

**2ND AFRICAN CONFERENCE
OF COMMANDANTS
ACCRA – GHANA**

**DECISIONS OF THE 2ND AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF COMMANDANTS
27 – 31 OCTOBER 2008**

1. **RECALLS** its decisions adopted at its 1st African Conference of Commandants (ACoC) session held in Maropeng, Boutique, South Africa, from 6 November to 8 November 2007, and urges a variety of actors to act on the decisions of the conference as a way of fulfilling the mission and vision of ACoC;
2. **NOTES** the initiatives taken by the 1st ACoC to develop decisions such as the improvement of communication channels and linkage with different colleges; approaching African States for financial sponsorship of the Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX) in order to gain increased ownership; and expanding the attendance of future ACoCs by widening the invitation list to other African Staff Colleges;
3. **ENDORSES** the work of ACoC as contained in the minutes of the 1st ACoC and the subsequent discussions during the 2nd ACoC convened in Accra, from 27 to 31 October 2008, to review the developments of ACoC and to formulate its future activities;
4. **STRESSES** that the objectives of ACoC are to enhance harmonisation, interoperability, commonality, standardisation and cooperation between African Staff Colleges. At the 2nd ACoC, the focus was on **Enhancing African Union Peace Support Operations through joint/integrated training in African Staff Colleges**. The 2nd ACoC meeting therefore concentrated on how to harmonise the programmes of the African Staff Colleges and standardise the curricula that will contribute to the ASF, PSOs, as well as to the general peace and security on the African continent and beyond;



5. **REQUESTS** the African Member States, in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) through the African Chiefs of Defence Staff, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), regional mechanisms and other institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), take all the necessary steps for the effective implementation of the 2nd ACoC Decisions as follows:
 - a. Officially recognise the ACoC mission and vision as well as its structures;
 - b. Commit to the principle of African solutions to African problems through inter-staff colleges and other training institutes and endeavor to source for own funding at national and regional levels for ACoC activities;

6. **DECIDES** that the following be undertaken to enhance the efficacy of ACoC:
 - a. All African Member States be invited through the in-coming Chairperson (with the involvement of the ACoC Secretariat) to participate in the next ACoC;
 - b. The Institute of Security Studies (ISS) with its head office in Pretoria, South Africa, through the Security Sector Governance (SSG) programme to continue to play the role of Interim Secretariat for ACoC;
 - c. The Chairperson of ACoC (with the assistance of the ACoC Secretariat) to popularise the ACoC workplan and search for funding as well as guide the implementation of its activities and undertake a briefing visit to strategic capitals on the continent for the purpose of soliciting a patron for ACoC;
 - d. CJAX be undertaken at regional and Member State levels and be made part of the syllabi in Staff Colleges where it should be run simultaneously. Consequently a Work Group be constituted per region (ECOWAS and SADC) to develop the concept of CJAX. Thereafter, another work group be set per region to undertake the writing and implementation of CJAX on pilot basis.
 - e. ACoC Secretariat to draft the implementation plan for CJAX;
 - f. ACoC training plan to be all-inclusive to cover the components of the ASF;
 - g. A group of experts to be assembled to look at the standardisation of curriculum and PSO doctrine and report its findings to the third ACoC;
 - h. Enhance awareness of the role of civilians and police in peace support operations including usage of the ACoC portal to inter-link library and other resources for use by members of ACoC in their curriculum; and

7. **FURTHER DECIDES** that ACoC shall operate in a troika: previous ACoC Chair; current Chair; and in-coming Chair who will meet as need arises and communicate all developments continuously.
8. **ENCOURAGES** members of ACoC to use the AU guiding documentation such as the Constitutive Act, the PSC Protocol and The Common African Defence And Security Policy doctrine of African Standby Force, among others as the prime documents for the articulation and training in peace and security;
9. **RECOGNISES** with gratitude Egypt's offer to host the third ACoC to be held in November 2009

DECISIONS MADE AT THE 2ND AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF COMMANDANTS (ACOC), HELD AT THE GHANA ARMED FORCES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE, ACCRA, GHANA, FROM 27 – 31 OCTOBER 2008

Signatories:

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