

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 20 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to draw your attention to the recently concluded ninth annual joint consultative meeting between members of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa at the African Union headquarters on 12 March 2015.

Following the consultative meeting, the members of both Councils agreed upon a joint communiqué (see annex).

I convey this joint communiqué to you in my capacity as Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, the Security Council body that engaged African Union colleagues on the attached text.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismael Abraão **Gaspar Martins**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative to the United Nations



**Annex to the letter dated 20 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Joint communiqué of the ninth annual joint consultative meeting between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and members of the United Nations Security Council, held in Addis Ababa on 12 March 2015**

1. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union and members of the United Nations Security Council held their ninth annual joint consultative meeting at African Union headquarters, in Addis Ababa, on 12 March 2015. The meeting was convened to discuss peace and security issues in Africa within the context of partnership between the African Union and the United Nations.
2. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations and the mandate of the Peace and Security Council with regard to the promotion of peace and security in Africa as provided for in the Constitutive Act of the African Union as well as in the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. They also reaffirmed the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of local disputes and recalled the outcomes of their previous consultative meetings.
3. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reviewed matters of common concern, in particular the conflict and crisis situations in Africa, and exchanged views on ways and means of enhancing the cooperation between the Peace and Security Council and the Security Council in preventing conflicts and crises in Africa, as well as on the review of United Nations peace operations.

**On the situation in the Great Lakes region**

4. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern over the security and humanitarian crisis that continues to affect the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of the ongoing destabilizing activities carried out by armed groups and spoilers, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the National Liberation Forces (FNL). They reiterated their strong condemnation of all violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated by the armed groups and called for the immediate cessation of all forms of violence.
5. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reiterated the urgent need to step up efforts to neutralize all armed groups and spoilers in the region. They expressed their concern about the refusal of FDLR to disarm and demobilize voluntarily by the deadline of 2 January 2015 set by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community with the support of the African Union and the United

Nations. They noted the efforts by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to neutralize FDLR and looked forward to the urgent military and other measures to be taken jointly by the Government and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in that regard. They took note of the stated commitment of the Congolese authorities to carry out military operations against FDLR, and strongly encouraged cooperation with MONUSCO, in accordance with its mandate, to ensure that all efforts possible are being made to neutralize FDLR. They further called for the acceleration of the implementation process of the Nairobi Declarations.

6. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council stressed the importance of the scrupulous and timely implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region for the promotion of lasting peace, security and stability in the Great Lakes region. They urged the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take further steps to implement its commitment under the Framework, including the establishment of a professional, accountable and sustainable national army that includes a rapid reaction force, in accordance with its commitment to deepen security sector reform, and the finalization of the development of a comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and a disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement plan, paying special attention to the specific needs of women and children. They underscored the important role of the guarantors of the Framework, namely the African Union, the United Nations, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community, in support of the implementation process, and welcomed the convening in Addis Ababa, on 2 December 2014, of the first meeting of the Framework guarantors. They also welcomed the outcome of the fifth meeting of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework Regional Oversight Mechanism, held in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2015, and stressed the need to ensure the implementation of the decisions adopted.

7. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council emphasized the importance of addressing the root causes of the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the need for a comprehensive approach to restore peace and stability in the wider Great Lakes region. They called upon international partners to make every effort to ensure that the dividends of peace can be realized immediately through quick-impact projects at the local and regional levels to ensure economic development and to strengthen regional cooperation and economic integration. They drew the attention of the World Bank Group to the relevance of releasing the \$1 billion pledged for the Democratic Republic of the Congo in May 2013.

8. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the coordinated good offices work of the Special Envoys/Representatives for the Great Lakes Region to support the implementation of the Framework.

9. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council commended the contribution of MONUSCO, including its Force Intervention Brigade, in furthering peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and welcomed the commitment of troop-contributing countries to MONUSCO in the fulfilment of its mandate for the protection of civilians.

**On the situation in the Central African Republic**

10. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their concerns at the security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic. They strongly condemned the resurgence of violence in October 2014 in Bangui, the continuous cycle of provocations and reprisals and the human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed by armed groups. They called on all parties and stakeholders, particularly the leaders of the former Seleka and anti-Balaka groups, as well as all other armed groups, to immediately and permanently lay down their arms, release all children from their ranks and embark upon the path of dialogue towards achieving lasting reconciliation and peace. They further stressed the urgent need to end impunity in the country and to bring to justice the perpetrators of such violations and abuses.

11. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reiterated their concern at the dire humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic. They also stressed the importance of the voluntary and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons and their full participation in the political dialogue and elections. They urgently appealed to the international community to provide financial and other forms of support to countries hosting refugees from the Central African Republic. They further recalled the need for an inclusive and effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

12. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reaffirmed their commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Central African Republic. They called upon the transitional authorities to take further concrete actions for the promotion of an inclusive and comprehensive political dialogue and reconciliation process at both the local and national levels. They welcomed the ongoing local consultation process and the upcoming meeting of the Bangui Forum on National Reconciliation and urged all actors in the electoral process, including the transitional authorities and the National Elections Authority, to accelerate preparations to hold free, fair, transparent and inclusive presidential and legislative elections that will mark the end of the transition. In this regard, they urged the international community to extend all necessary support, including economic and financial support, to the Central African Republic.

13. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the successful and smooth transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and noted with satisfaction that the completion by MISCA of the initial stabilization phase had created conducive conditions for the deployment of the United Nations peacekeeping operation. They also commended Operation Sangaris and the European Union military operation in the Central African Republic for the work done in laying the foundation for increased security ahead of and in support of the deployment of MINUSCA.

14. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council emphasized that the continued role of the region, including the Secretary-General of Economic Community of Central African States and its mediator, as well as of the African Union, together with the United Nations, will be critical for the promotion of lasting peace and stability in the Central African Republic. They urged the signatories to the Brazzaville Agreement on the cessation of hostilities in the

Central African Republic of 23 July 2014 to immediately and fully implement its provisions, in particular articles 4 and 8 thereof, and called for the international mediation led by President Denis Sassou N'Guesso, the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and the United Nations to facilitate the early conclusion of an agreement on the disarmament of the armed groups, in the framework of the Brazzaville process and in view of the upcoming legislative and presidential elections.

#### **On combating the Boko Haram Terrorist Group**

15. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their strong condemnation of the horrendous terrorist attacks committed by Boko Haram, including the killing of civilians, use of women and children as suicide bombers, kidnappings, hostage-taking, pillaging and destruction of civilian property, recruitment and use of children, sexually-based violence and other abuses. They expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the people and the Governments of Nigeria, the Niger, Cameroon and Chad. They noted with satisfaction that in its communiqués on the Boko Haram terrorist group, the Peace and Security Council has emphasized that all operations against Boko Haram shall be conducted in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law.

16. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever it is committed. They recalled the placing of Boko Haram on the Al-Qaida sanctions list on 22 May 2014 and demanded the immediate cessation of all hostilities and abuses by this terrorist group. They also demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all those abducted who remain in captivity, including the schoolgirls abducted in Chibok, Borno State, in April 2014. They underscored the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice in accordance with international law.

17. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern over the humanitarian crisis caused by the activities of Boko Haram, which has resulted in the large-scale displacement of Nigerians within the country and into neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and the Niger. They commended the support provided to the refugees by the Governments of those countries, including with the assistance of humanitarian actors and relevant United Nations entities, and called on the international community to provide its support.

18. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Nigeria in combating the threat posed by the Boko Haram terrorist group, in particular the regaining of territories earlier taken over by the terrorists, as well as the adoption of other initiatives at the national level toward ameliorating the conditions of internally displaced persons. They noted that the terrorist activities of Boko Haram posed a threat to international peace and security in the region and welcomed the collective efforts of the countries of the region to address that threat, noting with interest in this respect the establishment by States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, namely Chad, Cameroon, the Niger and Nigeria, and Benin, of the Multinational Joint Task Force to combat the Boko Haram terrorist group. They urged the region to enhance

regional military operations and coordination to more effectively and immediately combat Boko Haram. In this regard, they welcomed the convening of a meeting of experts in Yaounde and N'Djamena in February 2015 to finalize the concept of operations. They stressed that all operations of the Multinational Joint Task Force must be conducted in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law.

19. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council commended the efforts of the States members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin in the fight against the Boko Haram threat in the region since January 2015. They paid tribute to all the soldiers who lost their lives in the conduct of those operations and also extended condolences to their Governments and members of their families. They condemned any hostility towards those operations and stressed that those responsible for such acts should be held accountable. They further stressed the importance of support to and cooperation with the Force.

20. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council took note of the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of 3 March 2015 on Boko Haram, as well as of the letter sent by the Chair of the Commission formally transmitting the communiqué and the concept of operations of the Multinational Joint Task Force to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the Security Council, for their information and action. They agreed to consider the issue of Boko Haram as a matter of priority and looked forward to consideration of Security Council actions, as appropriate, considering that the Boko Haram terrorist activities constituted a threat to international peace and security in the region.

21. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council underscored the need for the international community and multilateral and bilateral partners to provide support to the States of the region in order to enhance the operational capacity of the Multinational Joint Task Force, including through the provision of financial and logistical assistance and relevant equipment. They welcomed, in this regard, the assistance already offered by bilateral and multilateral partners and noted with satisfaction the conclusions of the extraordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, held in Yaoundé on 16 February 2015, including the establishment of a special fund and the decision to support Cameroon and Chad with emergency financial aid, troops and other forms of military assistance.

22. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council stressed that, in addition to the much-needed military and security operations against Boko Haram and other terrorist groups, sustained national, regional and international efforts should also be deployed towards the improvement of livelihoods, education and job creation, as well as towards the protection of human rights, including those of women and girls, and the promotion of justice and reconciliation. In this respect, they appealed for the mobilization of the required financial and technical support to the countries of the region, including in their efforts to revive the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

### **On Mali and the Sahel**

23. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the initialling, in Algiers, on 1 March 2015, of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, by the Government of Mali, the movements of the

Algiers Platform and all members of the mediation team. They urged the coordination of Azawad movements that have not yet initialled the document to do so without further delay.

24. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council called on all Malian parties to continue to engage constructively with sustained political will, a spirit of compromise and good faith towards a final settlement and stressed that the ownership and commitment of the Malian parties was crucial for the success of the whole process. They also underscored the critical importance of the full, faithful and immediate implementation of the final agreement and called on the Malian parties to demonstrate commitment towards its complete implementation. They also underscored the key role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and that of the African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel and the African Union Mission for Mali and the Sahel, as well as that of the countries of the region and other international stakeholders, in supporting and overseeing the implementation of the final agreement, for which primary responsibility rests with the Malian parties.

25. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council commended the Government of Algeria and the members of the international mediation team, comprising the countries of the region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria), as well as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, for their efforts to resolve the conflict in Mali.

26. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their full support for MINUSMA and highlighted its contribution to peace and security in the country. They paid tribute to the Mission's troop- and police-contributing countries for their continued commitment and sacrifices.

27. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted with grave concern that MINUSMA was the target of asymmetric attacks from terrorist and extremist groups operating in Mali and the wider Sahel region and expressed their strong condemnation of all attacks against MINUSMA peacekeepers, personnel and property.

28. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted with concern that the effective implementation of the Mission's mandate continues to be challenged by a number of factors. They encouraged the Secretary-General of the United Nations to further enable MINUSMA to reach its full operating capability as soon as possible, in particular to reach the ceiling of 11,200 uniformed personnel.

29. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council underscored the need to take the necessary measures to enable MINUSMA to effectively fulfil its mandate. They stressed the importance of the Mission reaching its full operational capacity as soon as possible and encouraged expedited efforts to deploy the remaining troops and police, as well as related enablers, to reach the Mission's authorized uniformed personnel ceiling, with adequate capabilities, training and equipment, including the reserve battalion intended to provide a rapid response capacity. They took note of the conclusions of the Niamey meeting of MINUSMA troop-contributing countries, held on 5 November 2014, in particular

the readiness expressed by African troop-contributing countries to further contribute to efforts aimed at enhancing MINUSMA. They also took note of the pronouncement on the matter made by the summit of the countries participating in the Nouakchott Process on the enhancement of security cooperation and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan region, held in Nouakchott on 18 December 2014.

30. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reaffirmed their commitment to peace, security and socioeconomic development in the Sahel region. They stressed the need for a coordinated approach in the rapid implementation of the African Union and the United Nations strategies for the Sahel region. They welcomed the preparedness expressed by the United Nations to support the Nouakchott Process.

### **On Libya**

31. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council stressed that there could be no military solution to the current crisis in Libya, and that only dialogue would bring about durable peace, security, stability and reconciliation. In this respect, they expressed support for the efforts being made by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to facilitate an inclusive political dialogue among the Libyan stakeholders, including the meetings held in Geneva, Ghadames, Libya, Skhirat, Morocco, and Algiers, which could result in the establishment of a national unity Government. They urged all concerned Libyan stakeholders to rise above narrow political and other considerations in order to end the violence afflicting their country and meet the expectations of their people.

32. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern at the prevailing security situation in Libya and the continued terrorist acts in the country, as well as the resulting humanitarian crisis and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. They noted, with concern, that some foreign terrorist groups have found safe haven in parts of Libya and expressed serious concern at the negative consequences of the current situation on the country, as well as on regional peace, security and stability.

33. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council also acknowledged the important role of the countries of the region, through the Ministerial Committee of the Neighbourhood. In this respect, they commended Algeria for its efforts aimed at facilitating the convening of a reconciliation conference that will bring together all relevant Libyan stakeholders. They called upon the stakeholders to engage constructively in the current dialogue process in order to achieve a successful outcome. They welcomed the establishment of the International Contact Group for Libya and underlined its critical and important role in coordinating international engagement in Libya. They look forward to the next meeting of the Group, which is scheduled to take place in Niamey on 1 April 2015. They commended the African Union and the Special Envoys/Special Representatives for their efforts in facilitating the Libyan peace process and encouraged them to continue their efforts.



**On Darfur**

34. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed concern at the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur in 2014, including the continued clashes between Government forces and rebel armed groups, the escalation of inter-tribal fighting and other local clashes, including the involvement of paramilitary units and tribal militias, and the increase in criminality and banditry, all of which have resulted in substantial displacement of civilian populations. They commended the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for its efforts towards the stabilization of the situation and its proactive protection of civilians, as well as its support to humanitarian personnel in order to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable civilian populations in Darfur. They pledged full support to UNAMID and strongly condemned all attacks against the Mission.

35. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reiterated their support for the efforts being made by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan, with the support of the African Union-United Nations Joint Chief Mediator and the United Nations Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, to facilitate an immediate cessation of hostilities in Darfur that would pave the way for the participation of the Darfuri armed movements in the national dialogue announced by the Sudanese authorities in January 2014. They reiterated the importance of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as the basis for peace, emphasizing that the effective implementation of the agreement would go a long way in fostering peace, stability and reconciliation in the Sudan. They called on the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements to extend full cooperation to the efforts led by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan and to display the required flexibility to move the process forward.

36. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council recalled the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 2173 (2014) regarding UNAMID, including the implementation of its review, and the upcoming recommendations for the future mandate, composition, configuration and exit strategy of UNAMID, as well as its relationship with other United Nations actors in Darfur and the Sudan. They took note with interest of the agreement reached in February 2015 between the African Union, the United Nations and the Government of the Sudan on the establishment of a joint working group on the UNAMID exit strategy. They agreed to closely coordinate their efforts on these issues, including through the joint working group and they looked forward to receiving the group's agreed recommendations.

**On Somalia**

37. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in Somalia despite the many remaining challenges. They commended the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali security forces for having successfully conducted Operation Eagle and Operation Indian Ocean, which resulted in the recovery of several strategic locations and the further weakening of the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. They underlined the need for the Federal Government of Somalia to intensify its efforts aimed at stabilizing and securing the recovered areas, including

the provision of basic public services and quick-impact projects, so as to consolidate the gains made. They also stressed the critical importance of more sustained efforts towards building capable and effective Somali security forces. They urged the Federal Government of Somalia to expedite the integration of the various militias under a unified national command.

38. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted the decision taken by the African Union Commission to thoroughly investigate the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse levelled against some AMISOM personnel. They underlined the importance of holding to account those found responsible for any such abuses.

39. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council also welcomed the political progress made in the past months, including the State formation process and the passing of the electoral act. They underlined the importance of the prompt establishment of the National Independent Electoral Commission. They further underlined the importance they attached to the forthcoming United Nations electoral assistance mission. They called on the Federal Government of Somalia and other Somali stakeholders to expedite their efforts, in a spirit of national unity, to ensure the conduct of credible elections in 2016, including the adoption of the new constitution.

40. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council acknowledged the critical role of AMISOM in the stabilization of Somalia, particularly in view of the continued threat posed by the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. Accordingly, they stressed the need for enhanced support to AMISOM, including through new contributors sharing the financial burden of supporting AMISOM. They look forward to the outcome of the forthcoming joint benchmarking exercise, which will inform the next steps regarding the military campaign, taking into due consideration the political situation in Somalia.

### **On South Sudan**

41. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reiterated their commitment to the unity and territorial integrity of South Sudan. They expressed deep concern at the prevailing situation in South Sudan, characterized by continued fighting, a catastrophic humanitarian crisis and continuing human rights violations and abuses committed against the civilian population, including sexual violence, as well as the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. They noted with utmost disappointment the failure by the South Sudanese parties to reach an agreement, by the deadline of 5 March 2015, at the last round of the peace talks led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Addis Ababa, which had been convened to complete consultations on outstanding matters to end the tragedy unfolding in their country.

42. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council urged the parties to recommit to an unconditional end to hostilities as provided for in the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, as well as to negotiate in good faith and without preconditions and conclude their consultations on outstanding matters, with particular focus on the establishment and structure of the Transitional Government of National Unity as soon as possible. In this respect, they reiterated their determination to impose sanctions against all parties that threaten the peace, security or stability of South Sudan, in particular those who continue to undermine

the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and obstruct the political process, in line with their relevant pronouncements in support of the communiqué of the twenty-eighth extraordinary summit of IGAD and Security Council resolution 2206 (2015).

43. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council underscored the need for enhanced humanitarian assistance to the internally displaced populations in South Sudan and to the countries of the region that are hosting South Sudanese refugees, including to the victims of sexual violence.

44. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their gratitude to IGAD and its current Chair, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia, for their relentless efforts to bring lasting peace and reconciliation to South Sudan. They welcomed the call by the Chair of IGAD to further enhance the mediation process, in close consultation with the other leaders of the region, the African Union and the United Nations, and expressed their readiness to support this process. They reiterated their commitment to continue to support the people of South Sudan to achieve their legitimate aspiration for lasting peace, stability and national reconciliation.

#### **On the review of the United Nations peace operations**

45. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council stressed the critical role of the United Nations peacekeeping operations in the maintenance of international peace and security. They noted with satisfaction the increased contributions of the African Union to the maintenance of peace and security, including through the deployment of African Union-led peace support operations, including peacekeeping operations, in response to conflict situations on the continent, notably in Burundi, Darfur, Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia. They further noted the challenges faced by the African Union-led peace support operations relating to funding and logistical gaps.

46. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council paid tribute to the memory of the African Union and United Nations peacekeepers who lost their lives in the cause of peace and expressed grave concern about the security threats and recurrent targeted attacks against peacekeepers in many missions.

47. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted that the nature of the security environment into which peacekeeping operations are deployed has changed significantly and that the current challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping operations included, in particular, transnational threats, armed non-state actors, illicit trafficking and other related emerging security threats, such as the rise of terrorism and violent extremism. They underscored the need to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in facing those challenges and to achieve progress on a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach to the maintenance of international peace and security.

48. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the initiative by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish a high-level independent panel, under the leadership of former President of Timor-Leste Jose Ramos Horta, to undertake a review of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. They stressed the importance of the review for all regions, in particular for the African continent, which continues to host the largest numbers of peacekeeping operations, and took note, in this regard, of the consultations conducted

by the panel from 9 to 13 February 2015, with the Chair of the African Union Commission as well as with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

49. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their support for the independent high-level panel and looked forward to the outcome of the comprehensive review. They noted that the review provided an opportunity to further the common objective of the United Nations and the African Union towards building an innovative and forward-looking partnership between the two organizations, within the context of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

#### **On women, peace and security**

50. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council looked forward to the publication of the global study on women, peace and security and the high-level review on resolution 1325 (2000) in October 2015 on the fifteenth anniversary of the resolution. They commended efforts by the African Union to develop a continental framework on women, peace and security, and recognized the need to build networks of women mediators for use by both the African Union and the Security Council. They further highlighted the importance of implementing the African Union-United Nations Framework of Cooperation concerning the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence in Africa, signed in January 2014, and the ongoing cooperation between the two bodies on this issue.

#### **On enhancing cooperation between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the United Nations Security Council in preventing conflicts and crises in Africa**

51. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council acknowledged the progress achieved in the ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and stressed the importance of further strengthening this cooperation and developing an effective partnership consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations to address common collective security challenges in Africa.

52. They stressed the need to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, including between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the United Nations Security Council, in preventing conflicts and crises in Africa and expressed their determination to enhance the cooperation at the operational and institutional levels in that area.

53. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council underlined the importance of ensuring effective interaction through the exchange of information and analysis at the conflict prevention stage, as well as coordination and a clear understanding of respective roles in managing peace processes. In this regard, they acknowledged the value of establishing a regular and substantive informal dialogue, at all levels, between members of both Councils throughout the year to complement annual consultations. They underscored the fact that regional organizations such as the African Union and its regional mechanisms are well positioned to understand the root causes of armed conflicts owing to their knowledge of the region, which can be a benefit in the efforts to influence the prevention or resolution of such conflicts.

54. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council recalled the importance of the creation of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. They further called for strengthening the role of the Ad Hoc Working Group to discharge its mandate to propose recommendations to the Security Council to enhance cooperation in conflict prevention and resolution, between the United Nations and the African Union. In this respect, they agreed to conduct a joint field mission to a conflict situation or area in Africa, to be identified through consultations between the two Councils, in the course of 2015.

55. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council agreed to convene their tenth annual joint consultative meeting in New York in 2016. The date of the meeting will be determined through consultations between the Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the President of the United Nations Security Council.

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