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**FIFTH REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN UNION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN
UNION MASTER ROADMAP OF PRACTICAL STEPS TO SILENCE THE
GUNS IN AFRICA BY THE YEAR 2020, FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY
2019 TO FEBRUARY 2020**

FIFTH REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION MASTER ROADMAP OF PRACTICAL STEPS TO SILENCE THE GUNS IN AFRICA BY THE YEAR 2020 FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 2019 TO FEBRUARY 2020

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) is submitted pursuant to the decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630(XXVIII), adopted during the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 – 31 January 2017, which endorsed the PSC-developed AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020 (AUMR). By this decision, the Assembly requested the PSC to submit a report on the status of the implementation of the AUMR to each ordinary session of the Assembly till December 2020, to enable the Assembly have a clear perspective on the implementation process and therefore provide guidance. Notably, the year 2020, by December, is the deadline set by the Assembly for ending wars/silencing the guns in Africa in the Solemn Declaration adopted during the 50th OAU/AU Anniversary held in Addis Ababa, on 25 May 2013.

2. It should also be recalled that the Assembly has consistently, since its endorsement of the AUMR, called on all Member States and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) to redouble their efforts to ensure strong political and financial commitment in the implementation of the Roadmap. The Assembly also called on civil society organizations/think tanks and the private sector, as well as the United Nations (UN) and other partners to lend their support to Africa's efforts to end conflicts and promote a conflict-free dispensation in the Continent.

3. This Report covers the period from the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held from 10-11 February 2019 in Addis Ababa to the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly, taking place in Addis Ababa on 9-10 February 2020. In essence, it provides a synthesis of the efforts deployed by the PSC, RECs/RMs, AU Member States, AU Commission, UN and other stakeholders in the implementation of the AUMR and the achievements thus far made. It also provides an overview of on-going activities, as well as the challenges/constraints being encountered in the implementation of the AUMR. Furthermore, the report articulates observations/recommendations on how to further enhance the implementation of the AUMR in the run up to the December 2020 deadline.

4. From the onset, it should be highlighted that this report is being submitted at an opportune juncture where upon the Executive Council, at its 34th Ordinary Session held from 4 to 5 July 2019, in Niamey, Niger, on behalf of the AU Assembly selected the theme "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development" for this year 2020 for implementing targeted activities with specific objectives.

Therefore, the choice of this theme makes the year 2020 a period during which there should be acceleration and concentration of efforts in the implementation of the AUMR. In this context, the report will also outline possible and specific activities aimed at tangible gains, for implementation during 2020.

5. Evidently, the PSC has continued to provide constant guidance on the implementation of the AUMR, particularly through its decisions and field missions. In this respect, the PSC convened an open session at its 874th meeting held on 5 September 2019, dedicated to discussion on the progress made in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020. Particular attention was paid on the challenges encountered in the implementation process and the way forward.

II. IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THE AUMR

6. It should be recalled that the AUMR is composed of five key areas with practical steps to be taken by the stakeholders/implementers, namely Political Aspect; Economic Aspect; Social Aspect; Environmental Aspect; and Legal Aspect. Below are the activities undertaken during the period under review in the implementation of the AUMR:

A. Political Aspect:

i. Enhancement of Democracy and Governance

7. As emphasized by the PSC in its decisions, continued enhancement of democracy and governance across Africa creates more opportunities for addressing problem facing the Continent. Member States have continued to consolidate democratic practices and institutions, as well as enhancing good governance, with the support of their respective RECs/RMs and the AU Commission. In this context, the PSC in its several meetings has consistently encouraged Member States to share lessons from each election and continue to enhance conditions that facilitate the conduct of peaceful elections, particularly by upholding AU principles as enshrined in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and other relevant continental and regional instruments. This sharing of lessons contributes to conflict prevention efforts in the Continent. Furthermore, the PSC has institutionalized periodic meetings on elections in Africa, during which the AU Commission submits reports on elections conducted or planned, with the concerned invited Member States and RECs/RMs also providing highlights to the Council. These meetings enable the PSC to have an overall visibility into the dynamic election landscape in the Continent, while at the same time presenting the opportunity to Member States to self-evaluate and plan better for the conduct of their future elections.

8. As part of its efforts to support enhancement of democracy and good governance and therefore contribute to resolving conflicts/crises in the Continent, the PSC has undertaken field missions to some Member States, namely South Sudan in February

2019, Guinea Bissau in June 2019 and The Gambia in July 2019. In these missions, among other points of emphasis, the PSC impressed upon the stakeholders to always put in the forefront dialogue to resolve differences, uphold the constitution, utilize existing national legal mechanisms to address disputes when it comes to electoral issues, to respect human rights and freedoms; and to promote a culture of fighting impunity and creating conditions for healing, reconciliation and justice. In this case, the PSC consistently reminded its interlocutors of the 2014-2024 Nelson Mandela Decade for Reconciliation in Africa and its importance in the overall drive to end conflicts and achieve durable peace in Africa.

9. On its part, the AU Commission has continued to deploy efforts in support of Member States, upon their request, in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as security sector reform. This technical support was provided to The Gambia, Ethiopia, Mali and Madagascar, among others. As the time of finalizing this report, the Commission had received further requests from some Member States for this kind of support. By providing this support to the requesting Member States, the Commission has contributed to their efforts to advance post-conflict stabilization and consolidate implementation of peace agreements in some cases, such as the Central African Republic and Sudan. It has also contributed to developing professional national security forces capable of playing their republican constitutional role. In the same vein, the Commission's support has assisted the Member States in implementing the AU instruments related to democracy, good governance and human rights.

10. It should be noted that, while progress continues to be registered in Member States in areas of democracy, improvement of governance, and respect for human rights, several challenges still persist. The AU Commission is committed to continue supporting Member States to peacefully conduct their elections, undertake DDR and SSR, enhance mechanisms to promote healing, reconciliation and justice, as well as advance decentralization to enhance local participation in decision making and development, among others. But then, these efforts are hampered by inadequate funding, both at the level of the AU Commission and the Member States. In some cases where the Commission has seen the need to assist a Member State, this is not reciprocated in terms of extending the necessary cooperation. This challenge relates more to issues of early warning as a fundamental element in conflict prevention. Another challenge is that, some Member States receive financial and technical support from various partners and other sources, but without sufficient coordination and information to the Commission to promote harmonization of efforts. This creates conditions of completion, parallel initiatives and duplication, which undermine efforts to achieve set goals. Still, another challenge is the political and military interference in the political processes of some Member States by external powers, which hinders African efforts to assist those Member States overcome their internal problems and similarly undermines AU and RECs/RMs efforts to help find lasting solutions.

11. Underlining the strategic role of periodic and peaceful elections and good governance for the realization of a conflict-free Africa, the Assembly may wish to

commend Member States for the gains achieved in advancing democratic elections and consolidating good governance as essential conditions for responding to the need of their citizens, particularly through improved socio-economic delivery and encourage them to continue on this path. The Assembly may also wish to commend those Member States which have seized the opportunity of the technical support availed by the Commission and encourage others to emulate. To this effect, the Assembly may wish to commend the AU Commission for the efforts and support deployed in assisting Member States in implementing their national programmes and request the Commission to continue providing support. The Assembly may wish to encourage Member States, with the support of the AU Commission, to continue mobilizing the necessary resources for their national programmes, especially those relating to silencing the guns. The Assembly may wish to strongly condemn external political and military interference in the affairs of the Continent and calls on Member States to further enhance and consolidate cooperation and solidarity among themselves with a view to ensuring that Africa shapes its destiny, in line with the African Common Defence and Security Policy. The Assembly may further wish to encourage the PSC to continue providing strategic and leading guidance in advancing the conduct of peaceful elections and enhancing good governance within the Continent.

ii. Enhancement of the African Standby Force towards the full operationalization

12. The PSC, in line with the Assembly decisions and its communiqués, has remained fully seized to ensure the continued enhancement of the ASF as a strategic asset in the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). It should be recalled that at its 767th meeting held on 25 April 2018, the PSC emphasized the need for the Commission to expedite the process of harmonization of ACIRC with the ASF in full compliance with the letter and spirit of Assembly decisions 679 and 695. Furthermore, at its 821st meeting held on 9 January 2019, the PSC adopted a decision on the harmonization of the ACIRC within the framework of the ASF, in particular adopted the roadmap and timelines as proposed by the MSC. The PSC requested the AU Commission to deploy efforts to implement the provisions in the Communique and provide regular updates to the Council. In this context, the Commission has provided these updates during the period under review. Throughout the reporting period, the PSC has consistently expressed its deep concern over the slow pace of efforts towards the implementation of Assembly and its decisions on the harmonization of the ACIRC within the ASF framework. In expressing this concern, the PSC has stressed that there should be a single continental mechanism devoted to the promotion of peace, security, stability, defence and safety on Africa and its people.

