocacy for UN funding for AU peace support missions should be sustained.

N) OTHER ISSUES – CAPACITY BUILDING

27. The human, material and financial resources of the Peace and Security Department should be strengthened to enable it to provide the necessary support to the PSC.

O) NEXT RETREAT

28. Council concluded its meeting by deciding to devote its Retreat scheduled in Djibouti in February 2013 to a review of its mandate, roles and responsibilities of PSC Members, as well as implementation of decisions.

P) VOTE OF THANKS

29. Council adopted a Vote of Thanks for the President H.E. Paul Biya, and the Government and people of Cameroon, for the excellent welcome and hospitality accorded to its members.

African Union Commission (AUC)

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Peace and Security Council

Retreat - Conclusions

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4th Retreat of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, 15 - 16 November 2012, Yaounde, Cameroon.

Peace and Security Council

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