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**CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON
THE SITUATION IN LIBYA**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
25 MARCH 2011**

COMMUNIQUE

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1. As part of the follow-up to the communiqué of the meeting of the African Union (AU) High-Level *ad hoc* Committee on Libya, which was held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 19 March 2011, a consultative meeting on the situation in Libya was convened in Addis Ababa on 25 March 2011. The meeting, which took place under the auspices of the High-Level *ad hoc* Committee and the AU Commission, was chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission, Dr. Jean Ping. The members of the *ad hoc* Committee and of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU, the neighboring countries of Libya and the other countries of the region, as well as multilateral and bilateral AU partners, attended the meeting. The complete list of the participants is annexed to this communiqué.
2. The meeting was convened by the AU with the objective of actively searching for an early solution to the crisis consistent with international legality, as reflected in relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions on Libya [1970(2011) and 1973(2011) of 26 February and 17 March 2011, respectively], through: (i) promoting an international consensus on the ways and means for an early resolution of the crisis; and (ii) agreeing on the establishment of a mechanism for continuous consultation and coordination among partners and for joint actions to be implemented.
3. The meeting provided the AU with the opportunity to brief the participants on the conclusions of the Nouakchott meeting and on the efforts it is deploying towards a peaceful and early settlement of the crisis, on the basis of the elements contained in the communiqué of the 265th meeting of the AU PSC and the meeting of the High-Level *ad hoc* Committee, namely: (i) the immediate cessation of all hostilities; (ii) the cooperation of the concerned Libyan authorities to facilitate the diligent delivery of humanitarian assistance to the needy populations; (iii) the protection of foreign nationals, including African migrant workers living in Libya; and (iv) the adoption and implementation of the necessary political reforms to eliminate the causes of the current crisis, based on the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people for democracy, political reform, justice, peace and security, as well as for socio-economic development.
4. The participants at the meeting took note of the briefing on the conclusions of the Nouakchott meeting and the AU efforts. They welcomed the fact that the efforts of the High-Level *ad hoc* Committee, whose role is recognized by United Nations Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), are consistent with, and complementary to, the relevant provisions of that resolution. The participants were encouraged by the determination of the High-Level *ad hoc* Committee to fully discharge its mandate, including through the planned visit to Libya and, if necessary, elsewhere, to meet with the Libyan parties, in conformity with the programme it has set for itself, and expressed their support to all measures that need to be taken to this effect.
5. Furthermore, the representatives of the AU partners briefed the meeting on their efforts and on the initiatives they intend to take. In this context, the United Nations provided an update on the implementation status of UN Security Council resolution 1973 (2011). The League of Arab States briefed on the efforts it exerted towards reaching the agreement that led to the adoption of resolution 1973(2011), in order to protect the civilian populations in Libya. The other concerned organizations, namely, the Organization of Islamic Conference and the European Union, also provided information on their respective efforts.

6. The neighboring countries of Libya and the other countries of the region reiterated their commitment to spare no effort to contribute to the early and peaceful resolution of the crisis. They expressed their grave concern about the impact and consequences of the current situation in Libya on peace, security, stability and development in the region as a whole.

7. The meeting's participants had a thorough exchange of views on the different aspects of the Libyan crisis and on ways and means for an early solution. In this context, a consensus was reached on the elements of the following roadmap:

- (i) the protection of civilians and the cessation of hostilities;
- (ii) humanitarian assistance to affected populations, both Libyan and foreign migrant workers, particularly those from Africa;
- (iii) initiation of a political dialogue between the Libyan parties in order to arrive at an agreement on the modalities for ending the crisis;
- (iv) establishment and management of an inclusive transitional period; and
- (v) adoption and implementation of political reforms necessary to meet the aspirations of the Libyan people.

8. The participants agreed that the resolution of the Libyan crisis should necessarily be within the framework of international legality, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter, in particular the provisions of Chapter VII and those of Chapter VIII on the role of regional arrangements, and the constitutive treaties of the regional organizations to which Libya is a member, as well as Security Council resolutions on Libya [resolutions 1970(2011) and 1973(2011)]. The meeting reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of Libya.

