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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
975TH MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
27 JANUARY 2021

CONCEPT NOTE

**PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT: TAKING SECURITY CHALLENGES INTO ACCOUNT IN
DEVELOPMENT FINANCING**

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PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT: TAKING SECURITY CHALLENGES INTO ACCOUNT IN
DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 2 December 2019, an international conference was held in Dakar on the theme: "Sustainable development and sustainable debt, finding the right balance". The Conference was organised by Senegal and the International Monetary Fund, in partnership with the United Nations and the "*Cercle des économistes*". On that occasion, President Macky Sall, among others, made a plea in favour of countries in conflict situations including those affected by terrorism and violent extremism, which according to him, should benefit from greater flexibility in determining the criteria for debt relief or cancellation. Countries have specific needs, particularly the financing of costly military equipment. Despite the current efforts being deployed by the Member States in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, Africa's security situation remains worrying even with partners' support. There is an urgent need to review financing development, peace, and security in the Continent in this context.

2. Notably, debt has never been a significant problem as long as it is responsible and qualitative, predominantly when this debt finances the economy's productive sectors. When debt is incurred and invested in boosting national economies' productive capacities, it creates the favourable conditions for repayment/servicing. But beyond economics, there is also the need to sustainably and predictably finance peace and security in the Continent. Without peace and security, the affected Member States cannot realistically achieve socio-economic development. It would be equally challenging to have freedom and democracy amidst insecurity.

3. Faced with the growing scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, Member States are compelled to redouble their efforts and invest more in enhancing their national security capabilities to guarantee their very existence and survival. In these circumstances, most of the available national resources that were initially dedicated for national development, are often diverted towards promoting national security. There is, therefore, need for some candid reflections on how best to finance peace, security and development. In particular, how to factor in security challenges in development financing. It is the government's primary responsibility to ensure their citizens' security and protection, among others by equipping themselves with dependable national defence and security capabilities, both in terms of human and material resources, including modern and credible technologies. Furthermore, Member States need to enhance their resilience and deterrence capacity further. There is also a need for improved cooperation and strong partnerships in peace and security. All of these require substantial funding.

4. At an Extraordinary Summit held on 14 September 2019, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in reacting to the Dakar advocacy, adopted a Plan of Action for the period 2020-2024 for combating terrorism and violent extremism in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin regions. The Plan of Action aims to

mobilise 1 billion United States dollars to finance special units' training to fight against terrorism, violent extremism, and transnational organised crime, including trafficking in humans, arms, and drugs. ECOWAS countries pledged to redouble their efforts further to strengthen their intelligence capabilities, including intelligence sharing; effectively responding to the legitimate socio-economic needs of women and the youth, and addressing the fundamental root causes of insecurity including through the promotion of good governance. However, all of these efforts will be in vain without sustainable, inclusive and equitable development. History has shown that peace, security and stability flourishes in contexts of social justice and equality, and equity. Growth without social justice is the bedrock of all frustrations and marginalised areas, urban or rural, become "economic deserts", where only anger and the most desperate temptations fester.

5. The African Union (AU) has developed and placed several mechanisms and frameworks to assist the Member States in addressing security and development challenges. These mechanisms include the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services (CISSA), the African Union Police Cooperation Mechanism (AFRIPOL) and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), as well as the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Centre (PCRD). Counter-terrorism measures must benefit from substantial, predictable and sustainable financial support, first and foremost by the Member States and with the effective involvement of all international partners. Hence the AU's appeal to the United Nations (UN) to fully and more effectively assume its responsibilities and leadership as the sole organ in charge of global security.

II. KEY AREAS FOR DISCUSSION

6. Taking into account the background provided above, the meeting will be expected to have some reflections on the following areas :

- a) How to engage the donor community in prioritising investment in the security sector? and
- b) What mechanisms can be put in place favouring countries faced with the situations where a debt originally contracted to finance the productive sectors of the economy has been diverted towards the national security effort?

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The main objectives of the envisaged PSC session are to create a platform for PSC Members to:

- a) Exchange views, ideas/perspectives, as well as to share experiences, and practical lessons in the management of foreign debts/development financing in the context of growing insecurity;

- b) Formulate concrete recommendations and proposals in line with the AU's security financing agenda, in particular, the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 and the Assembly Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.614(XXVII) adopted by the 27th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held from 17 to 18 July 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda, on the establishment of an AU Special Fund on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa;
- c) Discuss innovative means and ways of mobilising resources as a contribution to the fight against terrorism and violent extremism;
- d) Propose mechanisms for consideration to further enhance the capacity of national defence and security forces of Member States to more effectively combat terrorism and violent extremism;

IV. INVITED GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

7. The following will be invited to share their experiences, lesson arising, and best practices in the implementation of PCRDR activities in their respective countries:

The following are proposed as the key speakers:

- a) AU Commissioner for Peace and Security;
- b) Madam Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa;
- c) Ms Hanna Tetteh, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the AU and Head of the UN Office to the AU;
- d) African Development Bank;
- e) International Crisis Group.

V. VENUE, DATE AND LANGUAGE

8. The meeting will be held virtually, using ZOOM, on Wednesday, 27 January 2021, starting at 10:00 a.m., Addis Ababa local time. English and French interpretation will be used for the meeting.

African Union Commission (AUC)

PAPS Digital Repository

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PSC Outcomes

Communiqués

2021-01-27

Communiqué of the 975th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council Held on 27 January 2021, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

<https://papsrepository.africa-union.org/handle/123456789/170>

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