13. While this was the situation by June/July 2019, the ACIRC Ministers of Defence convened their meeting in Pretoria, South Africa from 31 August to 2 September 2019, at which they deliberated on the issues and adopted a Declaration and a Roadmap to facilitate the harmonization process. At the time of finalization of this report, preparations were being made for the convening of an ACIRC meeting at the level of

Heads of State and Government to consider the Declaration of the ACIRC Defence Ministers and give impetus to the harmonization process.

14. Despite the challenges still to be addressed, progress has been made towards full operationalization of the ASF since the adoption of the AUMR. The five ASF Regional Standby Forces, namely EASF, ECCAS, ECOWAS, NARC and SADC have been fully engaged to ensure that their regional capabilities are kept in a state of readiness for deployment. This trend has been reinforced by the successful experiences of some of the Regional Standby Forces, such as those of ECOWAS which deployed in Guinea Bissau and The Gambia and SADC which deployed in Lesotho, to support peace and stabilization efforts in these countries. It should be recalled that, four out of five RECs/RMs have confirmed that their capabilities are operational and ready for deployment. In line with the directives of the Specialized Technical committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS), the Commission has further advanced policy documents of the ASF and has developed a new ASF Doctrine and the ASF Concept for Operation to guide the ASF employment/deployment in the ever changing conflict dynamics and disasters in Africa. These documents were submitted to the 12th Ordinary meeting of the STCDSS held in Cairo, Egypt from 15 to 19 December 2019. The STCDSS further guided that the Doctrine be recirculated to all Member States for inputs towards finalization and eventually consideration by the STCDSS.

15. It should be stated that the people in the conflict affected areas of the Continent and those threatened by crises and natural disasters have long waited for the ASF to become reality and contribute to the promotion of peace, security, stability and well-being/safety of states and people in the Continent. The delay to achieve this milestone has been and continues to be one of the factors contributing to persistent external interference in Africa's affairs and also externally driven destabilization in some parts of the Continent.

16. Furthermore, as part of the efforts to advance harmonised decision making and coordination at the continental and regional levels, the PSC and the RECs/RMs Policy Organs on Peace and Security, convened on 24 May 2019, their 1st Joint Consultative Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was held in pursuance of relevant provisions of the PSC Protocol and within the framework of the continued implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as well as the African Governance Architecture (AGA). The Consultative Meeting provided the first ever opportunity for the PSC and the RECs/RMs Policy Organs to reflect on issues relating to the harmonization/division of labour on their decision-making processes, enhancement of coordination and strengthening of synergy in the implementation of the APSA and AGA at both the regional and continental levels. Among other outcomes, the PSC and RECs/RMs undertook to ensure the deployment/employment of the ASF within a partnership between the PSC and the RECs/RMs policy organs. On a related aspect, the PSC at its 870th meeting held on 20 August 2019, held a meeting with the RECs/RMs Policy Organs on the harmonization and coordination of decision-making processes/division of labour in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa.

During this meeting, the PSC encouraged the RECs/RMs to fully contribute towards the successful deployment of the ASF. The PSC and RECs/RMs Policy Organs agreed to convene their 2nd Consultative Meeting in May 2020.

17. It should further be noted that the PSC at its 871st meeting held on 22 August 2019 received a briefing by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on the construction of the SADC ASF Regional Standby Force Logistics Depot (RLD). During the meeting, the PSC commended SADC Member States for the efforts being deployed, including the financing provided, towards ensuring the full operationalization of the SADC Standby Force within the overall framework of the ASF and the construction of SADC Regional Logistic Base. During the meeting, the PSC stressed the need for accelerating the construction of all the ASF Regional Logistic Depots in the five AU geographic regions.

18. The Assembly may wish to commend the PSC for its continued efforts towards the full operationalization and deployment of the ASF, including the continued provision of strategic guidance for the harmonization of ACIRC within the ASF Framework. The Assembly may also wish to commend the ACIRC Volunteer Nations for their commitment to comply with the relevant decisions of the Assembly and the communiques of the PSC and ensure the rapid harmonization of the ACIRC within the framework of the ASF. The Assembly may further commend the Commission for the efforts deployed in the development of various policies for the functioning of the ASF, particularly the new Doctrine for Peace Support Operations, as well as towards the establishment of the ASF Regional Logistic Depots. The Assembly may also commend the ASF Regional Standby Brigades for the continued efforts to ensure readiness for deployment.

iii. Conflict Prevention

19. On early warning, the AUMR requests the AU Member states and the Commission, as well as RECs/RMs to establish clear channels of communication on early warning reports to the PSC and the RECs/RMs Policy Organs. Just to recall, the PSC, in its various meetings on conflict prevention, in particular its 360th meeting held on 22 March 2013, stressed the need to fully apply the available AU and RECs/RMs instruments/tools in preventive diplomacy. The PSC and the AU Commission have complemented efforts to enhance preventive diplomacy within the Continent. In this context, the Commission is provided specific briefings of an early warning and information sharing nature on a basis of a format called 'breakfast meeting'. In the absence of a predictable format for the PSC to receive evidence-based early warning, which would trigger decision making to cause early action, it is this 'breakfast meeting' between the Commissioner for Peace and Security and the ambassadors PSC which has been serving the purpose. This effort is expected to culminate in the development by the PSC of an appropriate format to receive and consider early warning/preventive diplomacy briefings and reports. Also, the PSC should be receiving briefings from the AU Commission and the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services (CISSA) on

early warning and horizon scanning to upkeep alertness to situations that may undermine peace and stability. In this case, more work should be done to feed the PSC with early warning information. Furthermore, The PSC has also held regular consultations with sister AU Organs in which early warning issues were discussed with a view to harmonizing preventive actions.

20. Progress has been made in enhancing collaboration and creating synergies between the Commission and the early warning systems of the RECs/RMs. In the same vein, technical meetings were convened between the early warning systems of the RECs/RMs and the AU, during the period under review to facilitate the exchange of information and harmonize efforts aimed at conflict prevention. Now, while these efforts are commendable, some constraints continue to hamper the effectiveness of early warning, particularly in creating the necessary linkage to early action. These constraints include, in adequate cooperation by those Member States in which a looming crisis may be on their landscape; denial by some representatives of Member States that the situation is getting out of hand, which delays/undermines early action; inadequate funding to trigger and sustain early responses; inadequate coordination among the involved stakeholders and external interventions not aligned to the guidelines provided by the APSA and AGA. There is also a challenge as to who, on the ground, is to provide the first response between the PSC and the RECs/RMs Policy organs in situations of a looming crisis. Linked to this challenge, is the complication often faced by both the PSC and the Commission to bring to discussion in meetings issues relating to looming crises in order to trigger early action. In this context, more harmonization and coordination on action to be taken, among all AU organs involved and the RECs/RMs is needed. This effort could be taken concurrently with the development of a format of interaction between the PSC, the Commission and the RECs/RMs to address early warning and early response issues.

21. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to request the PSC, working with other AU Organs and RECs/RMs Policy Organs, to take appropriate action and put in place a format of interaction to address early warning issues and trigger early response as circumstances may require. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to request the PSC to discuss the development of such a format in its upcoming Consultative Meeting with RECs/RMs Policy Organs on Peace and Security in May 2020. The Assembly may further wish to encourage Member States to take evidence-based early warning information, as gathered by the Commission and the RECs/RMs secretariats seriously and engage the necessary measures to maintain stability, including extending the necessary cooperation to the PSC and the Commission. The Assembly may wish to reiterate its call upon Member States to take advantage of the AU Structural of Vulnerability Assessment Tools in a way that contributes to sustaining national cohesion and stability and in this context commends Ghana for its efforts.

- iv. Efforts to curb/prevent illicit proliferation of small arms, light weapons and other weapons

22. The PSC has continued to pay particular attention to the problem posed by illicit arms proliferation in the Continent. Since the endorsement by the AU Assembly of the AUMR in January 2017, there has been a significant increase in the number of sessions dedicated by the PSC to this topic.

23. During the period under review, the Commission has spearheaded the first-ever continental study mapping illicit arms flows in Africa. The Study shed light on patterns and actors involved in illicit arms flows and the need to strengthen accountability mechanisms against illicit arms transfers in the Continent. The study also points out to gaps in data and analysis, and recommends integrated measures to be implemented at the national, regional and continental levels. The study was considered by the 860th meeting of the PSC, held on 18 July 2019, which welcomed its findings and endorsed its recommendations for implementation by Member States.

