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**PRESENTATION BY AMBASSADOR RAMTANE LAMAMRA, AU
COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY, TO THE SEMINAR ON THE
AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE AND CHALLENGES OF
IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA**

Organized by the Institute of Security Studies and the Security Council Report

**Topic: Building Synergy between the Peace and Security Council of the African
Union and international organizations/institutions**

**19 – 20 March 2009
Millennium Hotel, New York**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to have been invited by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS)/Security Council Report to participate at this seminar on « *the African Peace and Security Architecture and Challenges of implementation in Africa* ». The topic that I have been requested to address you on is a very important one, given the unrelenting efforts of the African Union (AU) to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts, as well as to support efforts towards post-conflict reconstruction where there is need.

It is important to underline at the beginning that the AU has and continues to demonstrate its willingness and commitment to resolve conflicts and crises on the continent. The adoption of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in 2002 and its ongoing implementation, with the Peace and Security Council (PSC) at the core, is a clear indication of the commitment to decisively address peace and security challenges in Africa.

APSA is the base and framework of an African collective security system as spelt out in article 2 of the PSC Protocol. The PSC represents its core (decision-maker) and is supported by the Commission Panel of the Wise, Continental Early Warning System, African Standby Force (and Military Staff Committee) and the Peace Fund. Arrangements between the PSC and Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms on conflict prevention, management and resolution form an integral part of this continental collective security system.

The constraints emanating from inadequacies relating to funding and logistics have an erosive effect on Africa's ability to effectively resolve conflicts and prevent fresh ones. But it should be borne in mind that, in spite of these constraints, Africa contributes in real terms by providing troops, preliminary funding and logistics, as well as providing political initiative and leadership in addressing crises and conflicts. These are done within the AU's comparative advantages in dealing with conflicts on the continent.

I take as one of my premises of reflection on this topic a cardinal provision in the Charter of the United Nations regarding matters of international peace and security, including those pertaining to Africa. It is the provision that the United Nations Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Thus, it could be said that, in acting to promote peace, security and stability in Africa, the AU PSC is acting on behalf of the Security Council. Logically, it is thinkable that the Security Council should provide concrete support to the PSC.

I also take as my other premise the point that, as provided for in UN Charter, cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organisations in matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security is an integral part of collective security. The AU is at the forefront of concretising this provision.

Mr Chairman,

On the side of the AU, texts exist for the regulation of issues relating to peace and security. Article 3 (c) of the Constitutive Act of the AU encourages international cooperation taking account of the Charter of the United Nations.

More importantly, there is a provision in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. Article 17 (relationship with the United Nations and other international organizations) of the Protocol provides that, in the fulfillment of its mandate in the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa, the Peace and Security Council shall cooperate and work closely with the Security Council.

It is further provided that where necessary, recourse will be made to the United Nations to provide the necessary financial, logistical and military support for the African Union's activities in the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa, in keeping with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter on the role of Regional Organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Peace and Security Council will also cooperate and work closely with other relevant international organizations on issues of peace, security and stability in Africa. These organizations may be invited to address meetings of the PSC on issues of common interest. Similarly, joint initiatives can be engaged to further common interests on peace and security

Thus, it is on the basis of provisions in the UN Charter, the Constitutive Act and the PSC Protocol that the PSC has embarked on reaching out to the Security Council and other international organisations to build and enhance cooperation. The successful building of cooperation and collaboration between the PSC and other international organisations/institutions depends on the effective implementation of APSA, through the implementation and application of relevant articles in the PSC Protocol.

Surely, one should ask the question why the AU PSC needs all this cooperation. The response may be long. However, I would like to mention the following aspects, based on experiences of the AU in dealing with situations in Somalia, Cote d'Ivoire and Sudan, just to give a few examples:

- Africa's will to prevent and resolve conflicts cannot be pursued in isolation from international support in terms of resources and logistics;
- When conflicts erupt anywhere in Africa, the AU cannot afford to wait and look on; it has to take action whilst deploying efforts to mobilise international attention and support;
- Conflicts in Africa are, to some extent, interlinked to the international/global environment; hence these conflicts cannot be viewed in restriction to the African context, but within a holistic context;

