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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

6TH RETREAT

22 - 23 FEBRUARY 2014

MASERU, LESOTHO

PSC/Retreat/6

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE RETREAT OF
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION
ON ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIVINGSTONE FORMULA FOR
INTERACTION BETWEEN
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
IN THE PROMOTION OF PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY IN AFRICA**



I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) held its sixth Retreat in Maseru, the Kingdom of Lesotho, from 22 to 23 February 2014, under the theme **Progress, Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Livingstone Formula for Interaction between the PSC and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa**. The Retreat was convened, pursuant to Article 20 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

2. The Retreat provided an opportunity to review the implementation of the Livingstone Formula over the last 5 years since 2008, and focused on ways and means to enhance implementation of the Formula. During its deliberation, the Retreat benefited from the Outcome of the Civil Society Organizations Consultative Forum, held in Maseru, on 21 February 2014.

II. CONCLUSIONS

3. The Retreat reached the following conclusions on enhancing the implementation of the Livingstone Formula:

A. PRINCIPLES AIMED AT FACILITATING CSOS INTERACTION WITH THE PSC

4. The PSC reaffirmed the coordinating role of the Peace and Security Cluster of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) in the interaction between the PSC and CSOs and stressed the need to mobilize the CSOs in establishing a culture of cooperation in promoting peace, security and stability in Africa. In this regard, the process for enhancing the implementation of the Livingstone Formula shall be guided by the following principles:

(a) ECOSOCC Statutes

PSC's re-affirmation of the provisions of the Statutes of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union relating to CSOs.

(b) Constructive Engagement

The shared ultimate goal embedded in the framework of APSA, of which the PSC is the central pillar, is to build a conflict-free Africa. In this context, the PSC shall pursue a constructive engagement in the effort to tap inputs from CSOs into its work.

(c) Relevance

Participation of CSOs in the work of the PSC shall be on the basis of their expertise, record and capacity to make relevant contributions to enable the PSC take well-considered decisions

for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa. The CSOs relevance and contribution to peace and security in the continent shall be recognized and encouraged.

(d) Flexibility

The PSC may decide to engage African CSOs and determine their active participation on a regular basis for effective pursuit of its efforts for conflict prevention, management and resolution. In this regard, given the fact that in the past five years there has been little interaction between the PSC and CSOs as envisaged, there is need for a flexible application of some of the requirement for the CSOs participation, in order to facilitate as a transitional measure, a dynamic implementation of article 20 of the PSC Protocol.

(e) Remedy to the Institutional weakness of ECOSOCC

There is urgent need to effectively address the factors that have hindered ECOSOCC from fulfilling its mandate of facilitating interaction between the PSC and CSOs.

5. Furthermore, the following elements shall underpin the tapping of CSOs inputs into the work of the PSC:

- Shared objective to achieve a conflict-free Africa;
- Application of conflict-specific interaction;
- Quarterly briefings to the PSC with an early warning focus;
- CSOs to be invited, when appropriate, as Observers to monthly PSC briefings to the AU Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC);
- Data base on CSOs mapping and selection of credible, effective and capable CSOs to add value to the work of the PSC;
- Trust and mutual confidence.

B. MODALITIES FOR INTERACTION

6. The PSC agreed to hold annual meetings with the Peace and Security Cluster of ECOSOCC in its consultative role, starting from December 2014, in accordance with its Annual Work Plan from 2014. Furthermore, the PSC agreed to hold a meeting at least once a year, preferably before the last quarter of each year, with the aim of consolidating inputs provided by CSOs for consideration by the PSC before the finalization of the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa to be submitted to the Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union.

7. With regard to the annual consultative meeting, the PSC agreed that:

- i. The Chairperson of the PSC, in consultation with other Members of the PSC, as well as with the African Union Commission, shall facilitate the convening of the

annual consultative meeting with CSOs. In this context, the PSC Secretariat should establish and maintain a databank of CSOs, to be approved by the PSC, that are credible, active and effective in the field of peace and security.

- ii. The PSC Secretariat should, on the occasion of the annual consultative meeting, receive inputs from the CSOs, through the Secretariat of ECOSOCC and the Citizens and Diaspora Organizations Directorate (CIDO), to be considered for inclusion in the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa.

C. MODALITIES FOR ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIVINGSTONE FORMULA

8. The following are the modalities for operationalizing the provisions of the Livingstone Formula:

(a) Conflict Prevention (Early Warning)

- i. Given the imperative of prioritizing the focus on conflict prevention, as part of their activities in early warning and situation analysis, CSOs are encouraged to undertake a review of potential risks of conflict and violence in AU Member States and identify areas of intervention for prevention and advise the PSC accordingly, through its (PSC) Secretariat.
- ii. The PSC agreed to dedicate at least a session on a quarterly basis to undertake a thorough assessment of the trends and dynamics of peace, security and stability in Africa, in which relevant CSOs, in collaboration with the relevant Departments of the African Union Commission, submit findings of their research on potential risks of conflict, instability and violence.