24. At the regional level, the Commission undertook outreach and organized sensitization events to sensitize states on the objectives of the Arms Trade Treaty and its contribution to the efforts for silencing the guns. In this regard, the Commission assisted Member States, upon their request, in undertaking national consultations towards developing implementation action plans to address the problem of illicit arms flows. Equally important to note is the need to further strengthen cooperation between the PSC and the UN Security Council on monitoring and implementing arms embargoes as a measure to contribute to combating illicit arms flows. Furthermore, the PSC in its meetings, stressed the imperative to prevent non-state armed groups, particularly terrorist and criminal actors, from acquiring and using explosive weapons and the contribution that arms embargoes can make to this effect.

25. The Commission, in consultation with Member States, developed the AU Policy on Management of Recovered Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in PSOs. The purpose of the policy is to improve the management of recovered SALW in PSOs, and thereby reduce the illicit circulation of SALW within and outside the mission area. The policy is intended to help preserve the integrity of the PSOs and prevent the use of illicit SALW against civilians and mission personnel. It is also intended to bring PSOs into adherence with established AU and other good practices and relevant regional and international obligations. The Commission commenced support to AMISOM and the MNJTF in 2019 towards the development of mission-specific Standard Operating Procedures to implement the policy and create the required monitoring, implementation and capacity development mechanisms.

26. The Assembly may wish to commend the PSC with the support of the AU Commission in enhancing cooperation and synergy in the implementation of the DDR and SSR programmes, as well in the fight against illicit small arms and light weapons. The Assembly may wish to also AU Commission for the continental study mapping illicit arms flows in Africa and endorse the recommendations of the joint mapping study as endorsed by the PSC at its 860th meeting of the PSC, held on 18 July 2019. The Assembly may also wish to encourage Member States, the Commission, and

RECs/RMs, with a small arms mandate, to further enhance their respective capacities towards undertaking integrated and comprehensive measures to address this scourge in line with the regional and international instruments. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to condemn all violations of arms embargoes currently in effect in Africa, particularly as they result in illegal supplies to terrorist groups and armed groups, as well as criminal networks, undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States, and threaten regional security and stability. The Assembly may wish to stress the urgency for Member States to eliminate the supply of small arms and light weapons on unauthorized non-state actors and act for the disarmament of these armed groups and to put to an end to their actions. The Assembly may wish to urge all Member States to put in place measures to curb illicit proliferation of arms/weapons and also other measures to arrest the persistent inflow of illegal arms/weapons into various parts of Continent, as a core response to persistence of conflicts/crises. As agreed by the PSC in its various meetings, the Assembly may wish to encourage naming and shaming of any entity or persons engaged in illegal supply of arms/weapons, including financing and safe havens for this traffic. The Assembly may also wish to request the PSC to increase its collaboration with the UN Security Council to address implementation gaps, including through the framework of the annual joint consultative meeting between the two Councils.

v. Conduct of the Africa Amnesty Month

27. The 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held on 3-4 July 2017, in Addis Ababa, adopted the decision Assembly/AU/Dec.645(XXIX) in which it, inter alia, declared the month of September of each year, till 2020, as “Africa Amnesty Month” (AAM) for the surrender and collection of illicit small arms and light weapons. Among the measures recommended by the Council and adopted by the Assembly is the voluntary surrender of illicit weapons in civilian possession during the Africa Amnesty Month, on the condition of anonymity and immunity from prosecution. The AAM is a measure to encourage citizens to voluntarily surrender illegally owned and used arms/weapons to designated state institutions/agencies, with the necessary assurances and protection to them. Also, this measure is for building confidence and trust between state institutions which are custodians of arms/weapons and those citizens who may be in illegal possession of weapons, and may be reluctant to surrender them to the relevant authorities for fear of repercussions.

28. On an annual basis, since 2017, the PSC dedicated open sessions to prepare for, and commemorate the Africa Amnesty Month. Through these meetings, the PSC issued press statements urging Member States to design context-specific initiatives, which could take the form of national action plans, to create an enabling environment, and strengthen national frameworks and capacities for consistent implementation and evaluation of the AAM.

29. To further advance the implementation of the AAM, the Commission provided technical and financial support to Member States. This support included organizing sensitization events, stakeholders consultations and training workshops aimed at building capacities for regulating arms possession; arms collection, management and disposal; community engagement; and media mobilization. It should be recalled that in 2018, five member states were assisted by the Commission. However, lack of funding prevented the Commission from extending similar support in 2019.

30. The Commission further engaged the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) towards launching a public campaign across its global network of civil society organizations. IANSA set-up a webpage providing background information on the AAM and making proposals, on the basis of Assembly Decisions and PSC communiques and press statements, on how civil society organizations/non-state actors can engage at the community level.

31. Despite the calls made by the AU Ordinary Sessions and the PSC, as well as regular notifications dispatched by the Commission during the year 2019, AU Member States have not reported on the observance of the AAM. Therefore, the Commission has not been able to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the impact made by this important initiative in 2019. There is need to re-ignite awareness among Member States so that they continue to utilize this important window of opportunity. Collecting illicit arms/weapons from those illegally possessing and using them is essential for winning the campaign to silence the guns.

32. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to commend the PSC and those Member States which have conducted the AAM and calls for other Member States to also carry out this conduct within the collective responsibility to ensure the silencing of the guns in the Continent. The Assembly may also wish to call upon the RECs/RMs with their member States, to intensify efforts for the success of the AAM in their regions. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to encourage the PSC to conduct the AAM in the field to create awareness and for the citizens to appreciate the initiative and its contribution towards peace. The Assembly may wish to commend the AU Commission for its technical and financial support to Member States and appeals to partners to continue providing support in the implementation of this activity.

vi. Implementing Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration (DDR) and Security Sector Reform (SSR) programmes

33. The PSC, in commemorating the Africa Amnesty Month, dedicated its 874th meeting held on 5 September 2019, to an open session which focused its discussion on the progress made in the implementation of the AUMR. Particular attention was paid on the challenges and perspectives, facing SSR in Africa. The PSC stressed, once again, that good governance of the security sector is a sine qua non for sustainable economic and political development, as well as achieving lasting peace. In this respect, the PSC encouraged Member States to utilize the Continental Structural Conflict Prevention

Framework and to commit themselves and implement the AUMR plans through establishing inclusive mechanisms in their national action plans.

34. Based on the outcome of the 2nd Africa Forum on SSR, held from 22 to 24 October 2018 in Addis Ababa, the Commission took steps for the inauguration of the AU Steering Committee on SSR in September 2019, to provide a consistent and institutionalized platform where the AU, RECs/RMs, UN, and international partners can share information, reflect on challenges and opportunities, and devise effective means to coordinate and consolidate efforts to advance SSR across the Continent. The Steering Committee will promote an integrated AU approach to SSR, and foster effective partnerships through dialogue with regional stakeholders and international partners. It is also intended to provide a platform for stakeholders and partners to jointly assess the overall implementation of the AU Policy Framework on SSR and develop recommendations for consideration by Member States.

35. The Commission has intensified efforts to support national SSR processes by providing technical capacities, developing guidance and training material, and supporting coordination efforts. Countries such as Madagascar, Mali, Lesotho, Somalia and Guinea Bissau received technical assistance from the Commission in undertaking inclusive national consultations and developing national roadmaps and action plans to achieve sustainable SSR. In order to further address the gaps in SSR capacities and enable the Commission deploy more expertise to Member States, steps have been taken by the Commission to put in place a Roster of African SSR and DDR experts.

36. The Commission has continued to work closely with the RECs/RMs and PSOs to enhance approaches to DDR, particularly in complex security situations. In this respect, the Commission supported the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) in developing the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin, including the pillar concerning Disarmament, Demobilisation, Rehabilitation, Reinsertion and Reintegration of Persons associated with Boko Haram. Furthermore, technical assistance was provided to the Multinational joint Task Force (MNJTF) in developing Standard Operating Procedures on handling Persons Associated with Boko Haram. In implementation of these frameworks, the Commission mobilized assistance from the UN and international partners to ensure that Member States receive the requisite capacity development to harmonize and strengthen implementation across the region.

37. In Somalia, the Commission assisted in developing an integrated database to facilitate storing, retrieval and analysis of all information related to screening under the national defector rehabilitation program. The Commission further facilitated training for personnel deployed in reception centers for Al Shabaab defectors in the country.

38. Furthermore, and in order to assist Member States address with the emerging challenges of contemporary conflicts, the Commission developed a series of DDR Operational Guidance Notes addressing issues, such as foreign fighters, countering

violent extremism, detention, and women and children. An integrated training project has been developed, in this regard, to ensure that practitioners from Member States and regional organizations are trained on the different dimensions of DDR.

