

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 517844

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**SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS OF THE 4TH
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE
COMMON DEFENCE AND
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DEFENCE AND SECURITY POLICY**

1. The Executive Council was briefed by General Tobias Dai, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Mozambique, in his capacity as Chairperson of the First and Second Meetings of the Ministers of Defence and Security, on the deliberations and conclusions of those meetings. He stated that the First meeting which was held in Addis Ababa on 20 January 2004, had considered, amended and adopted the recommendations of the Chiefs of Defence Staff and Experts, on the establishment of the African Standby Force and the Military Staff Committee, as well as the Draft Framework for a Common African Defence and Security Policy.

2. He also highlighted the conclusions of the Second Meeting that was held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 22 to 23 February 2004, to consider the "Draft African Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact" prepared by the Commission and the proposal of the Republic of Congo titled "The AU Mutual Assistance and Non-Aggression Pact", as well as the proposal of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya relating to the "Treaty for a Common Defence and the Establishment of a United Army for the AU". The Chairperson conveyed the request of the meeting of the Ministers of Defence and Security to the Executive Council, to forward the conclusions and recommendations of their meetings, to the Second Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, scheduled to meet in Sirte, Libya, on 28 February 2004.

3. Council commended the Ministers of Defence and Security for the quality of the work that they had accomplished during their first and second meetings. The Ministers then exchanged views on the conclusions of the two meetings.

**Draft Framework for a Common African Defence and
Security Policy**

4. Council recalled the fact that the Draft Policy Framework was prepared by the Commission and submitted to two meetings of Experts from AU Member States, before it was considered during its Extraordinary Session in Sun City, South Africa, in May 2003. Subsequently, the document was forwarded to the Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003. In its deliberations on the issue, the Assembly decided that the Draft Framework should be submitted to a Meeting of Ministers of Defence and Security for their inputs. The

Executive Council therefore, was of the view that, with the inputs of Ministers of Defence and Security, the Policy Framework had been extensively deliberated upon by all stakeholders and should consequently, be recommended to the Assembly of the Union.

5. The Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Saïd Djinnit informed Council that following consultations with the Permanent Representatives Committee on the nature of the document to be adopted by the Assembly, it was agreed that the Policy Framework should be adopted in the form of a solemn Declaration. He also indicated that the Commission was of the view that in order to highlight the importance of the Policy, Council could recommend to the Assembly, that the Declaration should be signed by the Heads of State and Government, as was the case with the Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Related Infectious Diseases.

6. After the discussions, Council adopted the Draft Solemn Declaration on a Common African Defence and Security Policy proposed by the Commission and recommended it to the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly for adoption and signature.

Consideration of the "Draft Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact" and the "Pact against Aggression and on Mutual Assistance of the African Union".

7. Council took note of the report of the Ministers of Defence and Security and endorsed all the recommendations contained therein, including the recommendation to convene a meeting of Experts to merge the two proposals into a single Non-aggression Pact. Council welcomed the offer made by the Republic of Congo, to host the meeting of Experts.

Consideration of the proposal by Libya on "a Treaty for a Common Defence and the Establishment of a United Army for the African Union."

8. The Executive Council joined the Ministers of Defence and Security in paying tribute to Brother Leader Muammar Ghaddafi, Leader of the Great Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, for his vision and commitment to a strong and united Continent within the framework of the African Union. Council recalled the leading role played by Brother Leader Muammar Ghaddafi, in convening the Extraordinary Session of the Summit of the OAU, that culminated in the adoption of the historic Sirte Declaration of 9-9-99, through which African leaders decided to establish the African Union. They also

underlined the fact that the establishment of the Union, had enabled the Continent to make significant strides in consolidating its agenda for peace, security, integration and development, as amply illustrated by the establishment of the Pan-African Parliament and the Peace and Security Council, which are soon to be formally launched; the proposed Common African Defence and Security Policy and various other instruments, that would further strengthen the Union's architecture for Peace, Security and Democracy.

9. In endorsing the recommendation of the Ministers of Defence and Security to forward the Libyan proposal to the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly, Council expressed the view that it was part of its responsibility, in preparing for the Summit, to discuss the issues included in the agenda of the meeting of the Assembly.

10. The Executive Council while underlining the fact that the idea of establishing a single army was sound as a vision for the future, noted that the conditions for its immediate concretization did not yet exist. In its view, the establishment of a single army should result from a higher level of integration of the Continent. Consequently, current efforts should aim at establishing and operationalising the Peace and Security Council and the African Standby Force, as well as enhancing the capacity of the AU Peace Fund, as part of the progressive efforts towards the attainment of the objective of further integrating the continent.

11. Council felt that it was important to continue to reflect on this proposal, as the Continent gradually progresses towards greater integration. Council decided to submit the Libyan proposal with its comments to the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly, meeting in Sirte, Libya, on 28 February, 2004, for the Assembly's consideration.