

AFRICAN UNION
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P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel.: (251-11) 551 38 22 Fax: (251-11) 519321
Email: situationroom@africa-union.orfi

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL 807™ MEETING 8 NOVEMBER 2018 ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM. (DCCCVII)

COMMUNIQUE

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) dedicated its 807th meeting held on 8 November 2018, to an open session on the theme: "Youth, Peace and Security" in commemoration of the Africa Youth Day, and adopted the following decision:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the opening remarks made by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. Ambassador Mohammed Idriss Farah, in his capacity as the PSC Chairperson for the month of November 2018, as well as the statement of the Commissioner for Peace and Security, H.E. Ambassador Smail Chergui, read on his behalf by the Director for Peace and Security, Dr. Admore Kambudzi. Council **also takes note** of the presentations made by Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, the Director for Human Resource, Science and Technology and by Mr. Achaleke Christian Leke, on behalf of youth organizations working on peace and security in the African continent. Council **further takes note** of the statements made by AU Member States, representatives of Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), AU partners and international organizations;
2. **Recalls** the African Youth Charter adopted by the 7th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Banjul, The Gambia on 2 July 2006, particularly Article 17, which recognizes the important role of youth in promoting peace and security in Africa. Council **also recalls** the AU Constitutive Act, and Article 20 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the AU, as well as aspirations 4 and 6 of Agenda 2063, that is, a peaceful and secure Africa and an Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by people, especially its women and youth and caring for children. Council **further recalls** Decision, (Assembly/AU/Dec.591 (XXVI), adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30 to 31 January 2016, in which the Assembly adopted the theme of the year 2017 as "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth," which laid the foundation for the mainstreaming of youth in the programmes of the AU Commission;
3. **Also recalls** Communique [PSC/PR/COMM. (DCLXV)] adopted at its 665th meeting held on 13 March 2017, in which Council encouraged the involvement of youth in mediation and conflict prevention efforts. Council **also further recalls** United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 2250 (2015), UNSCR 2419 and UN Youth 2030 Strategy;
4. **Welcomes** the steps taken by the Youth for Peace Africa Programme, which was launched in Lagos, Nigeria, in September 2018, with the mandate of implementing all relevant AU, regional and international instruments, relating to the role of the youth in the promotion of peace and security in Africa;
5. **Commends** the youth for their contributions towards promoting peace, security and stability in Africa. In this regard Council **underscores the importance** of inclusion of youth at all levels and of

ensuring effective youth participation in all efforts aimed at promoting peace and security in line with the provisions of Article 17 of the AU Youth Charter, 665th PSC communique, UNSCR 2250, UNSCR 2419 and 5th Priority of UN Youth 2030 Strategy;

6. **Welcomes** the appointment of an AU Special Envoy for the Youth, Ms. Aya Chabbi and **assures** her of the Council's unwavering support in discharging her mandate;

7. **Commends** Egypt for hosting the second edition of World Youth Forum that was held from 2 to 6 November 2018, in Sharm El Sheikh, and **calls upon** the youth throughout the African continent to embrace and participate in the upcoming editions of the Forum;

8. **Notes** the challenges confronting youth including re-integration of those youths who would have been disengaged from extremist or armed groups, lack of funding, mistrust and suspicion, as well as misrepresentation and stereotyping of the youth by always associating them with violence. Council **also notes the imperative** to protect the youth in armed conflict situations against all form of exploitation, in line with the International Legal framework. In this respect, Council **underscores** the need for appropriate political, legal and psycho-social frameworks for facilitating and sustainably supporting the re-integration of youths disengaged from armed or extremist groups. In this respect, Council **stresses the need** to put in place adequate framework to promote culture of peace and tolerance;

9. **Also notes** the limited documentation of the contributions of African youth to peace and security. In this context, Council **requests** the Commission to undertake a study on the role of the youth in promoting peace and security in Africa and to submit the findings of the study to Council for consideration and action as may be appropriate;

10. **Calls** on all Member States to urgently implement UNSCR 2250, remove all structural barriers to effective youth participation, mobilize the necessary resources and develop long-term national action plans for the involvement and effective participation of the youth in the promotion of peace and security, as well as national development processes. In this respect, Council **calls on** Member States to foster the potential of the youth by ensuring youth access to education, particularly focusing on vocational training and employment creation, with a view to reducing youth unemployment and their attendant vulnerabilities to exploitation, manipulation, radicalization and recruitment by extremist, criminal and armed groups;

11. **Reiterates** the terms of the communique of the 771st PSC meeting held on 11 May 2018, as well as the para 23 of the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.695(XXXI) adopted by the 31st Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government relating to the establishment of the African Observatory for Migration, with a view to create conditions conducive to orderly, sure and volunteer migration for the African youth;

12. **Commends** the Commission for the steps being taken to implement the AU Youth Charter and to ensure effective mainstreaming of the participation and contribution of the African youth in all efforts

aimed at promoting peace, security and development of Africa, in line with the relevant AU Assembly decisions. Council **also commends** the Commission for developing the AU Youth Volunteers Programme which among others, provides opportunities to the youth from across the African Continent to serve and gain crucial professional experience, soft skills, social competence, international exposure and leadership skills. In this context, Council **calls on** all AU Member States to provide technical and financial support for the sustenance of the AU Youth Volunteer Corps Programme, and **requests** the Commission to expedite the finalization of a Framework on Youth Peace and Security for consideration by the relevant AU policy Organs as early as possible. Council **further requests** the Commission to take the necessary steps towards enabling the youth to contribute to the efforts aimed at preventing, managing and resolving conflicts in Africa ;

13. **Commend** AU partners and members of the international community for their continued support to the effective implementation of the AU Youth Charter, as well as UNSC Resolutions 2250 and 2419, among others, through capacity building support.

14. **Underscores the need** to appoint five African Youth Peace Ambassadors from each of the five regions who will work with the AU Youth Envoy in the promotion of peace and security on the continent;

15. **Decides** to institutionalize and regularize an annual open session dedicated to the theme of "Youth, Peace and Security in Africa".

16. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.