39. The Assembly may wish to call upon the PSC to continue providing strategic guidance on the implementation of DDR and SSR within the Continent. The Assembly may further wish to commend the Commission for its efforts in providing technical assistance to Member States to facilitate their DDR and SSR programmes and urges it to continue with these efforts.

vii. Combating terrorism and violent extremism

40. The Continent is facing unprecedented expansion of terrorism and violent extremism, which is seriously undermining the efforts to silence the guns. This expansion is spreading out to those parts of Africa which, in the past, were spared from this scourge. The PSC has remained active in addressing the issue of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, particularly advocating the imperative of holistic approach combining continued support to peace support operations; sharing of information/intelligence among Member States; intensively responding to humanitarian crises; implementing the PCRD activities in areas affected by terrorism; accelerating socio-economic development, and providing tailored education to counter the terrorist narrative and other measures. The PSC has been receiving regular briefings by the Commission, African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), and the Committee for Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA). These updates have contributed to the PSC decision-making process regarding the continued fight against terrorism and violent extremism. The PSC in its various meetings, as stressed the need to enhance the human security and community involvement approaches to counter and prevent terrorism and violent extremism. Engagement of religious leaders, faith-based and inter-faith organizations in the fight against terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization in Africa and to promote inter and intra-religious constructive dialogue has also received emphasis from the PSC. In this context, the PSC has requested the Commission to organize a fora to engage religious leaders on countering terrorism, violent extremism and illicit proliferation of arms.

41. It should be recalled that the AUMR, in addressing the problem of terrorism, calls among other measures, for operationalization of the AU Special Fund for Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in line with Assembly Decision-Assembly/AU/Dec.614 (XXVII), as well as the adoption of the its Statute. The Commission has developed the relevant documents to be considered by AU relevant Policy Organs with a view to accelerating the putting in place of the AU Special Fund.

42. Furthermore, the Commission has supported Member States through trainings with a view to enhancing their national capacities for the prevention and combating of terrorism and violent extremism. Some Member States, with the support of the ACSRT, have developed their national action plans and strengthened national institutional

structures dedicated to fighting terrorism. Through the coordination meetings between the ACSRT and the RECs/RMs focal points on counter terrorism, efforts have been deployed to standardize counter-terrorism responses across Africa. The meetings of the Regional Security Mechanisms, such as the Nouakchott and Djibouti Processes, continue to provide guidance to the regions with regard to timely sharing of information and operational intelligence. The Assembly may wish to condemn terrorisms and all its forms in Africa and warn against the propagation of this scourge in the Continent. The Assembly may also wish to encourage Member States to share best practices and experiences in the fight against extremist speeches. The Assembly may wish to commend the Kingdom of Morocco for its initiative to host the next UN Global Forum for Alliance of Civilization in 2020 and looks forward to the outcomes which are expected to contribute significantly to the promotion of culture of peace in Africa.

viii. Implementation of Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy and Lomé Charter on Maritime Security

43. The AU pays particular attention to enhancement of maritime security and safety, as well as the development of the blue economy in Africa. Indeed, the issue of piracy, dumping of toxic wastes; arms and drug trafficking; human trafficking; oil bunkering; smuggling of oil and armed robbery in the maritime domain, are an integral part of the security challenges confronting the Continent. These challenges are currently more pronounced in the Gulf of Guinea, whilst in the past, it was the Horn of Africa, particularly along the coast of Somalia which was most affected. In this context, the AUMR calls for enhanced efforts by Member States and RECs/RMs in the implementation of the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM Strategy), as well as signing and ratification of the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa to facilitate its early entry into force.

44. During the period under review, the PSC at its 858th meeting held on 16 July 2019 received a briefing from the AU Legal Counsel on the status of the implementation of the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter). During the meeting, the PSC was informed that a Strategic Task Force reviewed the draft Annexes to the Lomé Charter and requested the Commission to expedite the finalization of the draft Annexes, as integral part of the Lomé Charter. This measure is expected to contribute towards facilitating rapid signature and ratification of the Charter by Member States.

45. Despite the efforts deployed, Africa continues to face insecurity in the maritime spaces, which undermines the development of the Blue Economy, among other effects. In this regard, there is need for the AU Member States to promote holistic approach to address the issue of piracy, including in the Gulf of Guinea and the coast of Somalia. Such an approach could include promoting land-based initiatives, particularly enhancement of good governance and protection of the livelihoods of coastal populations, through effective measures to combat illegal activities in Africa's maritime domain.

46. The Assembly may wish to request the Commission, working closely with the RECs/RMs Secretariats, to propose further technical measures in support of AU Member States to enhance their capacity to improve maritime security and safety, as well as the development of the Blue Economy. The Assembly may wish to request the AU Commission, while awaiting the entry into force of the Lomé Charter, to take the initiative to put in place a consultative form that will facilitate period review of progress in Africa's maritime domain. The Assembly may wish to encourage Member States to conduct joint patrols in their respective territorial waters. The Assembly may also wish to request the Commission to finalize the review of the draft Annexes to the Lomé Charter, as integral part of the Charter, with a view to facilitating its rapid signature and ratification by Member States to allow the entry into force. The Assembly may further wish to appeal to partners to extend their support to the AU in addressing maritime insecurity in Africa.

ix. Enhancing Efforts in Addressing Cyber Security

47. The challenge related to cyber security continue to rise in the Continent, posing problems for economic development and national security. This challenge manifest itself in computer programs that are designed to disrupt or destroy critical industrial infrastructure, such as factories producing utilities, transportation, communications and energy. Such attacks could also impact on national military networks.

48. There is an increase of global cyber security threats and attacks with the potential of amplifying the existing security threats in the Continent. In addressing this issue, the AUMR calls for formulation, within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture and other relevant AU instruments, of a common African position on preventing and combating cyber insecurity. It should be recalled that, at its 23rd Ordinary Session, held in Malabo in June 2014, the AU Assembly adopted the African Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection. The Convention aims to provide fundamental principles and guidelines to ensure effective protection of personal data and create a safe digital environment for citizens, security and privacy of individuals' data online.

49. On its part, at its 850th meeting held on 20 May 2019, the PSC deliberated on the issues of Mitigating the Threats of Cyber Security to Peace and Security in Africa, and it, among others, underscored the importance for Member States to redouble their investments in education and public awareness campaigns on the growing threat of cyber-crimes. The PSC also underscored the need to adopt a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and public-private partnership approaches in preventing and mitigating the risks posed by cyber-crimes. In addition, the Commission, through the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), has established a working group on cyber-crime tasked to assist Member States in building their capacity to address issues of cybercrime.

50. In addressing the problem of cyber-crime, the Assembly may wish to call on Member States to undertake regular cyber security risk assessments, with the support of the Commission, especially AFRIPOL. The Assembly may wish to commend those Member States that have already signed and ratified and are already implementing the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention of 2014) and encourage those Member States, which have not yet done so, to also do the same without further delay. The Assembly may wish to request the AU Commission to establish platforms, such as regional forums dedicated to discussing cyber security-related issues, with a view to facilitating sharing of experiences, lessons learnt and best practices, as well as promoting regional and international cooperation in promoting cyber security. The Assembly may further wish to request the Department of Infrastructure and Energy of the AU Commission, working in close collaboration with the RECs/RMs Secretariats, to expeditiously develop a Continental Cyber Security Strategy and a cyber-security Model Law for submission to the PSC for its consideration.

x. Revitalization of AU Peace Fund

51. In continued implementation of relevant AU Assembly decisions, the Commission has supported Member States in putting in place the governance structures of the AU peace Fund. The PSC has remained seized of this matter and at its 897th meeting held on 21 November 2019, it exchanged views with the Bureau of the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Executive Management Committee on early convening of a joint retreat on Peace Fund, in line with the decision of the 35th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union held from 4 to 8 July 2019. In effect, the Joint Retreat took place at the AU Headquarters on 11 January 2020. The Retreat took stock of the status of the operationalization of the AU Peace Fund and the status of negotiations on AU efforts towards accessing UN financing for AU peace support operations authorized by the UN. The Retreat was informed that 25 Member States have paid their full contributions, and other 25 Member States have paid part of their contributions, which make a total of 141 million USD. Five (5) Member States have not yet paid their contributions to the Peace Fund. Currently, there is an outstanding payment amounting to 53.6 million USD, representing 28% of the total assessment/target amount of 195 million USD for 2017 to 2019. The Retreat was also informed of the status of consultations with the regions on the issue of contributions to the Peace Fund. At the time of finalizing this report, Southern and Western Africa were still to complete their consultations. At the time of finalizing this report, the PSC had scheduled a meeting to consider the outcomes of the Retreat, as a first step towards submission of those outcomes to the Executive Council and ultimately to the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly for consideration and decision.

