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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RAMTANE LAMAMRA,**  
**AU COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY,**  
**TO THE 307<sup>th</sup> OPEN SESSION MEETING OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF**  
**THE AFRICAN UNION**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 9 JANUARY 2012**

**Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, Mr. Moses Wetangula;**

**Distinguished Members of the Peace and Security Council;**

**Distinguished Permanent Representatives and Guests;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Allow me to first warmly welcome the presence of the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, Mr. Moses Wetangula, who is chairing this meeting. His presence is convincing testimony of Kenya's unwavering commitment to the promotion of peace, security, stability and prosperity on our continent as well as his own personal commitment to the strengthening of AU's role in bringing about African solutions to African problems while optimizing the contribution of partnerships to that end.

Secondly, I would like to sincerely commend the Republic of Kenya and Ambassador Monica Juma for their wisdom in deciding to make this 307<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PSC an open session because the theme of this session is indeed of great interest to the entire continent, hence the need to involve all AU Member States in the deliberations in the presence of a representative group of key partners.

**Excellencies,**

This 307<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PSC is being held in fulfillment of a decision of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, from 30 to 31 January 2011, which, among other things, "encouraged the Chairperson of the Commission to prepare and submit to the Council a report on the African Union's Strategic Vision on the Cooperation between the AU and the United Nations on peace and security matters, as a contribution to the consideration by the Security Council of the next report of the UN Secretary General on this issue, bearing in mind the relevant AU decisions and the need for flexible interpretation of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter".

The Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Partnership between the AU and the UN on Peace and Security – that I am honored to introduce this morning - was circulated to all Member States, ahead of this meeting. I am sure that you had an opportunity to read it so that we have rich and informed deliberations.

The meeting is also being held within the context of the presidential statement of 22 October 2010, in which the UN Security Council (UNSC) noted the Secretary General's intention to submit a report which would define the UN Secretariat's Strategic Vision for AU-UN co-operation in the area of peace and security.

At the same time, you may also recall that during the 5<sup>th</sup> Consultative Meeting between the AUPSC and the UNSC, held in Addis Ababa, on 21 May 2011, both Councils looked forward to the reports of both the Chairperson of the Commission and the UN Secretary General on the

Strategic Vision for the cooperation between the AU and the UN in the area of peace and security.

### **Excellencies,**

Over the years, there have been significant institutional changes since the transformation of the OAU to the AU, to strategically position the continental body effectively to adapt to the new pattern of threats to peace and security in Africa. Indeed, the Africa Union has developed a number of appropriate instruments and normative frameworks, as well as initiatives, to address some of these threats.

This meeting is therefore crucial, to the extent that it is being held at a time when, in addition to the traditional threats, Africa is facing a new set of threats to peace, security and stability. Some of these threats include:

- Governance-related intra-state conflicts and violence, including election-related ones, which could severely undermine the nascent democracies on the continent, and negatively affect the social fabrics in a number of countries;
- The uprisings in some countries of North Africa, which although having opened a window of opportunity for the consolidation of the democratization process in the countries directly affected, have, unfortunately, also had far-reaching consequences on peace and security on the region and the continent as a whole. This is particularly the case considering the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons and armed criminal and terrorist groups in the Sahel and the Northern regions, and beyond ;
- The growing threats posed by terrorism with the proliferation of hotspots and of terrorist groups linked to Al Qaeda;
- Border disputes have the potential of threatening relations between neighboring countries;
- The continent is also being adversely affected by Global Warming-linked climate change leading to droughts and famine as the case of Somalia and the rest of the Horn of Africa region has glowingly shown;

Experience has abundantly demonstrated that most of the threats clearly demand collective approaches by the international community as a whole. Indeed they require concerted responses by the African Union and the United Nations.

