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**DEBATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS
IN THE AREA OF PEACEKEEPING
NEW YORK, 28 JULY 2014**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ANTONIO TETE, PERMANENT OBSERVER
OF THE AFRICAN UNION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**President of the Security Council for the month of July 2014,
Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General,
Distinguished members of the United Nations Security Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like first of all, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who has not been able to be among us due to constraints beyond her control, to thank the Rwandese Presidency of the Security Council for having taken the initiative of this important debate on the partnership between the United Nations and Regional Organizations in the field of peacekeeping. In so doing, the Government of the Republic of Rwanda is demonstrating, once more, its unwavering commitment to the enhancement of the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, as well as to the promotion, alongside the other two African members of the Security Council, namely, Nigeria and Chad, of the objectives and positions of the Continent. We highly appreciate the invaluable contribution of Rwanda to African-led peace support and peacekeeping operations.

Certainly, today's debate is timely, as it is taking place against the backdrop of an ever increasing engagement on the ground by the African Union and its Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution. The meeting affords us the opportunity to take stock of our joint efforts and agree on practical measures to enhance our collective capacity to address the challenges we face in the area of peace and security.

In the conduct of this debate, we must build on the earlier deliberations of the Security Council on the partnership between the United Nations and Regional Organizations, including the financing of African Union-led peace support and peacekeeping operations, which were initiated notably, by the Republic of South Africa during its membership of this august body. Let me seize this opportunity to welcome the continuity of African action in the Security Council, as this is undeniably a guarantee of effectiveness, as well as the enhancement of the coordination among the three African members of this Council, within the framework of what we call the A3.

We should also build on the rich experience gained over the recent years. From the Darfur region of Sudan to Mali, through to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and the Central African Republic, there are now many examples that illustrate the advantages and potential of a flexible approach to the challenges to peace and security on the African continent and the need to maximize the complementarity between the United Nations and Regional arrangements, in particular the African Union.

I wish to express the AU's appreciation to the Security Council for the sustained attention that it continues to give to the promotion of peace and security on the Continent and the continued support provided to Africa's efforts. The continued UN logistical support package to the African Union Mission in Somalia, the deployment of several peacekeeping

operations on the Continent and many other initiatives are an eloquent illustration of this commitment.

I would like to reiterate the gratitude of the African Union to the United Nations Secretary-General for his unflinching commitment to peace, security and stability on the Continent. I note with satisfaction the continued strengthening of the partnership between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission within the framework of the relevant provisions of the UN Charter, particularly, Chapter 8, and the guidance provided by the relevant decision-making bodies, namely, the UN Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

**President of the Security Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In recent years, the African Union and its Regional Mechanisms have shown their determination to fully play their role in the promotion of peace, security and stability on the Continent. Nothing better illustrates this commitment than the deployment of several peace support operations in different regions of the Continent. In so doing, the objective is not only to give effect to the relevant provisions of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, but also to contribute, in complementarity with the United Nations, to collective security as provided for by the United Nations Charter.

In fact, most of the African-led peace support operations aim at establishing conditions conducive for the subsequent launching of multidimensional peacekeeping missions by the United Nations, to support the long-term stabilization of the situations in the countries concerned and their socio-economic recovery. The operations are carried out in unstable environments where peace has not yet been fully established. Their success requires taking important risks and the use, if necessary, of coercive measures to create conditions conducive to the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

It is in this context that the African Union deployed its Mission in Darfur, before the latter was transformed into a hybrid operation, namely, the UNAMID. Based on a judicious and innovative combination of the respective comparative advantages of the African Union and the United Nations, this operation, by its very nature, is evidence of an undeniable capacity to adapt to the situation. In this regard, I would like to pay tribute to the UNAMID and its leadership for the outstanding work done on the ground in particularly difficult conditions as a number of armed groups have not yet joined the peace process, despite the sustained efforts made to this end by the Joint Chief Mediator and other international actors.

It is also in this context that the African Union and the Regional Mechanisms concerned, namely ECOWAS and ECCAS, deployed operations in Mali, with AFISMA and in the Central African Republic, with MISCA. The United Nations has already taken over from AFISMA, through MINUSMA and is preparing to integrate MISCA into MINUSCA. Obviously, the initial stabilization efforts carried out by AFISMA and MISCA, and the sacrifices made by the personnel of these Missions have greatly facilitated the task of the United Nations. I wish to

pay tribute to the troop and police contributing countries for their commitment and determination.

It is also in this same context that the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) operates. Clearly, in the seven years of its deployment, AMISOM and the Somali security forces have made significant progress in the fight against the terrorist group al-Shabaab and the extension of State authority. We owe the progress especially to the courage of the Mission personnel and the huge sacrifices made by the region, through IGAD and the troop and police contributing countries. I reiterate the gratitude of the African Union to them. At the same time, we should reckon that much remains to be done to establish appropriate conditions for a more sustained international commitment, particularly through a classic United Nations peacekeeping operation.