52. The Assembly may wish to commend the progress made in operationalizing the AU Peace Fund and further commend all Member States who have made contribution to the Fund with a view to ensuring that Africa become self-reliant on peace and security agenda and enhance the ability for timely response to situations in the continent which will greatly contribute to silencing the guns and create conducive

conditions for socio-economic development. The Assembly may further wish to call upon those Member States who have not yet paid up, to make their contributions to consolidate Africa's efforts towards self-reliance.

xi. Enhancement of the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development

53. During the period under review, the PSC has continued to follow on implementation of the AU Policy Framework on the Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD). In this context, the PSC convened two ministerial meetings, namely, the 883rd meeting held on 27 September 2019, in New York, on the theme "Interdependence between Peace, Security and Development" and the 899th meeting held on 5 December 2019, in Luanda, Angola, on the theme: "National Reconciliation, Restoration of Peace, Security and Rebuilding of Cohesion in Africa". Both meetings renewed the impetus of the implementation of the Madiba Nelson Mandela Decade of Reconciliation in Africa and the 50th OAU/AU Anniversary Solemn Declaration on Silencing the Guns in Africa. Furthermore, the PSC, during its ministerial meetings, underlined the imperative of mainstreaming the dimension of peace, security and development in the continued implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa, given its positive impact on the stabilization of the Continent.

54. Furthermore, with a view to ensuring that coordination and cooperation is enhanced between the PSC and the UN Peace Building Commission (UNPBC) on PCRD activities in Africa, the PSC and the UNPBC held its annual consultation on 11 November 2019 in Addis Ababa. The two sides emphasized on enhancing national ownership of post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding processes, while also supporting Member States' efforts to improve accountability, inclusivity, sustainability and meaningful participation of women and youth in the process. They also underscored the importance for the AU Commission and the UNPBC to work in close cooperation with the post-conflict countries concerned, promoting national priorities with a view to enhancing national ownership, leadership and full participation in the peacebuilding activities and development projects, as well as conflict prevention and addressing root causes of conflicts.

55. Indeed, several AU Member States have continued to implement PCRD activities with the support of the AU Commission. These include Central African Republic, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Somalia and others. The AU Commission, in implementation of the relevant AU decisions, especially Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.351 (XVI) on the establishment of the AU Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, has taken various steps working with the Government of Egypt, to operationalize the Centre. At the time of finalizing this report, the Permanent Representative of the Sub-Committee on Structural Reforms had considered and approved the vision, mandate, structure and staffing of the Centre. This step is to be followed by consideration of this matter by the Executive Council and thereafter the Assembly of the Union on 9-10 February 2020. Indeed, as called for in the

AUMR, there is work still to be done with respect to review of the AU PCRD architecture and Policy Framework in light of unfolding post-conflict realities in the Continent; establishment of a data base of PCRD experts; and promotion public-private partnership mechanisms on post-conflict reconstruction and development programmes.

56. The Assembly may wish to commend the Government of Egypt for its commitment and support, as well as the AU Commission for the efforts deployed towards the operationalization of the Centre. The Assembly may also wish to call upon Member States to fund the Centre as part of the regular budget beginning in 2021, with a view to ensuring that the Centre functions in a sustainable manner. The Assembly may further wish to request the AU Commission to undertake a review of PCRD implementation and establish a data base of PCRD experts.

B. Economic Aspect

57. The PSC has continued to pay attention to the nexus between peace, security and development, it being understood that there is no development without peace and security and that peace and security cannot be sustained without effective socio-economic development. In this context, the PSC convened its 883rd meeting held on 27 September 2019, in New York, and 899th meeting held on 5 December 2019, in Luanda, Angola to deliberate on enhancing the inter-linkage among these three elements.

58. As for the AUMR, it calls for, among other, arresting irregular and destabilizing financial networks and addressing all structural factors that facilitate illicit financial flows; establishment of an African Agency to trace, recover and repatriate illicitly acquired financial resources; strengthening of capacity of Member States financial intelligence units, law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice systems; and harmonization of national legislations with relevant international instruments for combating illicit financial flows and money laundering.

59. The AU has been championing the engagement of youth in peace and security activities in the Continent while calling AU Member States to create platforms for youth engagement to harness youth ideas on Agenda 2063 and Silencing the Guns in Africa. The Peace and Security Department has established a youth for peace program which has created a platform of youth in the Continent with regard to peace and security issues. Youth for Peace Africa Program implements relevant AU, regional and international instruments, relating to the role of the youth in the promotion of peace and security in Africa. The youth programme also build capacities of youth and encourage them to engage and participate in peace processes in their respective countries for creating conditions conducive for socio-economic activities.

60. While the AUMR offers provisions which Member States were/are expected to implement in order to improve their socio-economic situations and satisfying the need their citizens, most of these provisions remain unimplemented or unreported on by Member States. Therefore, the PSC and the AU Commission are not able to adequately

and clearly report on the implementation of these provisions. This constraint need to be addressed.

61. The Assembly may wish to encourage Member States to take initiative towards implementing the practical steps outlined under the Economic Aspect of the AUMR, in order to generate the conditions necessary for advancing economic activities and employment, particularly for the youth. The Assembly may also wish to urge Member States to continue implementing AU instruments and policies, with particular attention to promoting the role of women in peace processes and development. The Assembly may wish to commend the PSC for the progress made in ensuring that the issues of youth and women are cross-cutting in the peace, security and development agenda of the Continent. The Assembly may also wish to request the PSC to continue mainstreaming the dimension of peace, security and development in the implementation of the AUMR, given its positive impact on the stabilization of the Continent.

C. Social Aspect

62. Irregular migration, human, drugs and arms trafficking, drug abuse, as well as sexual abuse and violence against women and children continue to be challenges in the Continent. The PSC has convened meetings during the period under review to take stock of trends in addressing these challenges. In its meetings, the PSC has underscored the need to dismantle the nexus between corruption, illicit financing, illegal purchase of weapons/arms and drugs and eradicate safe havens for recruiting and harboring irregular migrants, clandestine goods and trafficked persons. The PSC also encouraged cooperation among Member States to expose traffickers in humans, drugs and arms, as well as promoting whistle blowing as part of the remedy to these problems. With regard to the AUMR, it call for promotion of zero-tolerance to corruption and money laundering, and punish its perpetrators and facilitators; and encouraging Member States to sign, ratify and domesticate relevant AU and UN instruments on combating corruption.

63. It should be noted that, the AU Member States, with the support of the AU Commission, have deployed efforts to fight against outbreak and recurrence of pandemics/epidemics. In this context, the establishment of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is a model of action in this area. Furthermore, the support provided by the AU Commission, through the Africa CDC, has contributed to efforts in the DRC to combat the Ebola outbreak. This effort drew inspiration and good practice from the efforts led by the AU Commission to combat the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014/2015. These efforts were deployed in the implementation of the PSC decisions. Furthermore, the Africa CDC has provided regular briefings to the PSC on prevention and fighting against pandemics and epidemics in Africa.

64. In the spirit of the AUMR, it is critical for Member States to report on their efforts deployed in promotion of restorative justice for sexual and domestic violence offences;

promotion of community service and specialist courts, such as juvenile and drug courts, community courts and mental health courts to prevent prisons from becoming schools for drug use, crime and terrorism; establishment of recovery treatment programmes for drug abusers, in primary and tertiary health care facilities; and establishment of specific programmes involving psychologists, social workers, and faith-based interventions for the recovery of drug abusers, among others. It is equally important that Member States put in place adequate measures, to ensure that during crises/conflicts, schools and personnel remain safe, in line with The Safe Schools Declaration and the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict of 2015, as emphasized by the PSC at its 841st meeting held on 16 April 2019, which was dedicated to an open session on the theme: “Children Affected by Armed Conflicts in Africa”.

65. The Assembly may wish to commend the PSC for its leadership provided with regard to prevention and responses to epidemic/pandemic outbreaks in Africa, in particular the authorization of the immediate deployment of an AU Mission Against Ebola in DRC (MAEC), to work in close coordination with the relevant DRC authorities and MONUSCO. The Assembly may wish to urge Member States to continue promoting zero-tolerance of sexual abuse, in particular in AU peace support operations. The Assembly may also wish to commend the AU Commission for its technical support provided to countries affected by Ebola outbreak and request Member States to continue providing their support to the activities of the Africa CDC, which is one of the major achievements for Africa in creating a conducive social environment for African citizens. As underscored by the PSC, the Assembly may wish to request Member States to protect IDPs and refugee camps, against any form of militarization and to maintain the civilian character of these camps and public infrastructures. The Assembly may further wish to appeal to all private sectors and the international community as a whole, to extend the necessary financial and technical support to the promotion social activities in the Continent.

