



**1<sup>ST</sup> JOINT RETREAT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE  
POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON ENHANCING  
COORDINATION ON CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MEDIATION**

**DEBRE ZEIT, ETHIOPIA  
15 OCTOBER 2015**

**AU PSC/EU PSC.Retreat.1**

**CO-CHAIRS CONCLUSIONS**



## CO-CHAIRS CONCLUSIONS OF THE JOINT AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (AU PSC)/ EUROPEAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE (EU PSC) RETREAT

1. The AU PSC and the EU PSC held their inaugural Joint Retreat in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia, on 15 October 2015, just on the eve of their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Consultative Meeting. After extensive deliberations on the theme of the Joint Retreat namely 'Conflict Prevention, Mediation, Capacity Building and Migration', the Retreat led to the following key conclusions:

- i. re-affirmed their commitment to continue closely working together towards further enhancing cooperation and coordination of efforts on **conflict prevention and mediation**. In this regard, they agreed on the need to further enhance coordination between the AU and EU early warning mechanisms, further build-up expertise, for instance mediation and to step-up their cooperation towards early responses to threats to peace and security.
- ii. noted with deep concern that terrorism and violent extremism have become the most pressing and devastating threats to peace, security and stability, especially in Africa and also in Europe. They called for a more coordinated robust international response, including timely use of intelligence to prevent and fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever, whenever and by whomever it is committed. They reiterated their strong condemnation of all acts of terrorism and agreed to address all conditions in which terrorism thrives. With regards to African capacities both Organs recognized that the fight against terrorism and violent extremism requires specific capabilities within a comprehensive approach. In addition, they stressed need to consider modalities for providing necessary assistance, including logistical support to the affected countries.
- iii. recognised that **migration** is a common challenge and a common responsibility for countries of origin, transit and destination. The issue of migration can only be solved through common approaches, close cooperation and solidarity, and providing multidimensional solutions . In this regard, they underlined the importance of high level political dialogues and the upcoming Valetta Summit.
- iv. committed to enhance their dialogue and coordination to improve **African capacities** for peace and security, through a range of means, with a particular focus on capacity-building. In this regard, the AU PSC and the EU PSC reiterated their respective commitments to further strengthen the process of the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).



- v. recognised that the **African Peace Facility** has played a crucial role in supporting AU operations and the APSA and stressed the need to sustain and enhance the APF. They welcomed the decision of the AU Assembly to contribute 25% of the AU budget on peace and security activities by year 2020.
  - vi. reiterated the imperative for predictable and sustainable funding for AU-led peace efforts. In this regard, they look forward to the effective follow-up of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on the Review of UN Peace Operations and the recommendations contained in the report of the UN Secretary General on the future of UN Peace Operations. They stressed the importance of the planned consultations between the AU, the UN and other stakeholders with the view to agreeing on sustainable and predictable funding arrangements for AU-led peace operations undertaken with the consent of the UN Secretary General, particularly those involving peace enforcement and counter-terrorism. Agreed to cooperate more closely in preventing conflicts and tackling early signs of potential crisis situations, as well as addressing the root causes of fragility and instability.
2. More specifically, and moving forward, the AU PSC and the EU PSC agreed to further enhance their cooperation through concrete steps, particularly the following:
- i. organizing cross-briefings to the AU PSC and EU PSC on peace and security issues;
  - ii. undertaking further joint field missions to conflict and post-conflict areas. In this respect, they agreed to identify the country for the next visit by the end of November 2015;
  - iii. organizing joint information gathering and analysis on the ground in conflict and post-conflict areas;
  - iv. organizing regular VTCs, including those covering the monthly programmes of work of the AU PSC and the EU PSC;
  - v. organizing further joint retreats of AU, RECs/RMs and EU mediators, and Special Envoys/Representatives for building synergy and harmony of initiatives. They requested the AU Commission and the EU to organize, by early 2016, a seminar on African and European mediators;
  - vi. mobilization for support toward effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty as part of conflict prevention.