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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

393RD MEETING

28 AUGUST 2013

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM. (CCCXCIII)

COMMUNIQUE

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 393rd meeting held on 28 August 2013, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Great Lakes region, particularly in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing provided by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for the Great Lakes Region. Council **also takes note** of the statements made by the representatives of the DRC, the Economic Community of the Central African States (ECCAS), Uganda, in its capacity as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR, Malawi, in its capacity as Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as well as of those made by the representatives of the United Nations, the European Union (EU) and the following members of the UN Security Council: France, Rwanda, United Kingdom and United States of America;
2. **Recalls** its previous communiqués and press statements on the security and humanitarian situation in the eastern part of the DRC;
3. **Reaffirms** its unwavering commitment to the AU's principles, in particular the respect for the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the DRC and that of all the other countries of the region, and its total rejection of recourse to armed rebellion to advance political demands;
4. **Notes with deep concern** the continuing deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the eastern part of the DRC, despite repeated calls to the parties to show restraint in order to facilitate the search for a lasting solution to the crisis;
5. **Strongly condemns** the resumption of hostilities by the M23, which have resulted in numerous civilian casualties and caused extensive damage in the occupied areas and in the city of Goma, including the repeated attacks against the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC), the peacekeepers of the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Congo (MONUSCO) and the humanitarian workers. Council **condemns** the shelling on the territory of Rwanda. Council **further condemns** all negative forces, including the Mai-Mai, the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR), the National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), latest action of the latter having led to continuing massive internal displacements and flow of refugees;
6. **Demands** that the M23 immediately halt all military operations in order to facilitate the search for a lasting political solution to the crisis within the framework of the Kampala talks, and **recalls**, in this regard, the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council calling for the

disarmament and dismantlement of the armed groups. Council **condemns in the strongest possible terms** the killing of a UN peacekeeper, **presents its condolences** to the family of the victim and to the Tanzanian Government, as well as to MONUSCO, and **wishes** speedy recovery to the wounded UN peacekeepers;

7. **Reaffirms** the need to resolutely combat impunity and **stresses**, in this regard, that the M23, as well as the other armed groups and negative forces, shall be held accountable for the abuses and other crimes committed in the areas under their control;

8. **Welcomes** the progress made in the deployment and operationalization of the MONUSCO Intervention Brigade, as authorized by UN Security Council resolution 2098 (2013). Council **reiterates its appreciation** to South Africa, Malawi and Tanzania for their contribution to the establishment of the Brigade, as well as **its support** to the Brigade, and **stresses** the need for the effective implementation of its mandate. Council **underscores** the importance of the Expanded Joint verification Mechanism (EJVM) in dispelling accusations and counter-accusations and, in this regard, **notes with satisfaction** the steps already taken by the AU and the EU to provide support to the EJVM to enable it effectively fulfill its mandated tasks. Council **calls** for increased support to the EJVM, especially in terms of human and financial resources;

9. **Stresses** the need for sustained efforts to find a lasting solution to the recurring instability in eastern DRC. In this context, Council **commends** the untiring efforts of H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the Republic of Uganda, in his capacity as Chair of the ICGLR, including in facilitating the Kampala negotiations between the Government of the DRC and the M23, and **calls** for their urgent conclusion, in strict compliance with the Congolese Constitution and laws. Council **requests** the Commission to urgently undertake consultations with the Ugandan authorities to determine the modalities of an appropriate contribution to this process, and to report to it on the steps taken;

10. **Welcomes** the progress made by the DRC in the implementation of the security and defense sector reform, as well as with respect to decentralization. Council **notes with satisfaction** the forthcoming national dialogue aimed at strengthening national cohesion;

11. **Welcomes** the continued efforts of H.E. President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo to foster mutual understanding and confidence among the leaders of the region, and **encourages** him to pursue and intensify his efforts;

12. **Recalls** that the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region offers an appropriate basis for the promotion of lasting peace in eastern DRC and in the region. Council **calls on** all parties to the Framework to ensure its implementation and scrupulously comply with their commitments, including by refraining from providing support to the negative forces. Council **appeals** to the international partners to continue to provide support for the full implementation of the commitments made by the parties to the Framework;

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13. **Urges** the countries of the region to intensify their efforts in addressing the current problems and consolidate the progress made in recent years, in a spirit of cooperation and on the basis of the relevant principles enshrined in the AU Constitutive Act, the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great

Lakes region, and the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region;

14. **Takes note** of the outcomes of the meetings of the Technical Support Committee of the Regional Follow-up Mechanism of the Framework, held in Nairobi on 24 June and on 22 and 23 July 2013, to develop criteria for monitoring and benchmarks of progress in the implementation of the Framework. Council **looks forward** to the next meeting of the Regional Follow-up Mechanism 11+4, to be held in New York, in the margins of the forthcoming UN General Assembly;

15. **Welcomes** the Declaration adopted by the 6th Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the ICGLR, held in Nairobi, on 31 July 2013, on the security situation in the Eastern DRC, and **calls** for its full implementation. Council **also welcomes** the conclusions of the 2nd tripartite Summit Angola, RDC and South Africa, held in Luanda, on 23 August 2013, and **takes note of** the willingness of the Government of the Republic of Angola to host a joint SADC/ICGLR Summit to review the situation in eastern DRC;

16. **Stresses** the crucial importance of effective and speedy implementation of projects and action programs of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes region, as well as of the regional projects for development and integration of the Economic Community of Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), in laying the foundations for lasting peace and stability in the region. Council **welcomes** the meeting held in Addis Ababa, from 19 to 20 July 2013, under the auspices of the AU, the UN and the World Bank, to discuss development frameworks for the countries of the region, in order to support the implementation of the Framework, and **requests** that the implementation of the recommendations made during that meeting be expedited;

17. **Encourages** the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission to pursue his efforts in support to the countries of the region, including through continued consultations with the various stakeholders. Council **also encourages** continued consultations among all concerned international stakeholders and, in this respect, **welcomes** the planned joint AU-EU-UN-US mission to the countries of the Great Lakes region, to review the situation and identify practical steps for enhanced international coordination and support to the regional efforts;

18. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.