DECISIONS OF THE 5th AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF COMMANDANTS
28 November – 30 November 2011
Gaborone, Botswana

1. **Taking Note** of the changing nature of security on the continent where security is placed on the individual and taking into account the increasing role of international and regional actors in understanding and responding to peace and security challenges, encourages Commandants to assume responsibility for the development of military professionals

2. **Further Acknowledging** the need for effective and coherent approaches in dealing with peace and security matters in a multidimensional context

3. **Stresses** the increasing need for harmonised training in preparing officers, as they are required to operate in the same theatre to solve common African problems and in this regard the importance of having harmonised training syllabi amongst all Staff Colleges for the common understanding of military concepts and doctrine

4. **Acknowledges** ongoing challenges in gaining formal recognition by continental bodies

5. **Reiterates** that while it is the role of armed forces to defend countries, it is the role of Command and Staff Colleges to prepare succeeding generations of officers for the military profession, cognisant of the changing security environment in a globalised world

6. **Further Acknowledges** that notwithstanding financial constraints, implementation of decisions undertaken in previous conferences is an ongoing process with substantial progress having been made in terms of the agreed result areas

7. **Further Endorses** the importance of the platform that ACoC provides in sharing experiences and best practice which Colleges should take into consideration and model to their own unique environments

8. **Reiterates** the importance of inter-college communication and reminds members of available resources such as the ACoC website and encourages further exploration in the use of social media like Twitter, YouTube and Facebook, which should be maximised to enhance opportunities for the organisation
9. **CLARIFIES** the differences between African Peace Support Trainers' Association (APSTA) and ACoC, noting that whereas APSTA works for the alignment and harmonisation with its constituents, ACoC focuses on the overall development of professional military education.

10. **NOTES** that the current vision and mandate of ACoC focuses on the overall professional development of a military officer, who has all-round skills, is knowledgeable on the dynamics of the continent and the world and is able to operate with other militaries in a multinational environment.

11. **NOTES** that as a contribution to peace and security on the continent, and in line with the conference theme of "Globalisation and Human Rights in Africa", that the effects of globalisation on the continent need to be addressed through developing economies, and ensuring security, liberty, political, legal and constitutional rights of equality to all citizens.

12. **FURTHER RECOGNISES** that globalisation is a reality, and that Africa should manage it to enhance human and economic rights by uniting Africa politically, economically and culturally so that Africa can face all adverse effects of globalisation.

13. **FURTHER** in order to make globalisation work for Africa, Africans must have effective governments and alert the international arena of the undesirable effects of globalisation on the continent.

14. **STRESSES** the importance that African leaders and their governments must play in creating economic stability and environmental protection.

15. **COGNISANT** that Africans know and can tell that the impact of globalisation on human rights are about how each individual African on the continent can maximise their God given potential to live a decent and respectful life.

16. **RECOGNISES** the impact of foreign nations' involvement in the peace and security architecture of the continent, which may in addition to benefits, have negative results and stresses the importance of African participation in overcoming these challenges by ensuring economic security through integration, food and water security, and strategic national, regional and continental collaboration.

17. **FURTHER** recognises that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Africa continues to pose challenges to peace and security on the continent, highlighting the importance of harmonised and focused approaches to overcoming such threats and roles of the military in addressing this scourge.

18. **FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS** the institutional security transformation in East Africa and the advantages of a collective regional approach to maximise interstate and intrastate activities in trade, commerce and
security matters. This will strengthen states' capability and bargaining power as opposed to approaches of individual states and in this regard note the importance that Staff Colleges play in contributing towards achieving peace and security on the continent.

19. **STRESSES** the significant role that Staff Colleges can play in the promotion of gender to address the many factors that contribute to gender discrimination within society and the military.

20. **NOTES** the information briefs presented by the NATO Defence College and US Africa Command.

21. **NOTES** the need to adapt current thinking on new and emerging global security challenges and to adjust training and development to enhance closer collaboration between military and civilian actors.

