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PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS IN AFRICA

Let me first of all express my high appreciation for the organizers of this very important meeting for inviting me, in my capacity of Dean of African group in Budapest, to deliver this lecture on this very sensitive issue dealing with peace, security and stability in Africa. It is indeed my pleasure to share with you on this occasion one of our huge challenges faced by Africa: PEACE, SECURITY.

It is one of our priority now, in Africa, because as you know, you will not reach any economic development or integration without resolving the problems and difficulties linked with peace, security and stability. At this stage, I'll try to summarize for you how Africa, or the African Union (AU) tackles this issue of peace and security on both levels: Institutional and Operational.

In this first point I will present the institutional architecture of peace and security in the framework of the African Union.

The Constitutive Act of the African Union was adopted in July 2000 in Lome. It gives priority for development and stability in Africa with the setting up of the Peace and Security Council with a clear mandate to consider and prevent crises and conflicts.

In July 2002 in Durban, the member states of AU adopted the Protocol establishing the peace and security council replacing in the same time the Cairo Declaration of 1993 relating to the Establishment of a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution.

The African Union Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is devoted to strengthen African capacities for managing and resolving conflicts on the continent. It is composed of 5 pillars, namely the 'Peace and Security Council' the 'Continental Early Warning System', the 'Panel of the Wise', the 'Peace Fund' and the 'African Stand by Force'.

1. The Peace and Security Council (PSC)

This is a collective security system and early-warning arrangement aiming to facilitate timely and efficient response to conflict and crisis situations in Africa

This is a permanent decision-making organ of the AU for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, composed of 15 member states, 5 of which are elected for a 3 year renewable term, and the 10 others for 2 years, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution in the region.

The „Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council” (PSC) has been adopted by member states, on 9th July 2002 in Durban, at the birth of the African Union, replacing the Cairo Declaration of 1993 on the Establishment of a Mechanism for conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution.

The CPS builds its actions basically on the following organs:

2. The Panel of the Wise

The Panel of the Wise, officially launched on 18 December 2007, is composed of five highly respected African personalities. On this occasion, the first Head of State of independent Algeria, late President Ahmed Ben BELLA was elected head of this group, which was chaired by him until 2010. This is an advisory body supporting the efforts of the „Peace and Security Council” and of the Chairperson of the Commission in all fields related to the maintenance and promotion of peace, stability and security in Africa.

3. The Continental early warning system (CEWS)

This organ aims to facilitate the anticipation and prevention of conflicts in Africa. It consists of:

An observation and monitoring centre, known as the 'Situation Room' which is located at the Conflict Management Division of the African Union (AUC) in Addis Ababa. It is responsible for data collection and analysis and the observation and monitoring units of the regional Mechanisms, directly linked through appropriate means to the 'Situation Room'.

A Chiefs of Staff Committee, composed of senior staff members of the PSC, is charged with advising and assisting this latter, in all military and security questions.

4. Special fund for Peace (Peace Fund)

A Special Fund for peace was established in order to provide for the 'PSC' financial resources to its peacekeeping missions and other related operational activities. It is funded by resources from the regular budget of the Union (10%), but also contributions coming from sources outside of Africa.

5. The African Standby Force (ASF)

It is an international, continental and multidisciplinary peacekeeping force with military, police and civilian contingents that acts under the direction of the African Union. Headquarters of ASF are located in Addis Ababa. It is composed of standby multidisciplinary contingents, with civilian and military components in their countries of origin, and they are ready for rapid deployment.

This force should have been operational since 2010, but will not be fully operational before 2015. It is composed of regional brigades already in place in each of the five sub-regions of the continent, namely the 'North Africa Regional Standby Brigade' (NASBRIG), an East Africa Standby Brigade (EASBRIG), a Multinational Force of Central Africa (FOMAC), a Southern Africa Standby Brigade (SADCBRIG), and an ECOWAS Standby Brigade (ECOBRIg).

As regards the North African Regional capability (NARC), Libya is the coordinator and is responsible for the development of the North African Standby Brigade (NASBRIG). Though Brigade Headquarters are located in Egypt (Cairo), to two logistics depots are established in Algeria, namely the Regional Logistics Base (BLR) at Djen Djen Jijel (east of Algeria) and the Regional Centre of Excellence (Rouiba).

It should be noted that the 'Solemn Declaration on a Common African Defence and Security Policy' has been adopted at the 2nd Extraordinary Summit of the African Union, in Sirte, on 28 February 2004. This statement reaffirms

“the commitment of the African Union to endow the Union with the requisite capacity for decision-making, in order to ensure effective political-military crisis management aimed at preserving peace and strengthening the security of the African continent in all aspects including the elimination of conflicts”.