All these examples testify to the close complementarity that exists between the African action and that of the United Nations, which contribute to the promotion of collective security as provided for in the Charter. Furthermore, they amply demonstrate that, in the face of increasingly complex challenges to peace and security on the Continent, success lies in the coherence of our objectives, the judicious and flexible use of available resources, the pooling of our efforts and the coordination of our actions on the ground.

It is on this basis that the African Union has been, for several years, advocating a dynamic partnership between the United Nations and Regional Organizations, based on a flexible and innovative interpretation of the provisions of Chapter 8 of the United Nations Charter. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its meeting held in New York in September 2013, reiterated the importance of such an approach and recalled the principles which should underlie it.

Significant progress has been made. As I pointed out earlier, the coordination between the UN Secretariat and the AU Commission continues to be enhanced. More specifically, with regard to peace support operations, we are grateful to the UN Secretariat for the crucial support it provided in the field of planning, as well as management and mission support, as particularly illustrated by the examples of AFISMA and MISCA.

The Security Council and the Peace and Security Council are also endeavoring to further strengthening their partnership and encourage greater synergy between the United Nations and the African Union. From this perspective, the decision of the Security Council to authorize the establishment of a logistical support package for AMISOM is very significant. It is clear that the results obtained are attributable to this support and the contributions by other bilateral and multilateral partners of the African Union, particularly, the European Union and the United States of America. More recently, the establishment of an Intervention Brigade, with a strengthened mandate, within the MONUSCO, and a Protection Force within the UNMISS, with troops provided by African countries, is yet another illustration of the advantages of an innovative partnership between the African stakeholders and the United Nations.

While welcoming the progress made, the African Union is convinced about the need to go further and be even more innovative, especially considering that our capacity for action and

our efficiency will be greatly enhanced. I would like, in this regard, to particularly stress the issue of financing of African-led peace support operations. The experience in the recent years has amply revealed that one of the greatest constraints faced by the African Union and its Regional Mechanisms is the issue of flexible, sustainable and predictable funding for their operations.

It is crucial that a lasting solution be found to this question. The recommendations of the Prodi Report, which are based on a thorough analysis of the evolution of peacekeeping and the related challenges, have become more topical than ever. The case of Somalia, through AMISOM, has shown that a judicious combination of funding through United Nations assessed contributions and resources provided, on a voluntary basis, by the European Union and other AU partners, is the most practical way of advancing our common goals. We urge the Security Council to take the decisions expected of it on the issue of funding, bearing in mind that in taking the initiative to deploy operations on the ground, the AU and its Regional Mechanisms act on behalf of the Security Council, which, after all, has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

**President of the Security Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

While calling upon the Security Council to assist in finding a lasting solution to the issue of funding of African-led peace support operations, I am also mindful of the responsibilities of the Continent. In this respect, there is little doubt that African countries, in addition to contributing the required troops and police personnel for the peace support operations and the enormous sacrifices made within this framework, have significantly increased their contributions to the funding of these operations. The pledges made by African countries during pledging conferences organized by the African Union for AFISMA and MISCA are testimony to this renewed commitment. Efforts will continue to be pursued within the broader context of generating increased resources from within the Continent for the funding of the African Union-led peace efforts on a more sustainable basis. However, it should be understood that this effort cannot substitute the responsibility of the Security Council for maintaining international peace and security.

I would like to seize this opportunity to express our gratitude to the international partners supporting our operations. The funding provided by the European Union, through the African Peace Facility, and by other partners, as well as the logistical support extended by the United States, have greatly facilitated our action.

In parallel with the deployment of peace support operations, the African Union is also building its long-term capacity through the operationalization of the African Standby Force. The latter will make it possible to find appropriate answers to some of the shortcomings noted in the recent operations conducted by the African Union, as they relate to planning, force generation, command and control and mission support. On the basis of the recommendations of the Gambari Report on the Assessment of the African Standby Force and its Rapid Deployment Capability, a number of steps are already being taken, with the view of attaining full operational capability by 2015. In this respect, we welcome the renewed commitment of the United Nations to support our efforts on the basis of the

recommendations of the consultative mission which visited Addis Ababa in May 2014. In the meantime, the establishment of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) will significantly strengthen both the speed of our response to emergency situations and its robustness.

In conclusion, I hope that this meeting of the Security Council will mark a new step in the enhancement of the partnership between the United Nations and Regional Organizations, in particular, the African Union. More than ever before, the complex nature of the challenges we are currently facing requires enhanced synergies, as well as greater flexibility in the interpretation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter and the use of the tools at our disposal. Beyond the issue of funding of African-led peace support operations, we must pay particular attention to the modalities of transition from African to United Nations operations. We look forward to the lessons learned exercise that the United Nations Secretariat is planning to undertake, in consultation with the African Union, on the transition from AFISMA to MINUSMA and the imminent one from MISCA to MINUSCA. This exercise should be the occasion for an open and constructive debate on the best modalities for successful transitions from African Union to United Nations operations. We should not shy away of any of the issues involved, especially those relating to the timelines within which a transition should take place, bearing in mind that the creation of conditions conducive to a successful take over by the United Nations requires time, the political role of the African Union and its Regional Mechanisms in the post-transition phase should continue, as well as the appointment of the leadership of the successor UN Mission.

I thank you.