



Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5084th meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 November 2004, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Institutional relationship with the African Union", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reiterates its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and recalls that cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security is an important pillar of the system of collective security established by the Charter of the United Nations, as provided for in its Chapter VIII.

"The Security Council reaffirms its statement of 20 July 2004 (S/PRST/2004/27) which underscores the importance of a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations consistent with the principles laid down in Articles 52 and 53 of the United Nations Charter.

"The Security Council at its meeting on 19 November 2004 in Nairobi addressed the institutional relationship between the United Nations and the African Union, including their collective efforts to resolve African conflicts and to promote sustainable peace, development, and stability.

"The Security Council, referring to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, welcomes the establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Council and expresses its support for early ratification of the Peace and Security Protocol by all African States and the establishment of an African Standby Force and an early warning system in Africa. The completion of these efforts will allow for better coordination of regional mechanisms to foster peace and security, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty in Africa, as set forth in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

"The Security Council recognizes the importance of strengthening cooperation with the African Union in order to help build its capacity to deal with collective security challenges, including through the African Union's undertaking of rapid and appropriate responses to emerging crisis situations, and the development of effective strategies for conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building.

“The Security Council welcomes in this regard the provision by the United Nations and donors of technical, logistical as well as military planning support to the African Union in the establishment of African Union peace and security mechanisms and operations.

“The Security Council particularly welcomes the leading role of the African Union in efforts to settle crises in the African Continent and expresses its full support for the peace initiatives conducted by the African Union, and through sub-regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and other regional agreements committed to the peaceful settlement of disputes in Africa. The Security Council underlines the importance of being kept fully informed, consistent with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations.

“The Security Council also welcomes the strengthening of practical cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, as demonstrated in the case of the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS II) and the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB), to support and enhance the management and operational capacities of the African Union in the field of peacekeeping and peace-building.

“The Security Council calls on the international community to support the African Union’s efforts to strengthen its capacities for peacekeeping, conflict resolution and post conflict reconstruction, through the provision of information, training, expertise and resources, as well as to support the activities of the United Nations and its Agencies in this regard.

“The Security Council further invites the Secretary-General to explore, in close consultation with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, new means of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, especially taking into consideration the expanded mandate and the new Organs of the African Union.”
