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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
1246<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

26 NOVEMBER 2024  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1246 (2024)

COMMUNIQUÉ



## COMMUNIQUÉ

**Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 1246<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 26 November 2024 on Enhancing Mechanisms for Curbing Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources by Armed and Terrorist Groups in Africa.**

### The Peace and Security Council,

**Recalling** the Declaration [Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.(XVI)] on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCG), adopted by the 16<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 27 to 28 May 2022;

**Also recalling** its previous decisions and pronouncements on Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources by Armed and Terrorist Groups in Africa, particularly Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCLXXVI)] adopted at its 776<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 24 May 2018; and Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1237 (2024)] adopted at its 1237<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23 October 2024;

**Noting** the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Jean Léon Ngandu Ilunga, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the AU and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU for November 2024; and the presentations by H.E. Ambassador Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatrema, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Continental Secretariat Chief Executive Officer, and by H.E. Ambassador Welile Nhlapo, Senior Adviser to the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD); as well as by Dr Andrews Atta-Asamoah, Head of African Peace and Security Governance Programme at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS); and

### Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:

1. **Expresses deep concern** over the growing scourge of illegal exploitation and trade of Africa's natural resources by armed and terrorist groups, including their involvement in illicit financial flows to finance their heinous activities, which are destabilizing Member States and negatively impacting national economies, as well as the national development aspirations of Member States;
2. **Reiterates the need** for holistic approaches by Member States, combining enhanced regulatory policies and law enforcement mechanisms, greater supply chain transparency, support for counter-terrorism frameworks, as well as cross-border coordination and information-sharing; and in this respect, **encourages** Member States to develop stronger regulatory frameworks and enhance cross-border cooperation;
3. **Also encourages** Member States to utilize the proceeds from their natural resources wealth to promote inclusive national socio-economic development; and **underlines the need** for Member States to ensure active participation of the local communities in the management of natural resources in their countries and to promote beneficiation for local communities and populations in areas rich in mineral resources;
4. **Stress** the crucial importance of the nexus between peace, security and development to strengthen the resilience of the Member States against this scourge;
5. **Further encourages** Member States to effectively combat the link between terrorist organizations and armed groups, as well as transnational organized crime syndicates;

6. **Underscores the imperative** for Harmonization of Mineral Certification Processes and Mining Regimes; and, in this regard, **encourages** Member States to mainstream Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) principles and the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme in national policies, laws, and regulations;
7. **Requests** the AU Commission to promote continental harmonization of mining regimes, and to also support efforts aimed at expediting harmonization processes at the regional level; as well as to develop robust mechanisms for combating illegal exploitation and trade in illicit natural resources by armed and terrorist groups as well as criminal syndicates;
8. **Highlights the need** to integrate the peace and security dimension of natural resources into existing AU conflict prevention and early warning, as well as conflict management and peace-making and peace-strengthening programmes; **further encourages** Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) to develop guidelines and policy frameworks for effective and peaceful management of transboundary mineral resources;
9. **Underscores the importance** of strengthening national and regional regulatory frameworks governing natural resource management; and, in this context, **encourages** Member States to adopt and implement AU guidelines on natural resource governance, while reinforcing their national laws;
10. **Underlines the need** for Member States and RECs/RMs to redouble efforts in combating corruption and bribery, to prosecute those involved in corrupt activities and to recover and return stolen assets to the countries of origin, in line with the AU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption;
11. **Acknowledges** the potential of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) sector as an avenue for the sustainable reintegration of ex-combatants, particularly in regions where mining serves as a critical source of income; and, in this respect, **stresses the need** to integrate Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) in the ASM sector as a viable reintegration solution so that ex-combatants can transition into formalized and regulated livelihoods, thereby reducing the risk of remobilization into armed groups and contributing towards promoting national economic development and stabilization;
12. **Underlines the need** for field Research and Evidenced-Based Policy, which will provide empirical evidence on areas on the continent where the situation of illegal exploitation of natural resources is most prevalent with a view to taking adequate measures to curb this illicit activity; and, in this respect, **requests** the AU Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC) to undertake a study on the situation to inform policy;
13. **Reiterates the call** for the strengthening of international cooperation to effectively address these concerns, including by taking appropriate measures to ensure that no territories are used by terrorists for the preparation, financing, or organization of terrorist acts intended to be committed against other countries;
14. **Urges** Member States not to allow their territories to serve as storage and transit areas for the transportation and delivery of natural resources from armed conflict zones where the illegal exploitation of these resources is being carried out;
15. **Underlines the need** to forge effective working synergies or collaboration between the AU and the United Nations (UN) in combating illegal exploitation of and trade in Africa's natural resources;

16. **Calls** for the adoption of an AU Continental Treaty on the governance of natural resources in Africa, based on Article 21 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, as an essential tool for the traceability and transparency in the natural resource supply chains in order to ensure that they are not exploited illegally by armed and terrorist groups in particular; and **reiterates** its call for the said Treaty to also draw on the African mining vision by extending its coverage beyond mineral resources; and
17. **Calls** for an AU Continental Treaty on the management of natural resources in Africa; and
18. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.