The Executive Council,

1. **WELCOMES** the convening of the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 - 12 May 2023.

2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security and **WELCOMES** the outcomes and recommendations contained therein, including the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms on the African Standby Force; the African Union Strategic Framework for Compliance and Accountability in Peace Support Operations, the African Union Policy on Protection of Civilians in Peace Support Operations, and the African Union Policy on Selection and Screening of Personnel for Peace Support Operations as annexed, with no financial implications to the AU Commission subject to compliance with the relevant AU rules and procedures. In this regard, **RECOMMENDS** the report, outcomes and recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Assembly.