D. Environmental Aspect

66. In retrospect, it should be highlighted that the AUMR outlines the following issues for the attention and action of Member States, namely to reduce vulnerabilities of livelihoods to climate change through building resilience systems; support implementation of the AU Kigali Action Plan on water and sanitation in Africa adopted in Malabo in 2014; facilitating efficient and effective water and sanitation management systems; diversification of agriculture (crop varieties and livestock breeds), in order to cope with adverse effects of climate change; implementing the Malabo Declaration on accelerated agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods adopted in 2014; and developing a futuristic plan to counter the negative effects of climate change.

67. The PSC, on its part, has remained engaged on the issues of the environment in Africa. In this context, during its 864th meeting held on 6 August 2019, devoted to “Natural and Other Disasters on the Continent: Beyond the Normative Frameworks”, the

PSC called upon Member States to accelerate the integrated implementation of all existing international and regional commitments and agreements relating to mitigation of the effects of climate change. These include the Paris Agreement, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and its four priority areas for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks, namely understanding disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk management; investing in disaster reduction for resilience and; enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Also, at its 877th meeting held on 10 September 2019, the PSC expressed deep concern that small island developing States are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts including sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and weather extremes. The PSC underscored the need for Member States to increase investments in adaptation and resilience programmes and underlined the need for integration of Blue Economy as a key component of national development and investment plans and programmes, in order to build better resilience against the negative effects of Climate change that lead the degradation of environment.

68. In line with the proposal made by the PSC in its meetings, the Assembly may wish to request the Chairperson of the AU Commission to make recommendations to the Member States on how best the Permanent Representatives Committee's Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs could be sufficiently funded to enable it to respond swiftly in cases of occurrence of natural disasters in the Continent. The Assembly may also request the Commission to expedite the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA) as provided for in the African Common Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, with a view to supporting Member States on disaster risk preparedness and management. In line with Article 13 (3)(f) of the PSC Protocol, the Assembly may wish to underscore the important role of the ASF in providing humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of civilian population in conflict areas and support efforts to address natural disasters on the Continent. The Assembly may further wish to encourage Member States to implement the AU Kigali Action Plan on water and sanitation in Africa adopted in Malabo in 2014 and Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods adopted in 2014. The Assembly may also wish to commend the operationalization of the climate commissions dedicated to the Sahel and Congo Basin regions, emanating from the African Summit of Action held in Marrakesh in 2016 and request the AU Commission, in full collaboration with Member States to support the operationalization of the Commissions on the Sahel and Congo Basin, as well as the commission on Small Island States, in line with the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.723(XXXII). In line with the PSC decisions, the Assembly may wish to request the Chairperson of the AU Commission to explore innovative means of financing climate actions in Africa such as African Adaptation initiative (AAI); African renewable Energy Initiative (AREI); Initiative for Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA), and the Commissions on the Sahel and Congo Basin, as well as on Small Island States. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to request the Chairperson of the Commission to

report to the Assembly on this initiative. Furthermore, the Assembly may wish to reiterate its request to the Chairperson of the AU Commission to appoint a special envoy on climate change and security in Africa.

E. Legal Aspects

69. Notably, the AUMR calls, among others, for sensitizing/mobilizing Member States to sign, ratify and domesticate AU treaties; conducting a study to identify reasons behind non-implementation and non-ratification of the OAU/AU legal instruments and treaties by Member States; urging Member States with concerns on past OAU/AU treaties to advise the AU on the challenges faced and their reasons for non-ratification and non-implementation; raising awareness and understanding of OAU/AU Treaties and the obligations contained therein.

70. It is notable that the AU Commission has carried out the study to identify reasons behind non-implementation and non-ratification of the OAU/AU legal instruments and treaties by Member States, to be presented to relevant AU Organs for consideration and decision.

71. The Assembly may wish to commend the AU Commission for the efforts deployed to ensure the signing and ratification of OAU/AU treaties and legal instruments by Member States and commend it for the Study it has undertaken to this effect. The Assembly may also wish to encourage Member States to continue signing, ratifying and domesticating these treaties and instruments in order to ensure advancement towards the realization of AU visions and goals, including silencing the guns in the Continent. The Assembly may further wish to request the AU Commission to continue providing capacity building support to Member States in areas of legal and legislative drafting with a view to facilitate application of OAU/AU treaties.

III. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

72. As reflected in this report, it is notable that comparatively more progress has been realized under the Political Aspect of the AUMR. This positive signal bring up opportunities for Member States, RECs/RMs and other relevant stakeholders to also ensure that real progress is achieved under the Economic Aspect; Social Aspect; Environmental Aspect and Legal Aspect in order to achieve the objectives of the AUMR in its entirety.

73. Despite the fact that there was time lag from the adoption of the 50th OAU/AU Anniversary Solemn Declaration on 25 May 2013, to the launch of the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa in January 2017, significant progress, within this short period, has been made to implement the AUMR as highlighted in this report. These achievements were made possible, thanks to the strategic leadership of the PSC, the active role of Member States, the support

provided by the AU Commission, the RECs/RMs, the UN, African institutions/organizations and partners.

74. While these are efforts deployed by Africa to silence the guns, it should be noted that there is an increase/multiplication in the establishment of foreign military presence and foreign military bases in Africa. These presence and its military bases are not deployed under the guidance of the APSA and AGA, which together, constitutes Africa's blue print for promoting collective peace, security, defence and safety.

75. Albeit this increase of foreign military presence and foreign military bases in different parts of the Continent, the security threats which they are supposedly expected to neutralize, continue to increase in intensity and geographic expansion in different parts of the Continent with devastating consequences on civilians and their livelihoods. These foreign military presence and its military bases, are contributing to the risk of rivalry and competition among foreign powers within Africa and undermining national sovereignty, as well as AU and RECs/RMs efforts to silence the guns. In this regard, as emphasized by the PSC at its 868th meeting held on 14 August 2019, the Assembly may wish to encourage Member States to fully adhere to AU instruments and policies, particularly the Common African Defence and Security Policy and also to the AU Non-Aggression Pact, taking into consideration that the defence and security of one country in Africa is directly linked to that of others.

76. The AU Theme of 2020 'Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development' provides yet an additional window of opportunity for the PSC, Member States and other involved stakeholders to accelerate their implementation efforts in order to realize the objective of the AUMR.

77. The Year 2020 marks the final stage in the implementation of the AUMR, in line with the deadline set by the Heads of State and Government in the Solemn Declaration to silence the guns by 2020. In this context, there is need to take full stock of what has been achieved in the implementation of the AUMR and identify areas of deficit in the efforts deployed thus far, in order to formulate appropriate actions beyond 2020. In this regard, the Assembly may wish to welcome the planned AU meetings and events, namely that to be hosted by Equatorial Guinea in March 2020 to reflect on more innovative and impact creating ways of implementing the AUMR; and to be hosted by Kenya in March/April 2020 to take stock of the implementation of the AUMR in order to lay a firm foundation for forging a way forward. The outcomes of these meetings will provide inputs for development by the PSC of a comprehensive report on the implementation of the AUMR in the last quarter of 2020.

78. The full operationalization of the ASF will contribute to enhancing African responses in situations of emergency and natural disasters in the Continent. In this regard, there is need for full support of the ASF regional capabilities to stand alert to this task, with the political and financial support of their Member States. The full

operationalization of the AU Peace Fund should be given priority as one of the key assets in the implementation of the APSA and AGA.

79. The activities of the AUMR and the Theme of the Year 2020 need to be provided for through funding from Member States Budget, in order to achieve sustainability. In any case, the determining factor for success of the AUMR is the political and financial engagement of Member States. In this context, it is necessary for the Assembly to authorise the use of supplementary budget process, which passes through the relevant PRC Sub-Committees and PRC itself, to assist in providing this funding in order to ensure full implementation of the on-going activities of the AUMR and the Theme of the Year 2020.

80. There is a need for a proper follow-up on the provisions of the UN Security Council resolution 2457 of 27 February 2019 on silencing the guns in Africa. A proper follow-up will add impetus to the implementation efforts of the AUMR and the Theme of the Year 2020, including mobilizing support from the international community. In this context, the PSC needs to play its leadership role for all stakeholders to joint efforts in the follow-up.

