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**BRIEFING TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING ON THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY
 (LRA), NEW YORK, 29 JUNE 2012**

COMMUNICATION OF THE AU SPECIAL ENVOY ON THE LRA, AMB FRANCISCO MADEIRA

- The President, UN Security Council,
- Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives to the UN
- All Dignitaries here present, in your various distinguished capacities,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, I greet you all and wish to thank the United Nations (UN), particularly the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary General, for their continued commitment to supporting the AU and other international efforts aimed at eliminating the threat of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). I also wish to express our gratitude for the concrete UN support being channeled through the UN Missions (UNMISS, MONUSCO), Offices (UNOCA, UNOAU, BINUCA) and humanitarian Agencies, in responding to the threat of the LRA and their impact in the affected countries, particularly in the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of South Sudan. This support has effectively enhanced the implementation of the AU-led regional Cooperation Initiative for the elimination of the LRA (RCI-LRA).

Mr. President, I wish to stress that, although successive military operations have largely disabled the LRA command and control, the capability of these rebels to commit

atrocities against civilians has remained undiminished. The Report of the UN Secretary General on the activities of UNOCA and on areas affected by the LRA of 11 June 2012, accurately depicts the current situation on the LRA.

However, I wish to underline the efforts undertaken so far by some key partners of the AU in the fight against the LRA. The on-going U.S-backed military operations, especially in CAR, have sustained pressure on the LRA, keeping the rebels constantly on the run. These operations contributed to the capture of the self-styled "Maj-Gen" Caesar Acellam, a one time number four (04) on the LRA command hierarchy, on 12 May 2012, by the Ugandan troops; the capture of two LRA combatants on 22 Mai 2012 by CAR troops; and the killing of two other LRA combatants on 16 June 2012, by the Ugandan troops who also rescued seven formerly abducted civilians. Furthermore, MONUSCO, U.S government, and various NGOs are supporting the above actions with psychological operations in the form of "Come-home" radio messages and airdropped leaflets in local languages, aimed at encouraging mass defection of LRA elements. When fully operational, the AU-led regional initiative is expected to bolster these efforts particularly through military operations so as to heighten pressure on LRA, leading to more captures, surrenders, defections and the eventual elimination of the entire group.

Your Excellencies, allow me at this juncture, to acknowledge the enormous support and commitment of the EU towards the RCI-LRA. The EU has been providing the funds in support of the AU effort for the elimination of the LRA since 2010.

Mr. President, this session avails me an opportunity to apprise the Security Council on some key issues concerning the RCI-LRA.

- ✓ The 1st Ministerial meeting of the Joint Coordination Mechanism (JCM) on the LRA, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 8 May 2012, adopted concrete measures and important decisions concerning the next steps on the implementation of the AU-led RCI-LRA. These include the full operationalization of the RTF Headquarters and the

three Sectors; coordination between the RTF and the UN Missions/Offices on the ground, and the convening of a support forum to mobilize resources for the RCI-LRA. In addition, the 321st meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), held in Addis Ababa, on 22 May 2012 extended for 12 months the authorization given for the implementation of the RCI-LRA.

- ✓ **The major objectives of the AU-led initiative** are: the strengthening of the capacity of the affected countries to effectively respond to and neutralize the LRA threat; facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected communities and creating an environment conducive for the stabilization and rehabilitation of the affected areas. These objectives, particularly the latter two relating to humanitarian assistance, protection of civilians, DDR/RR support to former combatants, and the long-term recovery needs of the affected resonate with those of the UN systems on the ground and have, thus, been well articulated in the Comprehensive Regional Strategy on the LRA.
- ✓ **The key components/structures of the initiative** are: the Joint Coordination Mechanism (JCM), an ad hoc political body composed of Ministers of Defence of the four LRA-affected countries, with a Secretariat in Bangui (CAR) and chaired by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, to deal with the overall political aspects, provide strategic direction and coordinate with all stakeholders in the fight against the LRA; a 5000-strong force with its headquarters at Yambio, South Sudan; as well as the three operational Sectors in Nzara (South Sudan), Dungu (DRC) and Obo (CAR).
- ✓ **Status of implementation of the RCI-LRA:** since the authorization of the AU-led initiative by the AU Peace and Security Council in November 2011, the following have been accomplished:
 - i) The Command and Control architecture of the RTF, which had remained outstanding and a potential impediment to operations, was adopted on 8 May 2012 at the 1st Ministerial meeting of the JCM.

