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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL 481ST MEETING

15 JANUARY 2015

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.(CDLXXXI)

COMMUNIQUE

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), held its 481st meeting on 15 January 2015 on the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa. The meeting was held pursuant to the decision taken by the PSC at its 464th meeting held on 29 October 2014 to dedicate monthly meetings on the Ebola epidemic to receive comprehensive progress reports from the Commission, covering the evolution of the situation, the implementation of the mandate of the AU Support Mission to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA), the status of contributions by AU Member States and the level of engagement of the larger international community in combating the epidemic and took the following decision:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing made by the Director for Social Affairs and **commends** the Commission for the progress made in the implementation of the mandate of the African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA);
2. **Recalls** all its previous Communiques and Press Statements on the Ebola Epidemic in West Africa;
3. **Reiterates** its gratitude to all AU Member States that have contributed healthcare personnel, financial and material resources to the countries most affected by the Ebola epidemic. Council also **commends** the healthcare volunteers deployed in the affected countries in West Africa, who are putting their lives at great risk in the fight against the Ebola epidemic;
4. **Notes** that, in spite of some progress made, the fight against Ebola is still ongoing and that lack of adequate resources is prejudicial to the momentum gained. In this regard, Council **stresses** the need for renewed commitment in the fight against the epidemic and mobilization of additional resources in order to effectively support ASEOWA and the efforts of the region, as well as those of the countries most affected by the Ebola epidemic;
5. **Reiterates** its appeal to the AU Member States, which have not yet done so, and in the spirit of pan-African solidarity, to join the fight against the Ebola epidemic by extending necessary support to the countries most affected;
6. **Also reiterates** that it is the Ebola epidemic which needs to be isolated rather than the people of the affected countries. In this regard, Council, once again, **deplores** the continued stigmatization, discrimination and isolation of both the people and the countries most affected, including by

some of the AU partners. In this context, Council, once again, **reiterates** its call on AU Member States, which have not yet done so, to fully comply with the decision that was adopted by the 16th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in Addis Ababa, on 8 September 2014, regarding the opening of borders and resumption of flights to the affected countries. Council also **appeals** to the AU partners to also assist in this fight against stigmatization and discrimination of people from the countries most affected by the epidemic;

7. **Further urges** the communities affected by the Ebola epidemic to renounce cultural practices that are counter-productive to the fight against the Ebola epidemic and to guarantee the safety and security of healthcare personnel deployed in the affected areas;
8. Council **decides** to extend the mandate of ASEOWA by another six months; and
9. Council **agrees** to remain seized of the matter and to continue receiving periodic briefings and reports from the Commission.