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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL 858TH MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

16 JULY 2019

PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCCLVIII)

COMMUNIQUE

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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 858th meeting held on 16 July 2019 on the status of the implementation of the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lome Charter)

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.496(XXII) of January 2014 and Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.822(XXV) of June 2014 on the establishment of a Strategic Task Force, composed by Member States, the AU Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), on the implementation of the 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIM Strategy), which includes consideration of the Lome Charter and its Annexes, **also recalling** the Assembly Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.I(VI) of the Extraordinary Summit held on 15 October 2016, which adopted the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa;

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:

1. **Takes note** of the briefing made by the Office of the Legal Counsel;
2. **Commends** the Strategic Task Force for the review of the draft Annexes to the Lome Charter;
3. **Reiterates the need** to expedite the finalization of the draft Annexes, as integral part of the Lome Charter, with a view to facilitating its rapid signature and ratification by Member States to allow the entry into force of this important instrument, as soon as possible;
4. **Requests** the AU Commission to include the consideration of the draft Annexes to the Lome Charter in the agenda of the upcoming sessions of the relevant Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), in order to enable them to review the documents validated by the Strategic Task Force, taking into account also the latest developments in maritime issues and the outcome of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2018;
5. **Also requests** the AU Commission to organize, as soon as possible, a meeting of the STCs Coordination Mechanism for the development of a roadmap on the finalization of the draft annexes to the Lome Charter, before end of the year;
6. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.