9. In this respect, the meeting emphasized the need and urgency of the effective protection of the civilian populations and immediate cessation of hostilities and all acts of violence. It encouraged the AU, the League of Arab States, the United Nations, the OIC and the EU to consider, with the required urgency and within the context of resolution 1973(2011), the speedy establishment of a monitoring mechanism, notably through the convening, next week in Addis Ababa, of a technical meeting for the planning and implementation of the cessation of hostilities in an effective and credible manner. The AU High-Level *ad hoc* Committee was encouraged to accelerate initiatives to this end, in particular towards the Libyan Government, and the Transitional National Council (TNC) based in Benghazi. The meeting underlined the need to ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of the arms embargo throughout the Libyan territory, as provided for in paragraph 9 of resolution 1970(2011).

10. The meeting stressed the importance of sustained efforts to facilitate dialogue between the Libyan parties on the establishment and management of an inclusive transition period that would lead to the setting up of democratic institutions, including through the holding of elections, the reforms necessary to meet the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people for democracy, the rule of law and good governance. The meeting extended its support to the ongoing efforts to promote these aims by facilitating dialogue between the

Libyan authorities and the TNC, and urged both parties to extend full cooperation, notably by participating, with the required flexibility and spirit of responsibility, in the preliminary consultations that the *ad hoc* Committee plans to facilitate in preparation for peace talks.

11. The meeting expressed concern at the humanitarian situation on the ground. It reaffirmed the obligation of all stakeholders to respect international humanitarian law. In particular, the meeting requested that all the necessary facilities be extended to the humanitarian organizations to allow them unrestricted access to the needy populations. It also requested that the necessary protection be given to foreign nationals living in Libya. The meeting appealed to all members of the international community to extend all necessary assistance to the African migrant workers living in Libya, to facilitate the repatriation of those wishing to leave the country, to support those neighboring countries that are carrying a disproportionate burden in hosting these migrant workers, and to contribute financially to the efforts towards the socio-economic reintegration of migrant workers in their countries of origin. The meeting commended the countries and organizations that have extended assistance to address the humanitarian consequences of the Libyan crisis, and encouraged those relevant international organizations to assist the AU in organizing a resource mobilization conference.

12. The meeting recognized that the continuation and aggravation of the current crisis in Libya has serious implications for the neighbouring countries and the other countries of the region, as well as for regional security and stability, in particular with regard to the illicit proliferation of arms, terrorism and other forms of transnational organized crime. It registered the commitment of the AU to work with the countries of the region, in particular those of the sahelo-saharan belt, relevant international organizations and interested partners to address, in a satisfactory manner, the problems at hand.

13. The meeting was informed by a number of participants representing the partners about the high-level political meeting to be held in London, on 29 March 2011. In this regard, they encouraged the AU to participate in the London meeting, clarifying that the said meeting would be interested in receiving a detailed briefing on the roadmap of the AU High-Level *ad hoc* Committee on Libya on the political solution to the Libyan crisis. The AU indicated that it would await a formal invitation to pronounce itself.

14. Finally, the meeting agreed on the need for organized consultation and coordination under the auspices of the AU, the League of Arab States, the OIC, the EU and the United Nations, to facilitate impulsion, harmonization and success of international efforts for the early, just and lasting resolution of the Libyan crisis. The neighbouring countries and the other countries of the region, as well as bilateral partners, will also participate in the consultation and coordination to enhance their effectiveness.

List of participants

- **AU High Level *ad hoc* Committee on Libya**: Republic of Congo, Mali, Mauritania, South Africa and Uganda
- **Members of the PSC**: Benin, Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe
- **Neighboring countries**: Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia
- **African Members of the United Nations Security Council**: Gabon, Nigeria and South Africa
- **Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council**: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States of America
- **International Organizations**: European Union, League of Arab States, Organization of the Islamic Conference and United Nations
- **Other Partners**: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Turkey