- ii) The RTF HQ has been fully staffed with 30 officers including a civilian Humanitarian Advisor, a civilian Human Rights Advisor and a Police Officer to provide advice on the rule of Law and ensure that the activities of our soldiers on the LRA affected areas and their interaction with the affected communities and LRA elements are conducted in strict respect of human rights and rule of law. They have all undergone induction.
 - iii) A joint team comprising military officers from the AU, RTF Headquarters, UNOAU, EU and USA are currently conducting a technical assessment mission in the sectors to evaluate their capabilities as well as challenges and needs for effective operations.
 - iv) The process for the adoption of major technical support documents notably Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Rules of Engagement, Common measures on the Treatment of LRA Combatants and Victims, Policy on Civilian protection are on track.
 - v) On the Political and Diplomatic front, I have undertaken joint missions with Mr. Abou Moussa, to engage the leadership of the LRA-affected countries to maintain their commitment, or where necessary, urge them to renew cooperation on the LRA issues. At the side-lines of these missions we have often engaged representatives of the cooperating international partners to galvanize international support for the RCI-LRA. We also undertook a joint mission to N'Djamena, Chad, in April 2012, within our strategic objective of seeking the diplomatic support of the neighbours of the LRA-affected countries to block the possible escape of LRA into new areas in these countries. Consultations are on-going with authorities of the Republic of Sudan, for a similar mission to Khartoum.
- ✓ The effective implementation of the AU-led initiative is, however, being undermined by certain critical challenges for which we appeal for international support. These challenges include predictability of financial and material resources as well as logistical support for the JCM Secretariat and the Office of the Special Envoy on the LRA, the RTF HQ/JOC operations as well as the operational units tracking LRA in the respective sectors.

The operational units require concrete support in terms of appropriate training, harmonized communication system, food ration, medical support, air and ground mobility, munitions, fuel and lubricants, among other things, to enable them to undertake robust military operations against the LRA so as to induce defections, surrender, capture of LRA combatants as well as the rescue of LRA abductees.

Mr. President, I wish to inform the Security Council that on 22 November 2011, the AU Peace and Security Council declared the LRA a terrorist organization and requested the UN Security Council to do likewise. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to request the UN Security Council, through you, to consider the request of the AU Peace and Security Council and declare the LRA a terrorist organization. I also wish to re-echo the AU Peace and Security Council request of 22 May 2012 to the UN Security Council to consider modalities of enhancing its support to the AU-led international efforts among other things, by adjusting the mandates of the UN peacekeeping missions in the LRA affected countries. In this regard, I wish to reiterate the need to make available air mobility network within the three sectors.

I wish to appeal further to the UN Security Council for support for resources to mitigate the above-mentioned challenges facing the effective functioning of the JCM Secretariat and Office of the AU Special Envoy on LRA in Bangui, operations of the RTF/JOC-HQ in Yambio as well as the Sector HQs and their operational units in Nzara, Dungu and Obo. We applaud the continued U.S political engagement on the LRA issue, particularly for having deployed the 100 or so Military personnel to the region, in October 2011, to provide logistical, planning and intelligence. We thank European Union for the substantial and sustained support to the AU-led RCI-LRA. This support has proven to be essential in the operationalization of the different structures of the regional Initiative. We also recognize and appreciate the efforts of the U.K Members of Parliament who debated the LRA issue and urged their government to do everything in its power to arrest Kony. We welcome these efforts and request for more from other UN Member States, so as to further enhance the current global momentum against Kony and the LRA. In this regard, I urge the UN Security Council to help us deny the LRA any external sources of support, including residence for their

sympathizers who continue to issue statements from the Diaspora in support of the terrorist group.

I THANK YOU!