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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1071ST MEETING

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**INFORMATION NOTE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE-ZONE
TREATY (PELINDABA TREATY)**

A. Background

1. This Information Note is intended to provide an overview to the Peace and Security Council, of the current state play in the implementation of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, also known as the “Treaty of Pelindaba”, highlight the efforts of the AU in the implementation of the Treaty, including through the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON), and provide some recommendations on the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology as part of enhancing development in the Continent.
2. The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty establishes the nuclear-weapon-free zone on the African continent. It was opened for signature on 12 April 1996 in Cairo, Egypt and entered into force on 15 July 2009. The Treaty prohibits the research, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition, testing, possession, control or stationing of nuclear weapons, as well as the dumping of radioactive wastes. It also prohibits any attack against nuclear installations in the zone by Treaty parties and requires them to maintain the highest standards of physical protection of nuclear material, facilities and equipment, which are to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.
3. The Treaty states that nothing in it shall be interpreted as preventing the use of nuclear sciences and technology for peaceful purposes. So as part of their efforts to strengthen their security, stability and development, the Parties to the Treaty undertake to promote, individually and collectively, the use of nuclear science and technology for economic and social development. To this end, they undertake to establish and strengthen mechanisms for cooperation at the bilateral, sub regional and regional levels.
4. The Treaty requires all parties to apply full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards to all their peaceful nuclear activities. Nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are therefore firmly entrenched in the Pelindaba Treaty.

B. State Parties

5. The Treaty presently has 43 States Parties: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, South Africa, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, Eswatini, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
6. Among the 52 Signatory Member States, the following eleven (11) are yet to ratify the Treaty: Central African Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Liberia, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sao Tome & Principe, Sudan and Uganda. South Sudan is yet to accede to the Treaty.

C. Coordination Mechanism

7. For the purposes of ensuring compliance with their undertakings under the Treaty, the Parties agreed to establish the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON) with

headquarters in Pretoria, South Africa. AFCONE, as the main executive body of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty, is the Agency supporting States Parties to meet their obligations, and to coordinate technical support for the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. AFCONE is composed of 12 States Parties that serve three-year terms, and report to the Conference of States Parties (CSP) to the Treaty.

8. AFCONE is responsible, inter alia, for:

- (a) Collating reports and exchange of information,
- (b) Arranging consultations, as well as convening conferences of Parties on the concurrence of simple majority of States Parties on any matter arising from the implementation of the Treaty,
- (c) Reviewing the application of peaceful nuclear activities in accordance with safeguards by IAEA,
- (d) Bringing into effect the complaints procedure,
- (e) Encouraging regional and sub-regional programmes on cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology
- (f) Promoting international cooperation with extra-zonal States for the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

D. Impact of the Treaty

9. Through the Pelindaba Treaty, the Continent collectively and unequivocally rejected nuclear-weapons and decided to achieve major step towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime, promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, promoting general and complete disarmament, and enhancing regional and international peace and security.

10. The world continues however to live, more so now, under the threat of nuclear disaster, either as a result of war, accident, or terrorism. Efforts towards permanent, universal and verifiable nuclear disarmament should be strengthened through consistent and multi-pronged efforts that include reviving the international disarmament mechanisms, educating people, imploring leaders, and strengthening the legal regimes against nuclear weapons and complying with nuclear safety and security in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

11. The objective for the strategic priority four (04) of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is to contribute to enhancing the timeliness and effectiveness of the response to strategic security challenges by all stakeholders. Implementing the international regimes on Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) disarmament and non-proliferation should be strengthened through domestication of continental and international legal and policy instruments against WMD; strengthen operational and institutional capacities of Members States; and support research to generate data on the threat and risks of illicit chemical, biological and nuclear proliferation, and trafficking.

12. The specific objective is to effectively implement instruments and policies to address WMD disarmament and non-proliferation.

13. The African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) has become the centre of major decision-making on peace and security on the continent and it is viewed as such by the international community. The Council provides leadership on peace and security challenges on the continent: The PSC reiterated several times that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains a cornerstone in global efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, and stresses that balanced and unconditional efforts should be made in implementing its pillars of disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology.

14. The PSC noted also however with deep concern that progress towards nuclear disarmament remains incommensurate with the spirit of the NPT. The PSC Requested all AU Member States to effectively implement the UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), to proceed without further delay to the ratification the Pelindaba Treaty, the Comprehensive Nuclear Ban Test Treaty (CTBT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

E. Nuclear Disarmament as a Priority in Africa

15. Today, within the framework of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, Africa has a pivotal role to play; in close cooperation with the other Nuclear Weapon Free Zones, the other relevant United Nations multilateral instruments, the Continent can make a significant contribution towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons.

16. However, the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes in the areas of health, food and agriculture, water resources management, industry, education, research, and energy remains a critical concern to AU Member States. Advancement in these fields will propel the Continent to the desired developmental aspirations as contained in Agenda 2063.

F. Objectives

17. The main objectives of the meeting include:

- i. Overview the African Union efforts, through the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON), in implementing the Pelindaba Treaty Provisions related to Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Nuclear Safety and Security and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy;
- ii. Highlight the relationship between the Pelindaba Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and encourage participation at the 1st Meeting of the State Parties to the TPNW, scheduled to take place in July 2022 in Vienna, and the 10th Review Conference of the NPT scheduled to take place in August 2022 in New York; also to stress the linkages and synergy between these instruments, and their relevance to the African Peace and Security Architecture.

- iii. Demonstrate the tangible benefits of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty, and encourage the Member States that have not yet done so to ratify it;
- iv. Inform on the areas in which peaceful application of nuclear science and technology are of benefit to Member States
- v. Encourage all Member States to participate at the 5th Conference of State Parties to the Pelindaba Treaty that will be held on 27 - 28 April 2022, in Addis Ababa.
- vi. Encourage Member States to sign and ratify the Treaty of Pelindaba, the TPNW and the CTBT.

G. Format and Participation

18. The meeting will be a closed session of the Peace and Security Council, with the participation of the following invitees during the open stage of the meeting:
- i. A3 (Gabon, Ghana and Kenya)
 - ii. African Commission on Nuclear energy (AFCONE)
 - iii. African Regional Cooperation Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA)
 - iv. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
 - v. Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States of America)
 - vi. UNOAU
 - vii. UNODA
 - viii. ICRC

H. Date and Venue

19. The meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, 31 March 2022, starting from 10:00 a.m., Addis Ababa local time. It will be conducted in English, and French.