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STATEMENT

BY

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AND

CHAIR, UNITED NATIONS PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

DURING

THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

ON

***“Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and
sub-regional organizations: UN-AU Peace and Security
Cooperation: Chapter VIII application and the future of
APSA”***

SECURITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

24 MAY 2016

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Security Council Open Debate on “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub regional organizations: UN-AU Peace and Security Cooperation: Chapter VIII application and the future of APSA”

24 May 2016

The President of the Security Council,

Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping operations

Under-secretary General and head of UN Office to the AU

Permanent Observer of the African Union

Distinguished members of the AU Peace and Security Council

Distinguished Colleague Ambassadors and delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by commending you, for organizing this important and timely open debate on the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. We appreciate the detailed Concept Note to guide this debate. I thank you for inviting me to brief this meeting, in my capacity as Chair of the Peace-building Commission. I also recognize the presence of members of the African Union Peace and Security Council in today’s meeting. I welcome you them New York.

Over the past decade, the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, and other sub-regional organizations in Africa has grown significantly, in line with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. Our cooperation in the area of peace and security has been critical to our collective progress and achievements.

Mr President,

Today's debate provides us an opportunity to review the status of this vital strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

On 27 April 2016, the Security Council (this Council) and the General Assembly adopted identical resolutions (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) on the review of UN peace-building architecture.

These resolutions are comprehensive and far-reaching documents. They have introduced the notion of "sustaining peace" for national, regional and international efforts aimed at "preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict".

These resolutions have further strengthened the foundation of our cooperation.

Mr President,

Current global realities include an increasing number of violent conflicts, exacerbated by the deepening refugee crisis, rising terrorist threats and violent extremism.

There is clearly a need to focus on conflict prevention and addressing root causes of conflict. The primacy of politics should guide our collective work in peace operations. We must not let situations deteriorate into violent conflicts for us to react with security measures.

We need to change our mind set, away from military engagements towards prevention of conflicts. We can achieve this through horizon scanning, shared joint analysis, dialogue, mediation and accompaniment.

We must re-focus our work on conflict resolution rather than on conflict management. This is the essence of our collective efforts for 'sustaining peace'.

The peace and security challenges we face are too complex and interlinked for any single organization to address them alone. It calls for our collective action.

To succeed in our goal of sustaining peace, we need to reframe and reprioritize our responses. We must never forget that peace is a core task of the UN. It must run through all our collective efforts ranging from conflict prevention, peace-building, peacekeeping, reconstruction and development.

This renewed approach to sustaining peace would allow us to best adapt to today's global realities. Rather than wait until a crisis breaks out and then make a default/template recourse in response, we need to integrate sustaining peace in our security, development and human rights agenda. We must put an emphasis on conflict prevention and addressing the root causes of conflicts.

Mr. President,

The twin resolutions on the review of the peace-building architecture foresee a UN Peace-building Commission that is proactively focused on assisting countries to prevent conflict and sustain peace.

The PBC is expected to become a more efficient and flexible convening platform for policy dialogue, available to all countries seeking support to achieve sustainable peace. We are fully committed to do that.

In our commitment, we will continue to strengthen national ownership and leadership in our engagement, because we are convinced that the responsibility for sustaining peace is shared between the government and all other national stakeholders, including youth, women and civil society.

Mr President,

The new resolutions on the UN peacebuilding architecture stress the importance of the partnership and cooperation between the

United Nations and the regional and sub-regional organizations, in particular the African Union.

The Peace-building Commission has been working closely with the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities in Africa to increase synergies, enhance coherence and complementarity of our joint peace-building efforts.

For Instance, we have been able to work closely and speaking in one voice to complement our joint efforts to sustain peace in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the CAR and Burundi.

Similarly, over the past year, the Commission has increased its focus on thematic, cross cutting and regional peacebuilding challenges. The Commission held regional discussions on Peacebuilding in West Africa in January and April this year.

The discussions provided a unique opportunity to look at the growing cross-border challenges beyond the confines of specific countries. The discussions also centred on the strategies to address the challenges working with the countries in the region, the African Union, ECOWAS, the African Development Bank and other relevant international and regional actors.

We are looking forward to further strengthen and deepen this partnership in view of the new Roadmap for the Africa's peace and Security Architecture (APSA). We are aware that this road map would provide a framework for practical measures to re-orient the the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework (AUPCRD)

Mr President,

The Peace-building Commission intends to use the momentum generated from the new resolutions to further enhance and institutionalize cooperation with the African Union.

We will aim to arrive at an agreed framework for regular consultations, exchange of information and analysis, and

opportunities for joint initiatives aimed at sustaining peace in Africa.

I am planning to lead a delegation of the PBC to West Africa in mid-June, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Senegal to draw attention to the peace-building priorities and needs within the context of post-Ebola recovery. Our visit to Senegal, the current chair of ECOWAS, will provide an opportunity to discuss the regional peace-building challenges and priorities.

As we work together to strengthen our partnership, we intend to leave no one behind.

We must focus on inclusive participation of the youth in our peace-building efforts. It is evident that investing in young people guarantees peace and security, as well as development. It is our responsibility to provide the youth with the opportunity to play their role in peace-building.

Similarly, we must also acknowledge the importance of women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building. We must particularly include gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to sustaining peace, and promote the gender dimensions of peace-building, including through the strengthening of women's meaningful participation in peace-building.

Importantly, we also look forward to working with Dr. Donald Kaberuka in his continued efforts to raise increased funds for peace building in Africa.

In conclusion,

Mr President, we must link our joint peace-building efforts to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the AU Agenda 2063 for Africa's Development.

The opportunities contained in these mutually reinforcing and coherent frameworks must be supported to achieve inclusive

growth, sustainable development and peace and security for Africa.

I thank you.