

Statement by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India at the UN Security Council briefing on the UN Office to African Union (UNOAU) on 21 June 2011

Thank you, Mr President.

First of all, I would like to put on record our appreciation for your efforts in organizing this briefing today. I would also like to thank SRSG and Head of UNOAU Zachary Muburi-Muita for his comprehensive briefing.

2. Just last month, the Council visited Addis Ababa and had a very fruitful exchange of views with the members of the African Union Peace and Security Council and several other leaders in Africa. As much as two-third of the active items on the Council's agenda concern Africa. About three-fourth of the Council's time is spent on African issues. It would, therefore, be no exaggeration to say that the success of the efforts of this Council in Africa will significantly determine its overall effectiveness in maintaining international peace and security. In this connection, it is important for us to hear Africa's voice so that the Council's activities are not only based on Africa's needs but also complement those of African countries and organizations. Cooperation with Africa will also enable the Council act with better understanding of the situation, and establish Africa's ownership of the solutions and thereby promote lasting peace and security on the African continent.

3. Indeed, Mr President, Chapter VIII of the UN Charter recognizes the importance of the regional organizations and their role in matters relating to international peace and security. The Charter also provides a broad framework for this Council's cooperation with the regional organizations. We, therefore, welcome the setting up of the UN Office to the African Union. The Office will assist the AU in developing more effective peace and security partnership with the Security Council, strengthen coordination and cooperation between the AU and the UN System, ensure an appropriate level of representation to enhance the strategic and operational partnership of UN with AU and sub-regional organizations, and help the UN deliver key outputs in

Africa in an integrated manner.

4. We think that the Office should develop a long-term perspective of its mandate and focus on capacity-building of African Union's peace and security architecture so that AU becomes a more effective and capable partner of the UN system. To implement its mandate, the Office should be adequately staffed and resourced so that the constraints on its functioning are removed. The Office also needs active support of this Council to carry out its liaison work, particularly in the field of peacekeeping. Simultaneously, the Office should expeditiously work on establishing formalized structure of interaction with different AU bodies and sub-regional organizations. This would not only ensure effective flow of information between the UN and the AU but also help in regular follow up. It is our view that the progress on implementation of UNOAU's mandate should be periodically reported to the Security Council. This is essential for understanding practical difficulties and gaining perspective of the Office operating in the field.

5. Mr President, for an effective and enduring cooperation between the UN and the AU, it is necessary that the Council not adopt a selective approach to this cooperation. While the Security Council has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, the Council, as it is structured presently, needs to hear voices of other regions and countries not represented on permanent basis. Alongside the work on reforming the Council, it would add to the credibility of the Council's action if serious consideration is given to the views of the African Union, particularly when AU can help in expeditiously and peacefully resolving a crisis. In this context, we think that the Council needs to pay heed to the views of the African Union in resolving the Libyan crisis.

6. Mr President, we hold this view being fully mindful of the demonstrated ability of the African Union to solve problems in Africa. In cooperation with this Council, the AU's high-level implementation panel for the Sudan has been instrumental in successful implementation of important aspects of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The panel is also engaged in resolving outstanding CPA issues as well as the crisis in Darfur. The AU peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is the mainstay of the international efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia. These are but some examples of AU's success in resolving African problems.

7. Conscious of AU's role in handling African issues concerning not only peace and security but also social and development-related, India has institutionalized its

cooperation with the African Union. I would like to recall here the historic visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Addis Ababa last month to participate in second Africa-India Forum Summit signifying the importance of our relations with African states. Given the similarity of our objectives with those the AU, the summit will serve to further deepen development partnership between India and AU, as also in the field of peace and security. India is contributing US\$ 1.5 million to AU without any caveats for its AMISOM operations. India will also provide credit lines of US\$ 5 billion for the next three years to help Africa achieve its development goals. India will provide an additional US\$ 700 million for establishment of new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions. India has also proposed 10,000 new scholarships under India-Africa Virtual University for African students after establishment of the University.

8. Mr President, all these activities will enhance AU's institutional capacity and help this Council as well in dealing with African issues in partnership with AU.

Thank you.

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