81. Among key challenges being encountered, in addition to those identified above in various sections of this report, in the implementation of the AUMR are the following:

- a) Late submission of reports by implementers to the Commission, which has the role to consolidate the various inputs in support of the PSC, whose reports inform the AU Assembly.
- b) Non-reporting by the implementing stakeholders in some aspects of the AUMR. In this context, the Economic Aspect, Social Aspect and Environmental Aspect are the most affected by this non-reporting. This makes difficult to provide timely and well-documented and informed reports for consideration by the Assembly.
- c) The RECs/RMs have not yet designated their focal points on the AUMR as called for by the AU Assembly; and if they have done so, they have not yet informed the AU Commission. This makes it difficult to enhance coordination of activities, including communication of reports from Member States.

IV. CONCLUSION

82. The cumulative progress made since 2017, at the onset of the AUMR, has properly set the quintessential trajectory for Member States, RECs/RMs, the UN, civil society organizations and supporting partners to continue implementation of the AUMR. In this context, the contribution of the private sectors, particularly with respect to socio-economic transformation and development, including entrepreneurial and job creating activities is a necessity as Africa moves forward. Equally important is the continued contribution of AU partners in accompanying the Continent towards achieving the

objectives of the AUMR and therefore create a conflict-free Africa. Notably, in the implementation of the activities under the Theme of the year 2020, it is necessary to implement specific activities targeted at the scourges reflected in the AUMR. While taking this into account, it is fundamental importance for the PSC and all Member States to engage to take decisive measures to address the challenges being posed by terrorism, foreign political and military interference, as well as the adverse impact of climate change in the Continent. Finally, it remains crucial to always enlist the role of youth and women in the peace and development efforts in the Continent.

**ASSEMBLY DECISION ON THE FIFTH REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY
COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN
UNION MASTER ROADMAP OF PRACTICAL STEPS FOR SILENCING THE GUNS
IN AFRICA BY THE YEAR 2020**

1. **ADOPTS** the Fifth Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) on the Implementation of the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence The Guns in Africa by the Year 2020 (AUMR) and **COMMENDS** the PSC for its continued constant guidance on the implementation of the AUMR, particularly through its decisions on peace and security issues in the Continent;
2. **RECALLS** the Organization of African Unity/ African Union (OAU/AU) 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2013, in Addis Ababa, in which the Assembly of the Union pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020, as well as decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII) by which the 28th ordinary session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 – 31 January 2017, adopted, following submission by the PSC, the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;
3. **UNDERScores** the progress made, so far, on the implementation of the AUMR, in particular the political aspect, and **CALLS ON** Member States to redouble their efforts to ensure other aspects in the AUMR namely, economic, social, environmental and legal are also implemented and well reported. In this context, the Assembly **COMMENDS** all AU the Member States, the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict, management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), civil society organizations and the private sector, as well as the United Nations (UN) and other partners for their efforts and commitments towards implementation of the AUMR, which gives support to Africa's efforts in silencing the guns and create a conflict-free Africa;
4. **WELCOMES** the AU Theme of the year 2020 "*Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development*" and **ENCOURAGES** to all Member States, RECs/RMs, civil society organizations and private sectors, UN and partners to use the opportunity of the Theme of the year 2020 to focus on implementing targeted activities with specific objectives and outcomes, with a view to accelerate and concentrate efforts in the implementation of the AUMR; the Assembly further **REITERATES** the imperative to expeditiously create conditions for promoting a conflict-free Africa;
5. **ALSO WELCOMES** the UN Security Council Resolution 2457 adopted on 27 February 2019 under the Presidency of Equatorial Guinea. In this context, the Assembly **COMMENDS** the African Members in The UN Security Council (A3) who jointly promoted and championed the adoption of the Resolution, as well as the PSC and the AU Commission for their support to the A3. In this regard, the Assembly **UNDERLINES** that the Resolution is a step forward in mobilizing international support with a view to

achieving the goal of conflict-free Africa. The Assembly **APPEALS** to all Member States and all stakeholders involved to ensure fully implementation of the Resolution as Africa marks the end of AUMR implementation in December 2020;

6. **COMMENDS** Member States for the gains achieved in advancing democratic elections and consolidating good governance as essential conditions for responding to the need of their citizens, particularly through improved socio-economic delivery and encourage them to continue on this path. The Assembly **ALSO COMMENDS** those Member States which have seized the opportunity of the technical support availed by the Commission and encourage others to emulate. To this effect, the Assembly **APPLAUDS** the AU Commission for the efforts deployed and support provided in assisting Member States in implementing their national programmes and **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue providing support. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** Member States, with the support of the AU Commission, to continue mobilizing the necessary resources for their national programmes, especially those relating to silencing the guns. The Assembly **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** any external political and military interference in the affairs of the Continent and **CALLS ON** Member States to further enhance and consolidate cooperation and solidarity among themselves with a view to ensuring that Africa shapes its destiny, in line with AU instruments, particularly the African Common Defence and Security Policy. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the PSC to continue providing strategic leadership and guidance in advancing the conduct of peaceful elections and enhancing good governance within the Continent;

7. **COMMENDS** the PSC for its continued efforts towards the full operationalization and deployment of the African Standby Force (ASF), including the continued provision of strategic guidance for the harmonization of African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) within the ASF Framework. The Assembly **ALSO COMMENDS** the ACIRC Volunteer Nations for their commitment to comply with the relevant decisions of the Assembly and the communiques of the PSC and ensure the rapid harmonization of the ACIRC within the framework of the ASF. The Assembly **FURTHER COMMENDS** the Commission for the efforts deployed in the development of various policies for the functioning of the ASF, particularly the new Doctrine for Peace Support Operations, as well as towards the establishment of the ASF Regional Logistic Depots. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the ASF Regional Standby Brigades for the continued efforts to ensure readiness for deployment;

8. **URGES** Member States to fully adhere to AU instruments and policies, particularly the Common African Defence and Security Policy and also to the AU Non-Aggression Pact, taking into consideration that the defence and security of one country in Africa is directly linked to that of others;

9. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the progress made in revitalizing the AU Peace Fund and **COMMENDS** all Member States who have made contribution to the Fund, with a view to ensuring that Africa become self-reliant on peace and security agenda and enhance the ability for timely response to situations in the Continent which will greatly contribute to silencing the guns and create conducive conditions for socio-

economic development; The Assembly **CALLS UPON** those Member States who have not yet paid up, to expeditiously make their contributions to consolidate Africa's efforts towards self-reliance;

10. **REQUESTS** the PSC, working with other AU Organs and RECs/RMs Policy Organs, to take appropriate action and put in place a format of interaction to address early warning and early response issues, in order to prevent full-blown conflicts in order to enhance opportunities for silencing the guns in Africa. In this regard, the Assembly **ALSO REQUESTS** the PSC and the RECs/RMs Policy Organs to reflect on the development of such a format in their upcoming Consultative Meeting on Peace and Security in May 2020. The Assembly **REITERATES** its call upon Member States to take advantage of the AU Structural of Vulnerability Assessment Tools in a way that contributes to sustaining national cohesion and stability and in this context **COMMENDS** Ghana for its efforts. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** Member States to take evidence-based early warning information, as gathered by the Commission and the RECs/RMs secretariats, and engage the necessary measures to maintain stability, including extending the necessary cooperation to the PSC and the Commission;

11. **COMMENDS** the PSC, with the support of the AU Commission, in enhancing cooperation and synergy in the implementation of the DDR and SSR programmes, as well in the fight against illicit small arms and light weapons; **ALSO COMMENDS** the AU Commission for the continental study mapping illicit arms flows in Africa and **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the joint mapping study as endorsed by the PSC at its 860th meeting, held on 18 July 2019; The Assembly **URGES** Member States, the Commission, and RECs/RMs, with a small arms mandate, to further enhance their respective capacities towards undertaking integrated and comprehensive measures to address this scourge in line with the regional and international instruments; Furthermore, the Assembly **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** all violations of arms embargoes currently in effect in Africa, particularly as they result in illegal supplies to terrorist groups and armed groups, as well as criminal networks, undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States, and threaten regional security and stability; The Assembly **STRESSES** the urgency for Member States to eliminate the supply of small arms and light weapons on unauthorized non-state actors and act for the disarmament of these armed groups and to put to an end to their actions; The Assembly **URGES** all Member States to put in place measures to curb illicit proliferation of arms/weapons and also other measures to arrest the persistent inflow of illegal arms/weapons into various parts of Continent; The Assembly **CALLS** for naming and shaming of any entity or persons engaged in illegal supply of arms/weapons, including financing and safe havens for this traffic; The Assembly **REQUESTS** the PSC to increase its collaboration with the UN Security Council to address implementation gaps, including through the framework of the annual joint consultative meeting between the two Councils;