(b) Contribution to the deliberations of the PSC on issues under consideration

- i. CSOs that work closely on the promotion of peace, security and stability, including those proposing policy options on existing and emerging peace and security issues on the continent, are encouraged to enrich the deliberations of the PSC on issues under consideration, through briefings during the open sessions of the PSC.
- ii. The Chairperson of the PSC shall, to this effect where deemed necessary, shall extend invitations to the relevant CSOs.

(c) Peacemaking and Mediation

In order to enable CSOs to assist and provide advice on and support for peacemaking and mediation processes, revision of opportunities for engaging and interacting with relevant

CSOs may, where deemed necessary, form part of the working methods of peacemaking and mediation efforts of AU Special Envoys/ Representatives in the execution of their work.

(d) Training

Building on the best practice, the PSC Secretariat is encouraged to collaborate with CSOs that track and study the work of the PSC. In this regard, relevant CSOs, research centres and academic institutions may contribute, as appropriate, to the induction of newly elected members of the Council so as to update them on the issues that are on the agenda of the PSC and on institutional developments regarding working methods, modalities of collaboration and interaction with other organs of the AU and organizations with direct influence on issues on the agenda of the PSC.

(e) Advocacy/publicity of the work of the PSC

For CSOs to effectively play their role in monitoring the implementation of PSC decisions, including through providing independent evaluation reports and briefs, and in publicizing PSC decisions and activities as envisaged in the Livingstone Formula:

- i. The Chairperson of the PSC is encouraged to collaborate with the relevant CSOs in public forums specifically designed for publicizing the work of the PSC in the discharge of its mandate.
- ii. CSOs undertaking research and publication on the work of the PSC should seek, as a matter of good practice and in the spirit of objectivity, the views of members of the PSC and the PSC Secretariat before publishing reports or findings on the work of the PSC.
- iii. CIDO, in close collaboration with the Peace and Security Cluster and Political Affairs Cluster of ECOSOCC, as well as with the PSC Secretariat, shall develop a database of CSOs working on peace and security issues. Such a databank will assist the PSC Secretariat to widely circulate the monthly Programme of Work and decisions of the PSC, as well as other relevant documents of the PSC.

D. MECHANISMS FOR INTERACTION BETWEEN THE PSC AND CSOs

In order to achieve effective implementation of Article 20 of the PSC Protocol through a more institutionalized and systematic implementation of the Livingstone Formula, the following mechanisms shall be applied:

(a) Monthly Chairperson of the PSC

- i. The monthly Chairperson of the PSC, in consultation with other Council members, may determine the session of the month during which inputs of relevant CSOs are sought and canvassed.
- ii. The monthly Chairperson of the PSC, in consultation with the other Council members, may, upon their request, invite CSOs a) to provide information to PSC field missions and AU fact finding missions and b) to form part of such field missions as observers and at their own cost, as provided for in the Livingstone Formula.

(b) PSC Secretariat

- i. The PSC Secretariat may, upon request, receive submissions from CSOs, based on the approved databank, for consideration in the preparation of reports and briefings to the meetings of the PSC as envisaged in the Livingstone Formula.
- ii. The PSC Secretariat is encouraged to collaborate with CSOs which deal with peace and security issues, to keep an AU Commission-established register of CSOs relevant to all the various aspects of the mandate of the PSC as articulated in the PSC Protocol.

(c) ECOSOCC Secretariat

- i. The Citizens and Diaspora Organizations Directorate (CIDO) of the African Union Commission, in its capacity as the Secretariat of ECOSOCC, should take necessary steps to facilitate the active participation of CSOs whose activities contribute to the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa in support of the work of the PSC.
- ii. The PSC Secretariat and CIDO should enhance their collaboration and further strengthen their coordination with the aim of consolidating the engagement of CSOs with the PSC.

E. VOTE OF THANKS

9. The PSC adopted a Vote of Thanks delivered by H.E. Mr. Mull S. Katende, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of-Uganda to the African Union, addressed to His Majesty King Letsie III, the Right Honorable Prime Minister, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho, for hosting the PSC Retreat and for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to its members and to those of the African Union Commission.

African Union Commission (AUC)

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Peace and Security Council

Retreat - Conclusions

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6th Retreat of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, 22 - 23 February 2014, Maseru, Lesotho.

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