INAUGURAL JOINT CONSULTATION
BETWEEN THE AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC)
AND ECOWAS MEDIATION AND SECURITY COUNCIL (MSC) AT
AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL

STATEMENT BY
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“MOBILIZING RESOURCES FOR REGIONAL & CONTINENTAL PEACE
OPERATIONS:
EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS SHARING”

24 APRIL 2024, ABUJA, NIGERIA.
1. Allow me at the outset to thank the ECOWAS Commission for hosting this Inaugural Joint Consultations. It is a privilege for me to participate in them. Let me also thank and express our appreciation to the AUC, and particularly PAPS and Commissioner Bankole, for organizing them – that we hope will be periodic, to look at and examine important issues of peace and security on our African continent.

2. I am pleased to make this presentation focusing on the mobilization of resources for regional and continental peace operations. This is a critical and timely subject as our Continent is being faced with a scale of ever-increasing threats to its peace and security. It is now over twenty years since our first PSO in 2003.

3. On our continent, the mandate of PSOs, their capacity, and resources remain a major challenge facing AU-mandated and authorized missions. While we look forward to the effective operationalization of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 on financing AU-led Peace Support Operations, it is worth noting that a comprehensive approach towards sustainable financing of peace and security activities on the continent remains imperative.

Excellencies,

4. Peace support operations are increasingly tasked with broad and complex mandates, facing threats across the continent posed by violent extremism, asymmetric warfare, transnational organized crime, as well as climate change.

5. Despite this stark reality, there is no “manual” for “funding and resourcing” new PSOs in Africa – let alone existing missions – ATMIS being a clear case in mind. Indeed, the current financing arrangements for peace support operations are neither reliable nor predictable. In fact, the delivery of the mandates of PSOs is highly dependent on the financial and technical partnership of the UN and other multilateral and bilateral partners.

6. This funding dilemma has been exacerbated by the rise of conflicts around the world which contributes to diverting and limiting International Partners’ support, as well as the multiple economic difficulties facing not only the continent but also the entire world (Covid-19 / Russia – Ukraine / debt / Gaza, etc.), in addition to donor funding fatigue due to the multiplicity of humanitarian crises.

7. So the question then becomes: how do we fund and resource our PSOs in Africa? There are a number of entry points for the debate on funding and resourcing PSOs in Africa, but I will limit myself to three key angles:
• **First**, let us fund them ourselves;

• **Second**, let us engage and seek support from our partners, chief among which are the UN, to contribute to funding PSOs in Africa. The engagement with the UN and our partners, and particularly the UNSC Resolution 2719 debate and how to begin its implementation; and

• **Third**, and closely related to the first, is raising efficiency within the Union and its various organs, and RECs/RMs, to enable cost saving that would translate into better resources to support funding of PSOs.

### First: Funding Ourselves and the AU Peace Fund:

8. Despite the gloomy macro-economic outlook across the continent, Member States have shown great levels of commitment towards the key funding mechanisms (AU Regular Budget and AU Peace Fund) with collection rates exceeding 90% annually.

9. In addition to our own assessed contributions as governments, we must also explore other avenues for funding, including from our AU Peace Fund, private sector, and high net worth individuals – there are indeed many on our continent.

10. We particularly see the value of the Peace Fund in using its resources to support early warning and preventive diplomacy, and perhaps, although cautiously, to fill some gaps in the budget of Peace Support Operations. Indeed, we commend both Member States and the Commission (DPAPS) on the partial operationalization of the AU Peace Fund (over USD 22 million have been used or allocated for utilization from the interest generated).

11. However, the endowment in the Peace Fund is limited, and difficult to mobilize. Let us recall that replenishing the Fund will be competing with other urgent needs, particularly in a world in crisis. Moreover, we will need proper modalities for the utilization of PF resources, including what we advocate for of conducting an actuarial study to ensure that resources are not depleted. Indeed, we should consider financing activities from the interest of the total amount – an endowment methodology.

12. We should also explore new tools to avail resources for the Peace Fund. In this regard, we commend the efforts being exerted by the AU Peace Fund Secretariat, by adopting resource mobilization strategy which is now translated through the launch of a series of shuttle visits to an initial group of African countries to engage private sector and financial institutions.
Second: Seeking Support from our Partners, and UN Assessed Contributions:

13. The AU has consistently argued for predictable and sustainable financing through UN assessed contributions for AU-led peace operations. While taking note of the adoption of the UNSC resolution 2719 (2023), which allows accessing the UN assessed contributions to fund up to 75% of AU lead PSOs (on a case by case basis), more clarity is needed on the remaining 25%, reiterating that AU and its Member States should not be burdened by this percentage, stressing that the primary responsibility in this regard lies in the hands of the UNSC and the international community, which the AU PSOs are operating on their behalf.

14. In addition, we must also recognize, and indeed account for the contributions and sacrifices of the African countries in PSOs which account to more than 25%.

15. In how to implement Resolution 2719, there is a need for the AU to engage with RECs/RMs, beginning here with ECOWAS in the ongoing consultation about modalities of funding PSOs through 2719, we note that new missions must be AU-Led but we can get the lessons learned from the experience of MNJTF and the security arrangements of the ECOWAS in this issue.

16. Other bilateral partners have also provided direct bilateral financial contributions, to the AU and to Troop/ Police Contributing Countries (TCC/PCCs) deployed in missions. Indeed, the EU and UK had played a key role in supporting AMISOM/ATMIS.

17. As the challenges are compounded with nexus linkages, so too must the funding: climate finance, humanitarian, development, PCRD – but be careful not to confuse the envelopes.

18. We must emphasize the importance of the peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction and development component in the mandate of new missions. This will not only assist in ensuring a successful transitional mission, but also open new avenues for the provision of partner support.

Third: Efficiency within the AU, its Organs and RECs/RMs:

19. We must emphasize the need to ensure consistency, efficiency, and non-duplication between various financing mechanisms of the AU. Indeed, through effective oversight and efficiency, let me highlight the historic decision by AU
to make use of the AU Special Funds to address the shortfall of ATMIS; A total of US$19,068,914 was identified from AU Special Funds to bridge the ATMIS financing shortfall of US$25,895,129, representing 74% of the expected funds, which was duly adopted and endorsed by the PRC as per the authorization by the Executive Council in its decision 1218, which shows that AU Member States are exerting extra efforts to secure funding.

20. Another very important unspoken aspect is how do we plan our Peace and Security activities? as well as how PSOs are structured? There is a need for a comprehensive review that focuses on both operational and cost efficiency, given some of the grave findings of various audit reports (internal and external) and the very low rate of compliance with audit recommendations. Also, efficiency of expenditure and accountability framework should be given utmost priority.

Excellencies,

21. In conclusion, there should be an ongoing dialogue on those issues, and more emphasis should be given to preventive diplomacy, PCRD and peace building activities. Indeed, investing in conflict prevention is cost-effective, as it has been estimated that for every $1 spent on prevention, over $16 is saved on the downstream costs of violent conflict.
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Peace and Security Council
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