

Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative  
of India to the UN, at the UN Security Council Debate on UN-AU  
Partnership, on January 12, 2012

Thank you, Madame President.

At the outset, I would like to thank the South African delegation for organising today's Debate. I would also like to put on record our sincere thanks to you, Madame President, and to President Jacob Zuma for chairing this session. I would also thank the Secretary General and the representatives of the African Union and the sub-regional organisations for their valuable statements. The presence of so many high-level dignitaries from capitals testifies to the importance of today's discussions.

2. We appreciate the initiative of the South African delegation to organise a workshop of the interested stakeholders in preparation for today's meeting which put in clear terms the steps that are required for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. These are also reflected in the resolution that is before the Council for adoption today and which we are privileged to have co-sponsored.

3. Madame President, 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 determine in significant measures its overall effectiveness in the implementation of its Charter-mandated role as the principal organ of the United Nations for maintenance of international peace and security.

4. In this connection, it is important for us to listen to Africa and its organizations 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 on the ground that would establish Africa's ownership of the solutions and promote lasting peace and security on the African continent.

5. Indeed, Madame 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, support the strengthening of partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

6. We think that this partnership should be based on long-term strategic and operational perspectives taking into consideration the complementarity of strengths that the two organisations possess. The focus should be on capacity-building of African Union's peace and security architecture so that the AU

becomes a more effective and capable partner of the UN system. In this connection, we welcome the establishment of the UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU) which should facilitate systematic and broad-based cooperation between the two organisations. We expect the Office to expeditiously establish formalized structures of interactions with different AU bodies and sub-regional organizations. Other steps, like annual dialogue between this Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, the SG's Ten Year Capacity-Building Programme for the AU, linkages between the UN and AU Secretariats, etc are also welcome and should facilitate regular consultation.

7. Madame President, the African Union has already proven beyond any doubt its ability to address the African problems. The AU High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan has facilitated dialogue between the CPA parties. We continue to support its efforts for peace and security in Darfur through the Darfur Political Process (DPP). Similarly, AMISOM is the mainstay of international efforts to stabilize the situation in Somalia. The UN-AU Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) has greatly helped in the improvement of the situation there, including through community welfare programmes.

8. For the success of these missions and for undertaking other joint missions in future, it is necessary that there be better understanding between the UN and AU at strategic and operational levels. This Council should be more forthcoming in extending support to the AU in critical areas of financial resources, force-multipliers and force-enablers as may be required by these missions.

9. Madame 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. Partnership should not be restricted only to the areas of the Council's convenience but also extend to areas where there may be differences, and be based on mutual respect. This requires a mindset change in approach and demands expansion of the permanent membership to make the Council reflective of contemporary realities and increased representation from developing countries, including Africa. This will not only make this Council more representative but also enhance its ability to successfully address the challenges that the international community faces today.

10. Conscious of the 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 in May 2011 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 further deepened the India-AU development partnership and also peace and security cooperation. India has contributed US\$ 2 million, out of which US\$ 1.5 million through the AU, without any caveats for AMISOM operations. India is also providing 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 is offering 22,000 scholarships in various areas of capacity building to African nationals during the three year period of 2011-14.

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

Thank you.

**BACK TO SECURITY COUNCIL**