

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
(PSC) ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU MASTER ROADMAP OF
PRACTICAL STEPS TO SILENCE THE GUNS IN AFRICA**

The Assembly,

1. **ADOPTS** the **Sixth Report** of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) on *the Implementation of the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2030*;
2. **RECALLS** the Organization of African Unity/ African Union (OAU/AU) 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2013, in Addis Ababa, in which the Assembly of the Union pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020; and Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII)] adopted at its 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 – 31 January 2017, which endorsed, following submission by the PSC, the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020; **ALSO RECALLS** the Johannesburg Declaration [Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XIV)] and Decision [Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(XIV)] adopted at its 14th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on Silencing the Guns, held on 6 December 2020, in Johannesburg, South Africa, which extended the duration of the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap on Practical Steps to Silencing the Guns in Africa to the year 2030 (AUMR) and accordingly, extended the commemoration and conduct of the Africa Amnesty Month during September of each year for a period of ten (10) years (2021-2030) within the context of Agenda 2063;
3. **FURTHER RECALLS** the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 2457 (2019) adopted on 27 February 2019 which underscored the importance of the two joint UN-AU partnership frameworks towards achieving its goal of creating a conflict free continent and support for the implementation of the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa;
4. **EMPHASIZES** that the extension of the duration of AUMR implementation to 2030 constitutes yet another opportunity for the Continent to collectively revitalize its political will to promote African solutions to African problems and to deploy more robust efforts towards building a conflict-free Africa by 2030 and beyond, by addressing fundamental root causes of violent conflicts, together with their triggers and factors that sustain them; **ALSO UNDERLINES** the responsibility of Member States to fully implement the AU relevant normative frameworks and Instruments;
5. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the progress made, thus far, in the implementation of the AUMR, in all its aspects, namely, political, economic, social, environmental and legal; in this context, **APPLAUDS** the PSC for championing and steering the implementation of the AUMR; **FURTHER COMMENDS** the AU Member States,

AU Commission, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), civil society organizations and the private sector for their efforts aims at silencing the guns; in this regard, **EXPRESSES DEEP APPRECIATION** to the United Nations (UN) and other partners for their continued support towards the implementation of the AUMR;

6. **UNDERLINES** the need for demonstrable political will and commitment as well as the collective action of all concerned stakeholders to effectively implement the AUMR and create conducive conditions to end conflicts in the Continent; **ENCOURAGES** Member States to promote national ownership and leadership of the flagship project of Silencing the Guns in Africa within the context of Agenda 2063; in this regard, **DIRECTS** the AU Commission and RECs/RMs, under the leadership of the PSC, to intensify support to Member States in their efforts to domesticate and implement the AUMR in its five key dimensions;
7. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** over the persistence of multiple and complex challenges that still undermines the achievement of silencing the guns in Africa, particularly gaps in governance and democracy; terrorism and violent extremism; the surge of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and mercenaries ; illicit circulation of arms/weapons; corruption; transnational organized crimes, drug trafficking, human trafficking, illicit financial flows and illegal exploitation of natural resources; foreign political and military interference; outbreaks of epidemics and pandemic; the impact of climate change and slow process of ratification of AU instruments, amongst others continue to hamper efforts to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063;
8. **ALSO EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the continued proliferation and inflow of illicit arms and weapons within and to the Continent, exacerbating insecurity and fueling violence in various parts of Africa, thereby creating challenges to public security, social cohesion and normal functioning of Member States Institutions; **FURTHER EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** about the mutually reinforcing linkages between illicit trafficking of arms and activities of terrorist groups and transnational criminal organizations;
9. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the significant gains of the observance of Africa Amnesty Month (AAM) as a soft approach in the collection of illicit arms and weapons in the Continent; **COMMENDS** Member States which undertook activities in observance of the AAM for their commitments towards the goal of silencing the guns in Africa; particularly **WELCOMES** the initiative of the PSC to have launched, for the first time, the commemoration of the 2022 AAM outside the AU's Headquarters, in Lomé, Togo, and its decision to continue commemorating the AAM in the five geographical regions, on a rotational basis, in collaboration with the relevant RECs/RMs and with the full involvement and participation of civilians, such as civil society organizations, youth and women, as well as faith-based Organizations;

10. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to fully utilize AAM in reducing the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons; **STRESSES** the need for the Member States and other stakeholders to actively involve the population in the observance of the AAM to facilitate the voluntary surrender of the illegally owned arms and weapons; in this context, **REQUESTS** the AU Commission and RECS/RMs, with the support of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), to continue extending their support to Member States willing to conduct AAM in their respective countries; **in** this regard, **DIRECTS** the AU Commission to develop guidelines to support the drafting of national legislations relevant to AAM implementation, particularly in countries where such implementation has faced legal challenges;
11. **CALLS FOR** Member States and RECs/RMs to report on their actions and activities to silence the guns in the relevant dimensions within the five aspects of the AUMR for experience sharing and cross-learning to address the security challenges squarely; **DIRECTS** the AU Commission to develop standardized templates for reporting in line with the AU Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism of the implementation of the AUMR, in consultation with Member States and RECs/RMs;
12. **RECOGNIZES** the importance of the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism as a guiding tool to fast-track the implementation of the AUMR; in this regard, **WELCOMES** the establishment of an AU-RECs/RMs Steering Committee on silencing the guns as a platform for coordinating, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the implementation of the AUMR, as well as to support Member States in the domestication of the Silencing the Guns Agenda, in line with the relevant AU Instruments and Policy Organs' decisions; **URGES** Member States and RECs/RMs to redouble efforts to domesticate and enhance implementation of the AUMR through adopting tailored national action plans; Furthermore, **ENCOURAGES** Member States to report on their national efforts to enable the Commission to accurately assess the progress made in the implementation of the AUMR and provide support as appropriate;
13. **REITERATES ITS CONCERN** over the existence of porous borders and ungoverned spaces which continue to provide safe routes and havens for terrorist groups and transnational organized crime groups to expand their activities, including illicit inflow of weapons, arms, ammunitions, trafficking in persons and drugs and equally facilitate their access to financial and material resources to support terrorist operations; **CALLS ON** Member States to strengthen their law enforcement agencies along border areas, seaports and airports, and ensure effective presence of state institutions throughout their countries in order to enhance cross-border security and police coordination and cooperation within the framework of the AU's Institutions and Mechanisms, particularly African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), Committee of Intelligence and Security Services (CISSA), Nouakchott and Djibouti Processes and AU Border Programme;

14. **DIRECTS** the AU Commission, in line with PSC Communique [PSC/PR/COMM.1105(2021)] adopted at its 1105th meeting of 15 September 2022, to initiate a process of elaborating a common African position, which will provide guidance to AU Member States during the 4th Review Conference of the Programme of Action on Small Arms; and to explore the possibility of developing a continental legally binding instrument on small arms and light weapons within the spirit of the “Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation, and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons” of 2000;
15. **UNDERScores** the importance of streamlining the Governance of the Security Sector Reforms (SSR) and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) in the AU’s conflict prevention and resolution efforts, as well as in post-conflict reconstruction and development initiatives, in accordance with the relevant practical steps outlined in the AUMR; in this regard, the Assembly **Commends** the collaboration between the Member States and the AU Commission for the continued provision of technical support to Member States on DDR and SSR;
16. **Welcomes** the Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) as an essential step in the efforts to silence the guns, as well as a solid foundation for the preservation of Ethiopia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity as full testimony of the efficacy of African solution to African problems;
17. **Reemphasizes** the imperative to mobilize the requisite resources, once a peace agreement has been signed, in order to ensure its immediate, effective and full implementation, to prevent any risk of relapse into violence; **Requests** the AU Commission and RECs/RMs to provide continued technical and financial support to the parties of a peace agreement to ensure its effective implementation;
18. **Underscores** that ensuring adequate, flexible, sustainable and predictable financing of the AU peace and security activities remains the main challenge facing the AU, RECs/RMs and Member States in achieving the silencing the guns objectives;
19. **Welcomes** the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission of H.E Mohamed Ibn Chambas, of Ghana, as the new High Representative for silencing the guns; the same vein, **Applauds** H.E Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria and immediate former High Representative on Silencing the guns for his notable contributions and meritorious service to the Continent in silencing the guns; In this regard, the Assembly **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to strengthen the Coordination Unit of Silencing the Guns Programme at the AU Commission with the necessary technical and human resources.

