



AFRICAN UNION REPRESENTATIVE SPEECH DURING THE
CLOSING CEREMONY OF EASF FTX 17 AT GEBEIT, PORT
SUDAN ON SUNDAY,
3 DECEMBER 2017

- **THE GUEST OF HONOUR, HON ALI MOHAMED SALIM, THE STATE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EASF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY,**
- **HONORABLE MINISTERS FROM THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION**
- **DISTINGUISHED CHIEFS OF DEFENSE STAFF OF THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION,**
- **INSPECTORS GENERAL OF POLICE OF THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION,**
- **AMBASSADORS OF THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION,**
- **MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,**
- **CHAIR OF THE FRIENDS OF EASF AND YOUR TEAM,**
- **AU COLLEAGUES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER REGIONS,**
- **THE DIRECTOR EASF – DR ABDILLAHI OMAR BOUH**
- **EXERCISE DIRECTOR,**
- **HEAD OF MISSION,**
- **KEY EXERCISE PLAYERS, AND DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS,**
- **DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS,**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS,**
- **ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED,**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, **GOOD AFTERNOON! ASALAAM
ALEIKUM**

ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION, ALLOW ME TO START MY REMARKS BY EXPRESSING OUR PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN, AND ESPECIALLY THE SUDANESE DEFENCE FORCES FOR GRACIOUSLY HOSTING THE **EASF FTX MASHARIKI SALAM (2)**. WE APPRECIATE THE WARM HOSPITALITY ACCORDED TO US SINCE OUR ARRIVAL IN THIS COUNTRY LAST WEEK.

LET ME ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE DIRECTOR EASF FOR INVITING THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXERCISE AS OBSERVERS. WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS FTX FROM THE PLANNING STAGES, TO ITS EXECUTION HERE IN GEBEIT, PORT SUDAN.

WHILE THIS GESTURE WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SHARING EXPERIENCES AND BEST PRACTICES BETWEEN THE TWO TRAINING LEVELS OF THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE (ASF), IT WAS ALSO IN LINE WITH THE DECLARATION OF THE 2ND EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE, SAFETY AND SECURITY (STCDSS); HELD IN ADDIS ABABA ON 15 JAN 2016, WHICH URGED THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC), THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECS) AND THE REGIONAL MECHANISMS (RMS), TO CONDUCT AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR, CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL EXERCISES IN THE FORM OF SIMULATION, MAP EXERCISES (MAPEX) AND COMMAND POST EXERCISES (CPX).

THE STCDSS ALSO DIRECTED THAT SUCH EXERCISES SHOULD AMONG OTHERS, FOCUS ON FIVE KEY PRIORITY AREAS OF; COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS (C3IS), MEDICAL SUPPORT, STRATEGIC LIFT, MISSION SUPPORT AND JOINT PLANNING.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

EASF FTX MASHARIKI SALAM (2), IS THE THIRD EASF FTX, BUT THE FIRST ONE SINCE IT ATTAINED FULL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY (FOC) IN 2014. THE EASF, AS PART OF THE OVERALL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE OF THE AFRICAN UNION, THAT HAS THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF PROMOTING PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY IN AFRICA, ENSURED, THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FTX WERE NOT ONLY CONFINED TO GAPS IDENTIFIED IN PREVIOUS FTXS, BUT ALSO ADDRESSED THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE DRAFT MAPUTO 5 YEAR WORK PLAN ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE ASF FROM 2016-2020.

FOR THIS REASON, WE HAVE OBSERVED THAT THIS FTX WAS UNIQUE IN MANY WAYS. IT WAS METICULOUSLY PLANNED AND EFFICIENTLY EXECUTED. IT ADDRESSED EXISTING GAPS IN THE AREAS OF C3IS, STRATEGIC LIFT COORDINATION, MISSION SUPPORT, MEDICAL SUPPORT, JOINT PLANNING AND INTEROPERABILITY.

THE FTX ALSO PRACTICED THE EASF ON MULTINATIONAL AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL NATURE OF AU PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS (PSOS) BY BRINGING TOGETHER THE MILITARY, POLICE AND CIVILIAN COMPONENTS FROM ALL TEN MEMBER STATES OF THE REGION IN AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF CONFLICT PREVENTION, CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND POST CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE FTX THEME OF '**PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION**'.

WE HAVE ESPECIALLY OBSERVED THE REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT IN NUMBERS AND A HUGE PRESENCE OF THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EXERCISE. WHAT WAS EVEN MORE ENCOURAGING IS THAT THEY WERE ALL DRAWN FROM THE AFRICAN STANDBY CAPABILITY (ASC) CIVILIAN ROSTER, WHICH IS RECOMMENDED AS THE FIRST OPTION FOR RECRUITMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN AU PSOS.

