



**STATEMENT OF THE FOLLOW UP MEETING OF THE AFRICAN UNION (AU),
TROOP CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES (TCCs) TO AMISOM AND
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS ON SOMALIA,
ADDIS ABABA, 17 FEBRUARY 2010**

In line with the decision taken at the Consultative Meeting of the African Union Commission, Ministers of Defence of AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries and Partners held in Addis Ababa on 14 December 2009, a follow-up meeting was convened at the AU Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Wednesday 17 February 2010, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security. The meeting was attended by the Ministers of Defence of the TCCs to AMISOM, namely Burundi and Uganda, and the Minister of Defence of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia (current Chair of IGAD) made a presentation to the meeting. The United Nations, IGAD Office of Facilitation for Somalia, League of Arab States (LAS), European Union, the Chair of IGAD Partners' Forum, the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, Djibouti, Gabon and Nigeria also participated in the meeting. Malawi, in its capacity as the Chair of the AU, participated in the meeting.

The meeting received briefs on, and reviewed recent developments in Somalia, in particular with regard to the political, security and the status of capacity building and training programmes, equipment and sustenance of the Somali Security Force and the challenges that these present to AMISOM. In this context, the meeting welcomed the ongoing process aimed at broadening the basis of support for the Djibouti Agreement and promoting inclusiveness in the national peace and reconciliation process, looking forward to the enhancing of the TFG's strategic relationship with the Ahlu Sunnah Waljama'a (ASWJ).

The meeting noted with encouragement the role of AMISOM in the ongoing training and reintegration programmes of the Somali Security Force and urged the international community and partners in particular to adequately support the sustenance and retention of the Force, in particular by providing the necessary logistical and other support required to fully operationalize the Jazeera training camp. On its part, the Somalia TFG was urged to ensure that the trained forces are enabled to assume primary responsibility for, and be able to effectively cope with the prevailing security challenges in Somalia.

The meeting noted that the operational requirements, including staffing and logistics, for AMISOM to enhance its performance in view of the added responsibility of training and mentoring the Somali national Security Forces need to be urgently

addressed so that the Mission's capabilities are built. In this respect, the meeting welcomes the steps being proposed by the EU to establish a training mission for Somalia Security Forces, which is viewed as a concrete step forward in support of the stabilisation of the security situation in Somalia, and to the important role AMISOM already plays on the ground. At the same time, it was emphasized that the envisaged EU training mission should be part of a wider programme, which encompasses the payment of the salaries of the forces in order to ensure the sustainability and retention of the trained troops, and calls upon the EU to work out the details of further development with AMISOM.

The meeting further reiterated its call for the operational limitations of AMISOM in the areas of maritime and air defense capabilities to be addressed urgently noting that the current security circumstances in Somalia require that AMISOM is enhanced accordingly.

Regarding the status of contributions received from the Brussels pledging conference, the meeting noted with appreciation the contribution by the European Union of the amount of Euro 30 million, being the first tranche of its Euro 60 million pledged to AMISOM. The meeting applauded the reimbursement for non-lethal Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) for the period from January to December 2009 and the payment of troop's allowances up until December 2009 and called for more reimbursements, as well as the disbursement of funds pledged, including for the rebuilding of the Somali Security Force, noting that this would go a long way in ensuring their sustenance and retention. The meeting stressed the need to continue supporting the efforts of the troops by adjusting indemnities in accordance with norms governing UN peacekeeping operations. The meeting also emphasized the need for a more effective follow-up on administrative issues, particularly with respect to reimbursement for equipment, investigations on cases of accidents and transport for personnel.

On the UN Logistical Support Package being provided by UN Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA), the meeting noted progress made in this regard and called for expedited action to enhance AMISOM's capacity, particularly with respect to infrastructure construction, as well as medical and media services.

The meeting seized the opportunity to again express appreciation to the Troop Contributing Countries for their commitment to peace in Somalia and encouraged other African countries, especially those that have so pledged, to speedily deploy their contingents to enable AMISOM reach its authorized strength which continues to be a serious challenge.

The participants agreed to hold their next Consultative Meeting at a date to be decided following appropriate consultations.

Addis Ababa, 17 February 2010