WELCOME REMARKS BY NIGERIA’S PR TO ECOWAS, H.E. AMB MUSA SANI NUHU AT THE JOINT CONSULTATION MEETING BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION (AU) - PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC) AND THE ECOWAS MEDIATION AND SECURITY COUNCIL (MSC) AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, 24TH APRIL, 2024

PROTOCOL

- The President of the ECOWAS Commission, Your Excellency Dr. Omar Alieu Touray;
- Chairperson, AU Peace and Security Council,
- Ambassadors, Members of the AU Peace and Security Council,
- Ambassadors, Members of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council,
- Commissioners of the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Portfolios of AU and ECOWAS,
- Staff of the AU and ECOWAS Commission,
- Members of the Media,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Abuja, as we embark on this important engagement, the joint consultative meeting between the African Union’s Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council (MSC). This gathering signifies a key turning point in our collective pursuit of peace and prosperity for the entire African continent.

2. For long, the African continent has struggled with security challenges that have brought untold hardship to our people. The establishment of the ECOWAS MSC to take decisive actions on issues of peace and security within West Africa, as enshrined in Article 10 of the 1999 ECOWAS Protocol on the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-Keeping and Security, stands as a testament to our proactive response to these threats. Since its inception, the ECOWAS MSC at the Ministerial and Ambassadorial level
has played a critical role in addressing security challenges, through mediation missions, peacekeeping operations, and counter-terrorism efforts, which were endorsed by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

3. However, it must be clearly stated that the security landscape in Africa is a dynamic one, constantly evolving and presenting new complex threats. From terrorism and violent extremism to unconstitutional changes of government, these challenges demand a unified response that goes beyond our national boundaries and requires collective efforts. Therefore, these joint consultative engagements between the AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) serve as an important platform for forging such a collective response to mitigate these challenges, in tandem with the tenets of Article 16 of the PSC Protocol, to harmonize the activities of Regional Mechanisms towards promoting peace, security and stability in Africa.

4. Specifically, the nexus between the missions of the AU PSC and ECOWAS MSC is highly fundamental, as it underscores the interconnectedness of peace and security efforts at both the continental and regional levels. By aligning strategies and actions, this joint consultation can foster a deeper understanding of regional security dynamics, harmonize efforts aimed at preventive diplomacy and develop more effective conflict resolution strategies, thereby ensuring a more cohesive and comprehensive approach to regional peace and stability.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. In the course of this joint consultation, we will explore areas of cooperation, including concerted strategies to sustain zero tolerance for unconstitutional changes of government and effective counterterrorism measures. We will also discuss mobilizing resources for regional and continental peace initiatives, as well as building synergies, coordination, and complementarity in our endeavors. Therefore, I urge us all to seize this platform to engage in an in-depth discussion that will allow us identify areas of potential synergies and
foster a coherent response to achieve political stability, as well as ensure peace and security in Africa. By leveraging the collective expertise, resources, and networks of both organizations, we can amplify our efforts towards conflict prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding initiatives across the continent.

6. Let me also use this opportunity to further advise that the AU-REC’s dialogue should go beyond discussions on only Political Affairs, Peace and Security. You would all agree with me that the pursuit of lasting peace is linked to a broader spectrum of regional integration. As such, the African Union’s engagement with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) should involve discussions on economic development, humanitarian intervention, social cohesion as well as infrastructural development which are the building blocks for good governance that would guarantee a peaceful and stable Africa. Through dialogue on all critical sectors, the AU and RECs like ECOWAS can craft effective solutions that address the root causes of conflict and foster a brighter future for all Africans. Therefore, we urge other organs of AU and RECs to learn from the PSC best practices of engaging their counterparts at the regional level.

7. Finally, let me conclude by commending this effort on institutionalizing the joint consultative meetings between the AU PSC and similar organs of the RECs/RMs, which underscores our collective commitment to the African Union’s vision of "An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa", to practicalize our slogan of “African Solutions to African problems". We wish to further advise that these consultations should be sustained to ensure a continuous exchange of ideas and strategies between the regional and the continental umbrella body. We must sustain the consistency of these joint consultations to ensure a more prosperous Africa where people can live in peace and harmony.

8. I wish us successful deliberations with very positive outcomes for the betterment of our continent.

9. I thank you for listening.
Communiqué of the Inaugural Annual Joint Consultative Meeting Between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Mediation and Security Council (at Ambassadorial Level) of the Economic Community of West African States held on 24 April 2024, Abuja, Nigeria.

Peace and Security Council
African Union Commission