### **Excellencies,**

In spite of the operational challenges that we might have faced and could still be facing, which, in any case, may be naturally expected, we have seen, in the past few years, the strategic relationship between the AU and the UN growing steadily from strength to strength and bearing fruits. This is the trend that, as the AU, we would like to consolidate and expand.

Cooperation between the AU and the UN in peacekeeping efforts has been notable and it has been strengthened over the years as the case of the hybrid operation in the Darfur (UNAMID) illustrates. In fact, UNAMID could be considered as an inspiring prototype for future peacekeeping operations in Africa. We are also cooperating with the UN in Somalia in an imaginative way within the framework of the African Union Mission (AMISOM), as well as within the African Standby Force (ASF) which is one of the key pillars of the African Union Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Areas of cooperation range from conflict prevention, management and resolution to post-conflict reconstruction and development.

Since 2007, the PSC and the UNSC have organized five annual joint consultative meetings, which have now been institutionalized. The establishment of the UN Office to the AU (UNOAU) on 1 July 2010 is also a concrete step in the strengthening of cooperation between the AU Commission and the UN Secretariat. The AU side needs now to empower its own Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations in New York.

The partnership between the two Councils is fundamentally based on the recognition that successful collective security efforts can only result from effective cooperation between the two organs. However, as the two organs continue to work together to deepen and further promote their strategic partnership, it is important that, in arriving at its own decisions on matters of peace and security on the African continent, the UNSC should always give due consideration to the position of the African Union and its PSC. This needs to be the case because the PSC has the primary mandate of addressing peace and security challenges on the African continent within the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and bring to the task a well-known set of comparative advantages.

In the same spirit, the UNSC should ensure timely responses to requests by the AU for strengthening the capacity of UN-authorized AU-led peace operations because, ultimately, the AU delivers on behalf of the UN first hand contributions to international peace and security.

### **Excellencies,**

We now live in a globalized world in which peace and security have, more than ever before, become indivisible. Today, a threat to peace and security anywhere is a threat to peace everywhere. The peace and security threats that Africa is facing today, require collective security approaches, if we are to effectively surmount them. The challenges we have faced in our strategic partnership with the UN should provide us with important lessons for the future. In this spirit, it is important to take practical steps that could help in further strengthening the AU-UN partnership by working out adequate and creative responses to the following ten needs:

- The need to promote African ownership and priority setting on issues of peace and security on the continent;

- The need for the AU Peace and Security Architecture to be fully operationalized and for the African well established «soft power» to be, if and when necessary, adequately supported by a meaningful level of «hard power», including through preventive deployment of observers and peace-support missions;
- The need for flexible and innovative application of the principle of subsidiarity;
- The need for mutual respect and adherence to the principle of comparative advantages;
- The need to ensure division of labor that is underpinned by complementarity;
- The need for enhanced joint planning and joint assessment for Peace Operations on the continent as they interact with other relevant factors on which the AU may have a direct influence;
- The need to ensure close co-operation when the two institutions are co-deployed in the same theatre and/or in the strategic management of hybrid missions;
- The need to align capacity building support with AU and RECs/RMs priorities;
- The need for ensuring predictability, sustainability and timely disbursement of pledged resources; and last but not least,
- The need for predictable, sufficient and reliable sources of funding.

### **Excellencies,**

Only when we have successfully addressed these needs, can we ensure that the AU-UN strategic partnership effectively addresses the peace and security challenges we face in our times and duly endeavors to anticipate new developments and improve performance.

I would like, at this juncture, therefore, to express the Commission's sincere gratitude to the UN and all the AU partners for the cooperative working relationship we have so far enjoyed in the promotion of peace and security on the continent and look forward to further strengthening relations and developing complementarity between the two organizations based on unity of vision and purpose.

It is this message that the African side will soon be sharing with the rest of the International Community at the UNSC special Summit that President Jacob Zuma of South Africa will be chairing in New York on 12 January.

I wish this session frank deliberations and positive outcomes for the benefit of regional and global peace and security.

I thank you.