WE HAVE ALSO NOTED EASF DEPLOYMENT OF TWO NEW CAPABILITIES IN THIS EXERCISE. THIS INCLUDES THE NEW COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (C3IS) ASSETS AND THE NEW MISSION STARTUP KIT FOR A DEPLOYABLE FORCE HQS IN THE FIELD. THESE TWO CAPABILITIES HAVE GONE A LONG WAY IN ENHANCING EASF OPERATIONAL READINESS.

THERE ARE A FEW AREAS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN FUTURE EXERCISES. THIS INCLUDES THE POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESS (PDMP). THERE IS NEED TO THOROUGHLY EXERCISE THE MECHANISMS OF STREAMLINING AND COORDINATING THE POLITICAL DECISION MAKING PROCESS BETWEEN THE AU, THE RECS/RMS AND MEMBER STATES TO ENSURE TIMELY RELEASE OF PLEDGED CAPABILITIES FOR DEPLOYMENT WHEN NEED ARISES.

ADDITIONALLY, WHILE WE ACKNOWLEDGE EASF INVITATION TO AUC TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE AS OBSERVERS, IT IS PROPOSED THAT IN FUTURE, AUC BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AS AN ACTOR SO AS TO PROVIDE MORE REALISM DURING EXERCISE PLAY.

EASF IS ALSO ENCOURAGED TO INVOLVE OTHER RECS/RMS IN FUTURE EXERCISES TO ENHANCE THEIR INTERACTION AND SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

AT THE AU COMMISSION LEVEL, A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO BOOST THE CAPABILITIES OF THE ASF AND THE RECS/RMS ARE IN PROGRESS. THEY INCLUDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITATIVE POLICIES, ACQUISITION OF ASSETS AND ENHANCEMENT OF MISSION SUPPORT CAPABILITIES. ALL THESE ARE DESIGNED TO ADDRESS NEW AND EMERGING THREATS IN THE AREAS OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA.

ON POLICY DEVELOPMENT, THE COMMISSION IS FACILITATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF: THE PSO DOCTRINE AND ASF CONCEPT; THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK BETWEEN THE AU AND THE RECS/RMS ON THE DEPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE ASF; GUIDELINES ON THE RECRUITMENT, DEPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL FOR ASF OPERATIONS; THE CIVILIAN STRATEGIC SUPPORT GROUP STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES(SOPS); THE POLICE STRATEGIC SUPPORT GROUP RULES OF PROCEDURE; THE POLICY FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICING IN AU PSOS AND POLICIES ON CONDUCT , DISCIPLINE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & ABUSE (SEA) IN AU PSOS. THIS IS INTENDED TO ENSURE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF OUR PERSONNEL IN AU PSOS.

ON TRAINING AND EXERCISES, THE COMMISSION IS FACILITATING THE DRAFTING OF: THE GUIDELINES ON EXERCISE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT; THE CONDUCT OF EXERCISE PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING AND THE ASF TRAINING DIRECTIVE FOR THE PERIOD 2018 -2020.

ON ENHANCEMENT OF MISSION SUPPORT CAPABILITIES, THE COMMISSION IS IN THE PROCESS OF ACQUIRING NEW ASF C3IS CAPABILITY. IT IS ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF OPERATIONALIZING THE NEW CONTINENTAL LOGISTICS BASE IN DOULA, CAMEROON. THESE TWO WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A COMEX AND AU LOGS EX IN 2018.

THE AUC HAS ALSO EMBARKED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STRATEGIC LIFT CAPABILITY AND THE CONTINENTAL & REGIONAL MOVEMENT COORDINATION CENTERS (C/RMCC) IN

ALL REC/RMS. IT IS ALSO DEVELOPING THE AU COMMON COSTS LIST, WHICH HIGHLIGHTS THOSE COSTS THAT THE AFRICAN UNION WILL COVER THROUGH THE AU PEACE FUND WHEN MANDATING, DEPLOYING, MANAGING AND LIQUIDATING PSOS.

THE AUC HAS ALSO CONSTITUTED A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO VERIFY, CONFIRM AND VALIDATE THE OPERATIONAL READINESS OF ASF STANDBY PLEDGED CAPABILITIES. THE TEAM HAS VISITED ALL THE REGIONS AND THEIR REPORT IS EXPECTED SOON.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IN CONCLUSION THE AUC TEAM ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATES THE EASF FOR SUCCESSFULLY PLANNING AND EXECUTING THIS FTX. WE ALSO COMMEND ALL THE EASF MEMBER STATES FOR AVAILING THEIR PERSONNEL, RESOURCES AND ASSETS TO ENSURE THAT THE EXERCISE WAS NOT ONLY A GREAT

SUCCESS BUT ALSO ACHIEVED THE DESIRED OBJECTIVES. AUC
LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH EASF
AS WITH OTHER RECS/RMS IN OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF
STRENGTHENING THE OPERATIONAL READINESS OF THE ASF. I
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.