

**Press Release N. 068/ 2012****Enhancing the Police and Civilian capacities of the African Standby Force**

**Addis Ababa, 02 August 2012** - The Final Planning Conference (FPC) of Exercise NJIWA was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30 July to 01 August 2012. The aim of the FPC was to review, validate and approve the Exercise Documents and finalise preparations for the conduct of the exercise, proceedings conference had been the initial planning conference and main planning conference which specified the draft exercise specifications and the cycle of activities.

The workshop was chaired by General Samaila Iliya, the Director of Exercise AMANI AFRICA II and was attended by forty (40) participants comprising the planning team, mentors, facilitators and experts drawn from the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), European Union (EU), United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO), United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), AU Member States, Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC), Institute for security Studies (ISS), Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU), and Centre for Strategic Research and Studies (CSRS) of the National Defence College of Nigeria.

Discussion subjects were focused amongst others on: Main Event Lists/Main Incidence Lists (MEL-MIL)/Inject Status; Exercise Organisation and Manning; Exercise Evaluation; Real Life Support (RLS); Media, VIP and Observer Day; Command Control Communication and Information Systems (C3IS); and Training Audience Induction amongst. Exercise location and facilities, as well as the manning Lists, and developed after Action Review and Lessons Learnt requirement

It is to be recalled that, in October 2010 a Command Post Exercise (CPX) dubbed AMANI AFRICA I was conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to validate the operational readiness of the ASF. The Evaluation Report of AMANI AFRICA CPX that identified, among others, deficiencies in police and civilian capacities in the area of exercise planning and execution as well as component strength and level of development. In order to ensure the achievement of the multi-dimensional character of the ASF, the report recommended that Police and Civilian capacities of the ASF be addressed as a matter of priority.

It is against this background that approval was given for the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) to conduct a 'Police and Civilian Focused Exercise (POLCIVEX)' dubbed "Exercise NJIWA" aimed at building Police and Civilian capacities of the ASF in the area of planning and execution of AU-mandated Peace Support Operations (PSOs). The overall objective of the exercise is to enhance the Police and Civilian capacities of the African Standby Force (ASF) in planning and conducting peace support operations mandated by the African Union.



*Group picture of the participants during the Final Planning Conference of the AU Police and Civilian focussed Exercise.*

The next activity in the Cycle would be the conduct of Exercise NJIWA at Eastern African Standby Force Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from October/November 2012.