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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
1025<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

24 AUGUST 2021  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR.(1025(2021))

PRESS STATEMENT

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) dedicated its 1025<sup>th</sup> meeting, held virtually on 24 August 2021, on the proposed finalisation and operationalisation of the African Humanitarian Agency of the AU (AfHA), and following its deliberations;

Council recalled the relevant provisions of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, including Articles 6 (f) and 7(1p), which mandates Council to support and facilitate humanitarian action in situations of armed conflict or serious natural disasters.

Council further recalled its earlier decisions on humanitarian challenges in Africa, in particular Press Statement [PSC/PR/BR (DCCLXII)], adopted at its 762<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 9 April 2018.

Council also recalled the AU Assembly decision AU/Dec.604(XXVI) that adopted the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness which endorsed the recommendation for the establishment of the AfHA to ensure AU's response to humanitarian crisis on the Continent.

Council welcomed the opening statement by H.E. Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the AU and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for August, the presentation made by Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, H.E. Mrs Amira Elfadil on the progress made in prospect of the finalisation of the draft Statute and the operationalisation of the African Humanitarian Agency as well as the intervention made by the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security H.E Ambassador Bankole Adeoye.

Council commended the AU Commission for the efforts made for the finalisation of the draft Statute and operationalisation of the AfHA and requested the Commission to expedite the process so that the consideration of the said Draft Statutes may be concluded by the STC on Migration, refugees and IDPs as well as the STC on Justice and Legal Matters.

Council proposed to ensure that the draft structure of the AfHA is considered, through the appropriate institutional process, leading to its possible submission to the Executive Council in February 2022 for adoption.

Council expressed its deep concern at the humanitarian situation in different parts of the continent and at their devastating consequences to the populations. Council further expressed its deep concern on the growing scale and complexity of the natural disasters and their exacerbation by climate change and outbreak of pandemics/epidemics that are negatively affecting human development, and causing dire suffering in Africa.

Council underscored that the establishment of AfHA aimed at enhancing the AU efforts towards building an African humanitarian mechanism to effectively address the humanitarian challenges facing the Continent and strengthening continental, regional and national capabilities for prevention, early warning, early response and early post conflict or post-natural disaster reconstruction.

Council requested the AU Commission to ensure that the AfHA has Regional presence through the establishment of the Regional Humanitarian Centres in the five geographical Regions of the AU, to enable close cooperation with AU Member States and RECs/RMs at National and Regional Level.

Council reiterated its call for the need to operationalize the AfHA, by providing it with resources from Africa's own resources, including financial resources, to ensure its independence and effectiveness, as well as ensure predictable, reliable and sustainable resources to enable AU fulfil its humanitarian responsibilities. In this regard, Council encouraged all Member States to implement the Assembly Decision to increase AU Humanitarian Fund from 2% to 4% of Member States' assessed contributions and to draw lessons from the Peace Fund on its management.

Council encouraged Member States to continue implementing the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the 2009 AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (The Kampala Convention), the Humanitarian Policy Framework (HPF), the Disaster Management Policy and the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC), with a view to address humanitarian challenges in Africa. Council encouraged Member States which have not yet done so, to consider to sign, ratify and domesticate all African and international instruments related to the IDPs, refugees and humanitarian assistance in general.

Council supports the upcoming African Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference, to be convened, from 17 to 19 November 2021, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, under the aegis of H.E. President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Champion of the 2019 AU theme, "Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa" and His Excellency President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, Chairman of the African Union. The Humanitarian Summit and the Pledging Conference in November 2021, will provide a new impetus to the process of the operationalisation of the African Humanitarian Agency.

Council agreed to remain actively seized of the matter.