



6TH MEETING OF THE JOINT COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN PEACE FACILITY, ADDIS ABABA, 3 FEBRUARY 2010

Joint Communiqué

The 6th meeting of the African Peace Facility (APF) Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 3 February 2010, under the co-chairmanship of the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), Ramtane Lamamra, and Stefano Manservigi, Director General for Development and Relations with African Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) of the European Commission (EC).

The meeting brought together representatives of the AU Commission, European Commission (EC), and the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, as well as the Representatives of the following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RMs): Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Coordinating Mechanism of the Regional Standby Brigade of Eastern Africa (EASBRICOM) and the North Africa Regional Capability (NARC).

Representatives of the outgoing, current and incoming Chairpersons of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), Chairs of the AU and EU, and EU Delegations in Africa as well as individual EU Member States also attended the meeting.

The meeting recalled the Conclusions of the Consultative meeting between the AU, RECs/RMs and the EU held in Akosombo, Ghana from 10 to 11 December 2009 where a two step approach was agreed upon: (1) a "first set of measures" to be agreed and finalized in February 2010 essentially to ensure continuity of ongoing APF support; and (2) an assessment to be conducted from March to June 2010 at the continental and regional level to evaluate progress achieved in the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and identify needs and gaps for support in the medium and long term, as the basis for the Roadmap for EU support to APSA.

The meeting underlined the need to ensure coherence of the APF and all funding sources available for APSA managed by the European Commission (including the Regional Indicative Programmes under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) and bilateral contributions of EU Member States that are expected to align their support to the APSA Roadmap.

The meeting agreed on the main objectives, criteria and key priorities for the "first set of measures" to be funded from the 2nd APF, 10th EDF. It was notably decided that this first set of measures will focus on:

- continuation of ongoing activities that have been provided for under the APF Capacity Building Programmes of the 9th EDF in line with the re-allocations;
- inclusion of new activities in line with the Akosombo Conclusions, including support to the establishment of AU's Liaison Offices to the RECs/RMs, strengthening RECs/RMs Liaison Offices to the AU, enhancing mediation capacity within the AU and RECs/RMs, greater support to the Peace and Security Council and similar structures in the RECs/RMs and the African Standby Force.

The meeting agreed to ensure the continuation of the ongoing €6 million Capacity Building Programmes through the Joint Salary Scheme that should commence in July 2010. It was agreed that the early deliverables that will be agreed upon at the upcoming Workshop in Nairobi (8-12 February 2010) on APF support to training centres, will be included as part of the first set of measures.

In this regard, the meeting exchanged views on the first set of measures for support to APSA within the AU, RECs and RMs under the 2nd APF and other relevant funding sources, and received a briefing on the proposals submitted by the AU, RECs and RMs. It was agreed that the consultations and proposals would be finalized at the Steering Committee meeting to be held by the end of February 2010.

The meeting discussed the various challenges encountered during the implementation of the 1st APF and considered various proposals including the possibility of introducing more flexibility into the disbursement process for it to take into account individual performance of the RECs and RMs. The meeting recommended that the AU and the EU should ensure that there are no funding gaps with respect to ongoing activities under the current Capacity Building Programme and follow up programmes under 2nd APF. In this respect, it was noted that the provisions of Year 1 in the draft programme (proposals) shall be seen as a continuation of the current Capacity Building Programme except where the enhancement of ongoing activities is deemed necessary in terms of program effectiveness.

The EU updated the meeting on the overall design and structure of the 2nd APF under the 10th EDF, while the AU, RECs and RMs presented an overview of the main elements for support under this new programme.

The meeting received a briefing on the status of implementation of the ongoing Capacity Building Programme and noted the encouraging progress made in programme implementation. The meeting also received an update on re-allocation of funds and perspectives for the final phase, and noted the need to expedite the disbursement process. The meeting was informed that proposals for re-allocation were approved, and that the expiry date for both the €7.5 million and €20 million Contribution Agreements is now end of June 2010.

The meeting received a briefing on the objectives, modalities and eligibility under the APF Early Response Mechanism (ERM), which became operational with the entry into

force of the Contribution Agreement signed on 4 November 2009. It was noted that the direct beneficiaries of the ERM are the AU, RECs and RMs. The meeting welcomed the establishment of the ERM and the first pre-financing of €3million, out of a total of €15million, which has already been paid into a specific account opened by the AU for this purpose.

The meeting received a briefing on the Draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the study aimed at assessment of the progress achieved in the operationalization of APSA and challenges ahead, with a view to identifying further priorities and capacity needs as agreed upon at the Akosombo Consultative meeting. It was noted that the assessment should address conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict phases, and assess all relevant APSA components and policies. The meeting proposed that the AU and the EU should finalize the ToRs on the assessment within two weeks and welcomed the initiative to have the assessment conducted by consultants and experts to be identified by the AU and the EU, with the support as appropriate, of other relevant organizations. It was further agreed that the assessment shall commence by Mid March 2010. It was noted that the outcome of the assessment would serve as a reference framework for the AU, RECs, RMs, EU and other partners on the operationalization and implementation of APSA.

The meeting further received a briefing on the ongoing peace support operations funded under the APF; namely African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the ECCAS mission in Central African Republic (MICOPAX). The AU extended its appreciation to the EU for the support given in these two countries. It was, however, noted that there is need for coherence and coordination of partners support in these countries. The meeting underlined that further efforts are needed to strengthen financial management of Peace Support Operations.

The meeting observed that there is need for strengthened cooperation and coordination between the AU and its partners. The meeting noted with satisfaction the positive contribution being made by the RECs Liaison Offices and hence the need for them to be strengthened. The meeting welcomed the proposal to expand the AU representative offices in Brussels, New York and Cairo, so as to have on board officers dealing exclusively with issues relating to the AU's peace and security agenda. The AU also informed the meeting of its plans to set up Liaison Offices in the RECs and RMs before the end of the year.

The meeting recalled the Tripoli Declaration adopted by the Special Summit of the African Union on 31 August 2009 which declared 2010 as the Year of Peace and Security in Africa. It underlined the need for the deliverables of the present process, to be a contribution to the Year of Peace and Security and to the next Africa – EU Summit in November 2010.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the JCC would take place in Addis Ababa at a date to be determined.

Addis Ababa, 3 February 2010