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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
511TH MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
29 MAY 2015

PSC/PR/COMM.(DXI)

COMMUNIQUE

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 511th meeting held on 29 May 2015, adopted the following decision on the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in the affected countries in West Africa:

Council,

1. **Takes note of, and welcomes with satisfaction,** the briefing provided by the Commission on the progress made, to date, in the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in the affected countries in West Africa. Council **also takes note** of the statements made by the representatives of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as by the representative of the United Nations Office to the African Union;
2. **Recalls** its earlier communiqués and press statements on the Ebola outbreak, in particular communiqués PSC/AHG/COMM.3(CDLXXXIV) adopted at its, 484th meeting held on 29 January 2015 at the level of Heads of State and Government and PSC/PR/COMM.(CDL) adopted at its 450th meeting held on 19 August 2014, which authorized the deployment of the AU-led military, civilian and humanitarian mission, as well as decision Ext/EX.CL/Dec.1(XVI) on the same issue, adopted by the 16th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa on 8 September 2014;
3. **Notes, with satisfaction,** the significant improvement of the situation in the Ebola-affected countries, in general and, in particular, the declaration, by the World Health Organization, on 8 May 2015, of Liberia as an Ebola-Free Country. Council **looks forward** to the complete eradication of the epidemic in all of the most affected countries. In this regard, Council **commends** the Commission for the remarkable achievements made in the fight against the Ebola virus disease in West Africa. Council **also commends** the governments and people of the most affected countries, namely, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, for their resilience in the face of the Ebola Virus epidemic and **urges them** to remain extra vigilant until all the three most affected countries are declared, by the WHO, as Ebola-Free;
4. **Further notes with satisfaction** that the EVD outbreak emergency is over and ASEOWA is now preparing for its exit at the end of its current mandate on 18 August 2015. In this regard, Council **expresses its deep appreciation** to the brave ASEOWA volunteers and health professionals, who were deployed in the affected countries in West Africa, for putting their lives at great risk, for their invaluable contribution to the fight against Ebola, and **offers condolences** to the families of the volunteers who paid their ultimate sacrifice while trying to save lives. Council **stresses** the need for the countries of origin to give a heroes' welcome to all healthcare volunteers returning from the Ebola affected countries and to avoid stigmatizing and discriminating them;

5. **Reiterates its deep appreciation**, once again, to the African private sector for responding generously to the appeal made by the Chairperson of the Commission and contributing to the fight against Ebola through the Africa Against Ebola Solidarity Trust (AAEST), which they established, as well as to the African Mobile Network Operators, which launched a continent-wide SMS campaign to mobilize additional resources from African citizens. Council **encourages** the continuation of the SMS initiative and requests Member States to facilitate this by granting required approval through their national regulatory authorities to the Mobile Network Operators. Council **also reiterates its deep appreciation** to the African citizens who participated in the campaign and to all AU bilateral and multilateral partners for their continued support in the fight against the Ebola epidemic;
6. **Calls** on all Member States, once again, which have not yet done so, to immediately lift all travel bans and restrictions and to respect the principle of free movement of people, as well as to take the required steps for the resumption of flights to the most affected countries, consistent with decision Ext/EX.CL/Dec.1(XVI), scientific advice by the WHO and the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Council **further reiterates its appeal** to the AU partners to assist in the fight against stigmatization and discrimination of people from the countries most affected by the Ebola virus epidemic;
7. **Requests** the Commission to review the AU Humanitarian Policy Framework with a view to developing a comprehensive disaster management protocol and filling all existing gaps in the coordination of the Commission's responses to disasters and emergencies consistent with Article 15 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council and other relevant AU instruments, for submission to the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2016;
8. **Looks forward** to the successful convening of the International Conference on Africa's Fight against Ebola under the theme: ***"Africa Helping Africa in the Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction"***, which is scheduled to take place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from 20 to 21 July 2015. In this regard, Council **urges** all Member States to participate at the highest level, at the International Conference;
9. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.