

**STATEMENT OF SRSG MOUSSA ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
380<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND  
SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE PROGRESS REPORT  
OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON THE  
REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVE FOR THE ELIMINATION  
OF THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY (RCI-LRA),**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA,  
Monday, 17 June 2013**

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Mister President,

Distinguished Members of the AU Peace and Security Council,

Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations, please allow me to express my appreciation and gratitude to the African Union for inviting us to participate in this important event. We commend the AU, especially Commissioner Lamamra, for continued engagement and leadership on this common endeavor.

Our presence here today is yet another clear manifestation of the exemplary partnership we have developed and nurtured over the past two years to deal with the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and its negative ramifications in the Central Africa Sub-region.

It is in this regard that, the United Nations under the coordination of my Office and as mandated by the Security Council on 14 November 2011, has worked over the past two years with the African Union Special Envoy, Ambassador Francisco Madeira as well as with other stakeholders and partners for the elimination of the LRA.

Mr. President,

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remains a serious threat to peace, security and development in the Central African Region, as illustrated by their constant looting, abduction of children, sexual abuse of women and forced population movement.

Not later than yesterday, converging media reports announced that at least 16 people have been killed during clashes between the LRA rebels in some villages in CAR. Reportedly, LRA fighters attacked two villages in the central mining region of the town of Bria. This is indicative of LRA's mischief. Therefore, joint, sustained and coordinated efforts must continue to eliminate the danger posed by this renegade group.

Since the launching of the AU Regional Cooperation Initiative to fight the LRA, significant progress was made. Unfortunately, the gains in the last two years have been put into jeopardy, following the change of government in CAR on 24 March 2013. As a result, the search for Kony has been suspended and efforts to re-launch this initiative are encountering some difficulties.

The AU Special Envoy and myself have been travelling extensively on joint high-level political missions to the four affected countries to seek renewed commitment and full cooperation in regional efforts to deal with the LRA.

Our last mission, from 6 to 13 June, was essentially to assess the current situation, diffuse the risk of military confrontation between Seleka and the Ugandan Contingent, and secure the early resumption of AURTF counter-LRA operations in CAR. It emerged from our trips and meetings, important issues the PSC may wish to consider in its deliberation of today.

- First, the Head of State of the CAR Transitional Government, Mr. Michel Djotodia, confirmed that he had no intention to expel the AURTF's Ugandan contingent from CAR and declared his support for the early resumption of AURTF counter-LRA operations in CAR. A draft statement to this effect has been submitted at the request of the Government but not yet endorsed by the new authorities in Bangui. I should add that the confirmation of Bangui's intention would be appreciated by the troop contributing countries.
- Second, the Governments of Uganda and South Sudan have indicated that they remain committed to fulfilling their obligations to the AURTF and agreed to the early resumption of counter-LRA operations in CAR as soon as possible. In addition, they drew our attention to the desire to be included in the appropriate political fora addressing peace and security issues in Central Africa, including ECCAS, ICGLR and CEMAC. This is because; the situation in CAR has bearing on peace and security in these countries, and therefore they advocate to be part of the solutions being sought.
- Third and finally, the Governments of neighboring countries, particularly Uganda and South Sudan, are concerned of being perceived as hostile to

CAR and remain concerned about speculations coming out of CAR that incriminates them in efforts to destabilize CAR. Therefore, it is essential that obstacles which hinder counter-LRA activities are addressed promptly in a regional approach that includes consultation with AURTF troop contributing countries and other key stakeholders.

Mister President,

In conclusion, I would like to take this this opportunity to reaffirm the determination and resolve of the United Nations to continue to work with the African Union to keep the initiative alive and to address other challenges in connection with the LRA issues, such as increased UN efforts and international donor support for humanitarian access. As stated in its Presidential Statement, on 29 May 2013, “the Security council encourages the UN, AU and ECCAS, to work together, including through joint field assessments, to develop a common operating picture of the LRA’s current capabilities and areas of operation, as well as to investigate the LRA’s logistical networks and possible sources of military support and illicit financing, including alleged involvement in elephant poaching and related illicit smuggling.”

The Council also expressed concern on the suspension of counter-LRA operations in CAR as well as the ensuing violence and looting, which worsened the humanitarian and security situation and weakened the institutions of the Central African Republic. The Governments of the Sub-region count on the outcome of your deliberations of today. I therefore wish you success in your proceedings.

I thank you for your kind attention.