On 31 January 2005, member States of the African Union adopted the AFRICAN UNION NON-AGRESSION AND COMMON DEFENCE PACT, intended to promote cooperation among the Member States in the areas of non-aggression and common defense, to prevent conflicts between or inside the states, to ensure resolution of disputes by peaceful means. This pact has established new structures:

The African Peace Academy: to provide a framework for the promotion of peace and security, and development center of an African doctrine for peace.

The African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL) charged with studying border issues. Operational since 2011 and is actively working to standardize African law in this area and help member states to overcome (solve) their border disputes.

In order to respond quickly to crises and conflicts in Africa, in May 2013, during the Summit AU in May 2013 in Addis Ababa, marking the 50th Anniversary of OAU/AU it has been decided to set up the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC), to meet emergencies. This capacity has been created on a temporary basis, and will be replaced by the African Standby Force (ASF) when it becomes fully operational. Thus, the African Union will have flexible and strong force composed of military capabilities and/or police officers, receiving force multipliers and additional support, facilities and resources provided by Member States on a voluntary basis, and according to their capacity.

It is expected to be deployed quickly in order to respond effectively to emergency situations, in the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

II. In the 2nd part of my lecture, I'm going to give an overview about operational level of Peacekeeping missions deployed in Africa with the cooperation of United Nations.

There is a close co-operation between the United Nations and the African Union, as well as between the Security Council of the UN and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. Most peacekeeping missions are operated

in collaboration of the African Union, with the UN. In this case I have to underline the UN responsibility for peacekeeping missions and actions in Africa.

1. African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS)

Mission deployed by the African Union (AU) in Darfur in 2006, which has been replaced in 2008 by The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

This is the largest peacekeeping mission ever implemented by the UN, having a personnel composed of 19555 soldiers, 6432 police officers and 4013 civilians.

Since its establishment, the AMIS/UNAMID lost 192 soldiers and civilians. Its primary aim is to protect civilians, ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, monitoring and verifying implementation of agreements, to promote an open political process and contribute to the promotion of Human rights. It is also responsible for monitoring the situation along Chad's borders with the Central African Republic.

African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM)

It was established on 19th January 2007 by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union, for 06 months initial term. Since then, its mandate has been extended every 6 or 12 months.

In 2010, it had 5250 soldiers, 2550 to Burundi and 2700 to Uganda. By 2011, its number has increased to 8375 and by 2012 to 9700 and by 2013, it has reached 12000, including 850 Djibutians. It will have 20000 members by the end of 2014.

These forces try to intervene between civilians and terrorist organization Al-Shabaab. 250 of their soldiers were killed so far. It aims to provide support to the Transitional Federal Institutions to the stabilization of the situation in the country and the pursuit of dialogue and reconciliation. It also aims to facilitate humanitarian assistance.

African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA)

This is a military mission led by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), sent to support the government of Mali (ECOWAS member) against Islamist rebels in the Northern Mali conflict. Deployment of the mission was authorized by the resolution 2085 20/12/2012 of Security Council of the UN,

which "authorizes the deployment under African leadership, of an international support mission to Mali for an initial period of one year, renewable.

The mission consists of 7700 soldiers, all from member states of ECOWAS. It has been transformed into United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) on 25 April 2013, in support of political process and helping stabilize mali. 8 soldiers were killed since its deployment.

African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA)

It was established on 5 December 2013 by UN Security Council resolution 2127 to stabilise the country as a result of the Central African republic conflict under the Djotodia administration and following the 2013 Central African Republic coup d'état. The mission was deployed on 19 December 2013. by 21 February 2014, it reached a number of 6032 soldiers.

On 7 April 2014 the Misca was placed under the authority of the UN and transformed to MINUSCA, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission int he Central African Republic. Its main tasks include protecting civilian population, providing support to the implementation of the transition including the promotion of the extension of the authority of the RCA.

Under resolution 2149 of 10 April 2014, it can have up to 11820 members, including 10000 soldiers and military observers and 1820 police officers. This entire workforce will be deployed no later than 15 September 2014.

African Mission in Burundi (AMIB)

This mission was established by the African Union on 3 February 2003. It was deployed until the establishment of United Nations Operation in Burundi (UNOB) in order to oversee implementation of cease fire agreements. The main objective of this mission was to provide support to initiatives for disarmament and demobilization, as well as to play an advisory role for the reintegration of combatants.

Conclusion

I would like to conclude, in very brief terms, that there is a real progress on approaches and conceptions of the African Union dealing with this sensitive

issue of peace, security and stability. It is indeed a major priority and one of the main goals of the collective action of the African Union.

As you know there is large preference for regional approaches between countries of the region dealing of the conflict in their area, or direct involvement of the subregional organizations. All the initiatives are taken in these frameworks, with close consultations with the AU and with its support.

Africa is involved now, in some areas with operational presence with the support of UN.

The role of UN in this area of action is very important, especially with the benefit of its large experience, availability of means and materials and the legal basis for such operation.

The partnership AU-UN I think is one of the good roads but needs more close reinforcement.

Thank you.