

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE FUND

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report and **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for the progress made in operationalisation of the African Union Peace Fund, in terms of, putting in place the governance structure and providing financial resources through the Crisis Reserve facility and pilot projects to address security challenges in Africa.
2. **RECALLS** EX.CL/ Dec.1223(XLIII) paragraph 31, taken during the Ordinary sitting of the Executive Council in July 2023 held in Nairobi, which requested the Commission through the Peace Fund Secretariat to explore modalities for seeking voluntary contributions from Member States as well as contributions from the private sector and High Net Worth Individuals and report back to the Executive Council in February 2024; and **ENCOURAGES** the AU Peace Fund Secretariat, supported by the Executive Management Committee and its Board of Trustees to extend all efforts in mobilizing additional resources through Member States voluntary contributions in strict compliance with AU Financial Rules, by engaging with the partners, the private sector, high net worth individuals and the citizens of our continent.
3. **URGES** Member States who have not yet fulfilled their financial commitments to the Peace Fund to fulfil their commitments.
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to deploy all efforts to operationalise the Independent Evaluation Group and undertake the selection process through the Panel of Eminent persons to ensure transparency.
5. **INSISTS** that any future funding, including the ceilings of 2025 CRF and pilot projects, must follow the due process via the Joint Sitting of the Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters and the Technical Committee of 15 Experts (F15) and should be dependent on the performance and objectives achieved by previous funding allocated to these mechanisms in strict compliance with the AU Financial Rules, the Article 21 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the approved Instrument Relating to the African Union Peace Fund.
6. **DIRECTS** the Peace Fund Secretariat to finalise and present the revised Peace Fund utilization and replenishment modalities to the Executive Council during its 45th Ordinary Session to be held in June/July 2024 through the appropriate channels by involving F15 Experts in the process.

7. **NOTES** the progress made so far to the endowment of the peace fund by African member states and calls on the UN to continue to provide support for AU led peace support operations, in line with its mandate for global peace and security.
8. **INVITES** the Commission to ensure a fair distribution among the five regions in matters of the funds allocated, particularly in the framework of pilot projects in strict compliance with the AU Financial Rules, the Article 21 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the approved Instrument Relating to the African Union Peace Fund.
9. **EXPRESSES** its reservations about the imposition of new statutory contributions to reach the expected threshold of 400 million or with a view of the replenishment of the fund or the mobilisation of resources.
10. **URGES** prioritizing interventions by the Fund for the African regions most affected by the negative consequences of wars and instability, such as the Sahel region, the Great Lakes, the Horn of Africa, and other areas that require peace reinforcement and support in strict compliance with the AU Financial Rules, the Article 21 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the approved Instrument Relating to the African Union Peace Fund.
11. **RECOGNISES** that the Peace Fund does not in any way seek to absolve the UN Security Council of its primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security by Article 24 of the UN Charter; **TAKES NOTE** of the UNSC Resolution 2719 and **CALLS UPON** the Commission to submit a proposal to the UNSC after adoption by the Peace and Security Council, by August 2024 in order to trigger the operationalization of this funding mechanism for AU led Peace Support Operations.