12. **CALLS UPON** the PSC to continue providing strategic guidance on the implementation of Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration (DDR) and Security Sector Reform (SSR) in those Member States emerging from conflict, upon their request; The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to continue providing technical

assistance to Member States to facilitate their DDR and SSR programmes and **URGES** it to continue with these efforts;

13. **CONDEMNS IN STRONGEST TERMS POSSIBLE** the acts of terrorisms and all its forms in Africa and **WARNS** against the propagation of this scourge in the Continent; The Assembly **APPEALS** to Member States to continue developing their national action plans, with the support of the ACSRT, and strengthening their national institutional structures dedicated to fighting terrorism and violent extremism, as well as sharing best practices and experiences in the fight against extremist speeches; The Assembly **COMMEND** the Kingdom of Morocco for its initiative to host the next UN Global Forum for Alliance of Civilization in 2020 and **LOOKS FORWARD** to the outcomes of the Forum which are expected to contribute significantly to the promotion of culture of peace in Africa;

14. **REQUESTS** the AU, working closely with the RECs/RMs Secretariats, to propose further technical measures in support of AU Member States to enhance their capacity to improve maritime security and safety, as well as the development of the Blue Economy; The Assembly **ALSO REQUESTS** the AU Commission, while awaiting entry into force of the Lomé Charter, to take the initiative to put in place a consultative forum that will facilitate periods review of progress in Africa's maritime domain; The Assembly **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AU Commission to finalize the review of the draft Annexes to the Lomé Charter, as an integral part of the Charter, with a view to facilitating its rapid signature and ratification by Member States; The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** Member States to conduct joint patrols in their respective territorial waters and **APPEALS** to partners to extend their support to the AU in addressing maritime insecurity in Africa.

15. **CALLS ON** Member States to undertake regular cyber security risk assessments, with the support of the Commission, especially AFRIPOL and **COMMENDS** those Member States that have already signed and ratified, and are already implementing the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention of 2014); in this respect, the Assembly **ENCOURAGES** those Member States, which have not yet done so, to also do the same without further delay; The Assembly **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to establish platforms, such as regional forums dedicated to discussing cyber security-related issues, with a view to facilitating sharing of experiences, lessons learnt and best practices, as well as promoting regional and international cooperation in promoting cyber security. The Assembly also **REQUESTS** the Department of Infrastructure and Energy of the AU Commission, working in close collaboration with the RECs/RMs Secretariats, to expeditiously develop a Continental Cyber Security Strategy and a cyber-security Model Law for submission to the PSC for its consideration;

16. **APPLAUDS** the PSC and those Member States which have conducted the Africa Amnesty Month (AAM) and **CALLS FOR** other Member States to also carry out this activity within the collective responsibility to ensure the silencing of the guns in the Continent. The Assembly **CALLS UPON** the RECs/RMs with their Member States, to

intensify efforts to ensure success of the AAM in their regions; Furthermore, the Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the PSC to conduct the AAM in the field to create public awareness and for the citizens to appreciate the initiative and its contribution towards peace; The Assembly **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for its technical and financial support to Member States and **APPEALS** to partners to continue providing support to the AU Commission in the implementation of this activity;

17. **EXPRESSES GRATITUDE** to the Government of Egypt for its commitment and support, as well as to the AU Commission for the efforts deployed towards the operationalization of the Post-Conflict Development and Reconstruction Centre; The Assembly **CALLS UPON** Member States to fund the Centre as part of the regular budget beginning in 2021, with a view to ensuring that the Centre functions in a sustainable manner; In this regard, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to undertake a review of PCRD implementation and establish a data base of PCRD experts, in line with PSC decisions;

18. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to engage further in implementing the practical steps outlined under the Economic Aspect of the AUMR, in order to generate the conditions necessary for advancing economic activities, as well as job creation, particularly for the youth; The Assembly **URGES** Member States to continue implementing AU instruments and policies, with particular attention to promoting the role of women and youth in peace processes and development; The Assembly **COMMENDS** the PSC for the progress made in ensuring that the issues of youth and women are cross-cutting in the peace, security and development agenda of the Continent; The Assembly **REQUESTS** the PSC to continue mainstreaming the dimension of peace, security and development in the implementation of the AUMR, given its positive impact on the stabilization of the Continent;

19. **APPLAUDS** the PSC for its leadership provided with regard to prevention and responses to epidemic/pandemic outbreaks in Africa, in particular the authorization of the immediate deployment of an AU Mission Against Ebola in DRC (MAEC), to provide support to the relevant DRC authorities in the fight against Ebola virus in that country. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for its technical support provided to countries affected by the Ebola outbreak and **UNDERScores** that the establishment of CDC Africa is one of the major achievements of Africa in creating a conducive social environment for African citizens. In this regard, the Assembly **REQUESTS** Member States to continue providing their support to the activities of the Africa CDC.

20. **URGES** Member States to continue promoting zero-tolerance of sexual abuse, in particular in AU peace support operations; the Assembly **REQUESTS** Member States to protect IDPs and refugee camps, against any form of militarization and to maintain the civilian character of these camps and public infrastructures; The Assembly **APPEALS** to all private sectors and the international community as a whole, to extend the necessary financial and technical support to the promotion social activities in the Continent;

21. With regard to the response to natural disaster, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to make recommendations on how to enable the Permanent Representatives Committee's Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs to respond swiftly in cases of occurrence of natural disasters and humanitarian situations in the Continent; The Assembly **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to expedite the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA) as provided for in the African Common Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, with a view to supporting Member States on disaster risk preparedness and management; Furthermore, the Assembly **UNDERScores** the important role of the ASF in providing humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of civilian population in conflict areas and support efforts to address effects of natural disasters on the Continent, in line with Article 13 (3)(f) of the PSC Protocol; The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** Member States to implement the AU Kigali Action Plan on water and sanitation in Africa adopted in Malabo in 2014 and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods adopted in 2014;

22. **COMMENDS** the operationalization of the climate commissions dedicated to the Sahel and Congo Basin regions, emanating from the African Summit of Action held in Marrakesh in 2016 and **REQUESTS** the AU Commission, in full collaboration with Member States to support the operationalization of the commissions on the Sahel and Congo Basin, as well as the commission on Small Island States, in line with the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.723(XXXII). In line with the PSC decisions, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to explore innovative means of financing climate actions in Africa such as African Adaptation initiative (AAI); African renewable Energy Initiative (AREI); Initiative for Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA), and the Commissions on the Sahel and Congo Basin, as well as on Small Island States. In this regard, the Assembly **ALSO REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to report to the Assembly on this initiative. Furthermore, the Assembly **REITERATES** its request to the Chairperson of the AU Commission to appoint a special envoy on climate change and security in Africa;

23. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** on the progress made in signing and ratification of OAU/AU treaties and legal instruments by Member States and **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for the Study it has undertaken to this effect; The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** Member States to continue signing, ratifying and domesticating these treaties and instruments in order to ensure advancement towards the realization of AU visions and goals, including silencing the guns in the Continent; The Assembly **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to continue providing capacity building support to Member States in areas of legal and legislative drafting with a view to facilitating application of OAU/AU treaties;

24. **WELCOMES** the planned AU meetings and events, namely that to be hosted by Equatorial Guinea, in March 2020, under the umbrella of the PSC, to reflect on more innovative ways of enhancing action of implementing the AUMR; to be hosted by Kenya in March/April 2020 to take stock of the implementation of the AUMR in order to lay a foundation for forging a way forward; and the extra ordinary AU Summit on silencing the

guns, back-to-back with the extra ordinary AU Summit on CFTA, both to be hosted by South Africa in May 2020, to provide an opportunity for Heads of State and Government to review implementation of the AUMR, and undertake an in-depth reflection, especially on root causes of conflicts, among others;

25. **TAKES NOTE** of the Orientation Concept Note on the Theme of the year 2020 and **STRESSES** that the activities of the AUMR and the Theme of the Year 2020 need to be provided for through funding from Member States Budget, in order to achieve sustainability; In the regard, the Assembly **AUTHORISES** the use of supplementary budget process in 2020, which passes through the relevant PRC Sub-Committees and PRC itself, to assist in providing this funding in order to ensure full implementation of the on-going activities of the AUMR and the Theme of the Year 2020;

26. **REQUESTS** the PSC, as marking the end of the AUMR in December 2020, to submit to the Assembly in January/February 2021 Summit, a comprehensive report on the status of the implementation of the AUMR, taking into account of the achievements made, challenges encountered and the way forward with a view to ensuring that Africa is free from crises and conflicts.