- The effective addressing of situations of conflict in Africa requires shared analysis, common understanding and coordinated approach between the PSC, the UN and its Security Council and other international organisations, as well as the larger international community;
- Close coordination and cooperation among involved international organisations on a given peace and security challenge brings more value towards efforts for finding practical solutions;

In fact, it was the challenge of bringing back normalcy, peace and stability to Somalia that acted as a catalyst in building a closer working relationship between the PSC and the Security Council. The PSC took a number of important decisions from 2005 to 2007, and also after, which necessitated close cooperation with the Security Council for their effective implementation. It was against this background, among other considerations, that the first joint meeting between the two organs took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 16 June 2006. At the meeting, Somalia was the showcase for the need for cooperation between the two organs.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss and share information on the agendas of the two bodies, exchange views on conflict situations and analyses. This enabled the two organs to reach common positions on particular conflict situations. The cooperation between the PSC and the UNSC shall be pursued within the framework of the provisions contained in the Joint Communiqué adopted by the meeting. Essentially, the two Councils will hold an annual meeting, alternatively in Addis Ababa and New York. The 2009 joint meeting will take place in Addis Ababa prior to the July AU Summit.

Both Councils have committed themselves to the development of a stronger and more structured relationship to address, inter alia, issues of conflict prevention, management and resolution, peacekeeping and peace building, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development.

Furthermore, the two Councils supported the strengthening of the AU capacity within the Commission, such as in areas of planning and logistics and in particular, the establishment of a well-resourced peacekeeping capacity.

This cooperation has received a boost from UN Security Council resolution 1809 (2008), regarding the building of an effective partnership between the United Nations and regional organisations, particularly, the African Union, in order to enable early responses to emerging crises.

The AU PSC, at its 178th meeting held on 13 March 2009, recognised the importance of a more effective strategic relationship between the AU PSC and the UN Security Council, to enable both organs to exercise their respective comparative advantages.

Mr Chairman,

Indeed, any form of cooperation raises challenges. As the PSC and the Security Council further strengthen cooperation, there is need to:

- promote a more regular interaction between the Chairperson of the PSC and the President of the Security Council, as well as better synchronisation between the Security Council and the PSC in terms of decision-making on peace and security issues in Africa;
- involve the Commission and the UN Secretariat in providing in-depth study and analysis on issues to be deliberated upon by the joint meetings;
- promote joint field missions, when so possible, and when circumstances on the ground allow;
- from time to time, through common analysis, provide common parameters for PSC decisions and Security Council resolutions on given issues.

In addition, I should mention the UN Ten- Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU, which was sealed in 2006. Whilst the need for an appropriate mechanism for the provision of flexible, sustainable and predictable funding for AU- led peace support operations remain a major concern for the AU, this capacity building programme will contribute significantly to the enhancement of capacity within the AU Commission.

The launching of annual consultative meetings on conflict prevention, management and resolution, referred to as the Desk-to-Desk Consultation, between the UN Department for Political Affairs and the AU Peace and Security Department, forms part of the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme.

Mr Chairman,

The European Union is a key partner to the AU. Without EU support, the AU would have struggled hard to deploy the now-ended/replaced African Mission in the Sudan (AMIS). The same goes for the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which benefits from financial support from the EU. The Africa Peace Facility established by the European Union at the request of the AU has provided invaluable support for AU peace support operations.

Cooperation between the two sides has started filtering deeper into the peace and security domain. Henceforth, the PSC is in the process of building close cooperation with the European Union Political and Security Committee (EU COPS), through the joint meeting process. The first joint meeting between these two institutions took place in Brussels, Belgium, on 30 September 2008. Interestingly, the meeting discussed peace and security challenges facing each of the two continents.

The meeting exchanged views on the strengthening of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), including African peacekeeping capacities, as well as on crisis and conflict situations in Africa and Europe. The joint meeting will be held once a year, alternatively in Addis Ababa or Brussels.

Certainly, the experiences being accumulated by the PSC in its cooperation with the Security Council and the EU COPS will provide vital lessons for future initiatives for cooperation with other international organizations elsewhere in the world.

In concluding, Mr Chairman, I would like to stress, once more, clearly, Africa's determination to deploy all efforts to prevent conflict and to resolve the ones on the ground. The huge potential in human and natural resources that Africa possesses, as is well known, cannot be fully realised without building an Africa that is at peace with itself and with the world.

I thank you