

AFRICAN UNION

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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

PRESS RELEASE

TOWARDS THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE

Douala, April 28, 2011- On the second day of the third workshop on the roadmap for the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF), held in Douala, Cameroon, from 27 to 29 April, the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and partners have continued discussions focusing mainly on the logistics, financial and legal aspects of the roadmap, as well as issues related to capacity building.

During the meeting, participants agreed on the need for a greater mobilization for the ASF to be completely operational by 2015, with the understanding that the ASF must familiarize itself with the changing environment.

It should be noted that the ASF's goal is to "enable the AU Peace and Security assume its responsibilities regarding the deployment of missions to support peace and intervention" in accordance with relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The ASF is made up of regional brigades with military components, police and civilians deployed operational procedures were tested during Exercise Amani Africa, held in Addis Ababa in October 2010.

Once fully operational, the ASF will significantly strengthen the capacity of the AU deployment in situations of crisis and conflict. .

Since its inception in 2002, the AU has deployed several support operations to the peace process, especially in Darfur (Sudan), between 2004 and 2007, before the hybrid operation of AU-UN (UNAMID) took over in March 2007 in Somalia. In this country, the AU Mission (AMISOM) currently has 9000 men provided by Burundi and Uganda to support efforts to promote peace and security in Somalia, while providing humanitarian assistance to civilians in Mogadishu, predominantly in the field of health and water supply.

Journalists are invited to cover the closing ceremony of the workshop which will take place on Friday 29 April 2011- 17:00 at the Hotel Sawa Douala.

For any further information or interview requests please contact Ms. Yaye N. Sène, seney@africa-union.org or epsilon10@gmail.com +237 77 93 07 07

The program is attached below.



Day 3 - Friday 29 April 2011			
20	09.00-11.00	Discussions on the Plan of Action	
21	11.00-11.30	Coffee break	
22	11.30-12.30	Discussions on the Plan of Action (con'd)	
23	12.30-14.00	Lunch	
24	14.00-15.30	Finalization of the Plan of Action	
25	15.30-16.00	Coffee break	
26	16.00-17.00	Adoption of the Final Documents	
27	17.00-17.30	Closing	