

UN Envoy reaffirms the UN's commitment to a comprehensive approach to crisis management in Africa



Special Representative Menkorios (Far right) listens to Members of the AU Peace and Security Council, during its meeting of 19 August 2013

Addis Ababa, 21 August 2013 - The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), Mr Haile Menkerios, has reaffirmed the UN's commitment to continue advocating for a comprehensive approach to crisis management in Africa; an approach that focuses on political dialogue, security and rule of law, human rights protection and effective humanitarian response, alongside efforts to prevent the spread of conflicts in the continent.

Mr. Menkorios was addressing the 391st meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council, on World Humanitarian Day, 19 August 2013, at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. During the meeting attended by AU Partners and representatives of civil society, the Council was briefed by the AU Commission on the humanitarian situation and the protection of civilians in the Central African Republic (CAR) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Mr. Menkerios extended the appreciation of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the AU for showing solidarity with the UN in commemorating World Humanitarian Day, noting that the day was dedicated to honoring the memory of UN colleagues, including SRSG Sergio Vieira De Mello, who was killed in a bomb attack in Iraq in 2003.

He indicated that the UNOAU is supporting the planning of the recently authorized establishment of an African-led International Support Mission for the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR), through the Office's participation in the Technical Assessment Mission in the



CAR which started on 19 August 2013 with the aim of facilitating the transition of MICOPAX to AFISM-CAR.

With regard to the DRC, Mr Menkerios urged Government Forces and the M23 rebels to re-engage in the ICGLR-facilitated dialogue with a view to de-escalating recent violence and finding a sustainable solution to the decades-old conflict in the country. He invited both parties to end the violence and implement their obligations under the framework for peace and stability in the region.

Special Representative Menkerios encouraged African Security Forces to spearhead efforts to ensure the protection of civilians, especially women and children, in conflict and post conflict situations in the continent.

At the end of the meeting, the AU Peace and Security Council urged the UN Security Council to expedite provision of financial and logistical support to AFISM-CAR to enable the new mission ensure, as part of its mandate, the safety of humanitarian personnel and the protection of civilians.

The Council commended the efforts of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, as well as those of UN agencies in sustaining awareness and responses for effective mobilization of humanitarian aid, and welcomed the outcome of the 6th Extraordinary Summit of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on the situation on the DRC held in Nairobi on 31 July 2013, within the context of the implementation of the UN-supported Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Great Lakes Region, signed in Addis Ababa in February 2013.

The Council welcomed progress made in the benchmarking of the Framework and took note of the continuing deployment of an Intervention Brigade under the UN Mission for the Stabilization of the Congo (MONUSCO), as authorized by the UN Security Council Resolution 2098 (2013).

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