22. **COMMENDS** the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Nigeria in successfully conducting various activities in response to the ACoC Month Proclamation.

23. **NOTES WITH PRIDE** the successful conclusion of the SADC CJAX held in Pretoria, Lusaka, and Gaborone and Namibia (as observers) in September, resulting in continuous improvement and benefits in attaining a degree of synergy in doctrine, training and educational methodology which are now well established within the SADC Region.

24. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the official handing over of the Chairmanship for the SADC CJAX from the South African National War College to the Zambia Defence Services Command and Staff College.

25. **NOTES** that due to budgetary reasons, the ECOWAS CJAX in 2011 was not conducted.

26. **NOTES** that progress has been made in the implementation of ACoC decisions but that further commitment would be required in order to concretise and consolidate these Decisions.

27. **NOTES** with pleasure and gratitude the hosting of the 6th ACoC by the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Nigeria under the theme “The Role of African Staff Colleges in strengthening cooperation to meet emerging security challenges”.

28. **NOTES** with gratitude the significant attendance of the invited African Staff Colleges to the 5th ACoC and extends sincere appreciation to the Botswana Defence Command and Staff College for the successful hosting of the 5th ACoC.

29. **FURTHER** extends its deepest appreciation to the outgoing Chair and his outstanding contribution to the aspirations of ACoC.
30. **FURTHER** extends its heartfelt wishes to the current ACoC.

31. **DECIDES** that the following be undertaken to enhance the efficacy of ACoC:

a. Strategies for promoting education, training and development at the highest strategic and political levels should be adopted in order to contribute to the long term goals of solving common African peace and security challenges. This will support the long term vision of one continental African Defence College.

b. Recalling decisions of the 2nd ACoC, urges the formation of a working group to conduct assessments and to explore opportunities and challenges in the harmonisation of curricula within PSO and report its findings to the Troika for consideration before the 6th ACoC.

c. Members should continue to pursue avenues of popularising ACoC through:

(i) outreaches outside their Colleges and include the media in their communication strategies

(ii) seeking and gaining recognition and acceptance with the African Union (AU) through the African Union Commission as a vital partner in promoting peace and security on the continent

(iii) formulating a strategic marketing approach in gaining this recognition and acceptance with the AU

(iv) the Commandants who should take full responsibility for endorsing ACoC with their respective principals and governments

(v) collaboration and engagement on a military level with NATO Defence College

d. the ACoC agenda be tabled again to the AU Commission and in particular the African Chiefs of Defence Staff Meetings at their next meeting

e. Members should submit their comments and suggestions concerning the MoU/A as soon as possible to the Secretariat. A working group comprising of the Troika (Uganda, Botswana and Nigeria), and 2 other member Colleges, Ghana and Egypt will meet in February 2012 to finalise the MoU/A. Experts, such as lawyers, the NATO Defence College (NDC) and APSTA, will be invited to offer technical assistance. The product will be circulated to all member colleges for final comments before submission at the next ACoC conference for final adoption.

f. Members should commit to undertake ACoC’s activities as mandated in the ACoC Month Proclamation, and any other proclamations, and encourages Staff Colleges to demonstrate commitment through sustained participation, engagement, documentation and sharing of
best practices on the ACoC website and other channels of communication

g. Conscious of relevant international instruments on gender, policy makers should ensure gender inclusion in the agenda of military training early in the planning process and should also mainstream gender issues in curricula and provide opportunities for experienced personnel to train regardless of gender.

h. Regions seek avenues for securing funding for conducting CJAX and encourage East African, Central African and North African regions to pursue ACoC objectives through CJAX.

i. Concrete measures have to be undertaken to address structural, financial, technical and administrative challenges through a working group that will:

   i. Finalise the MoU/A/Constitution

   ii. Finalise the funding and fundraising strategies

   iii. Draft a long-term strategic plan in February 2012, with the purpose of establishing a permanent secretariat. In the interim, the Institute for Security Studies is mandated to continue as ACoC Secretariat for a period of 3 years. During this period, Decisions undertaken during previous meetings should be fully consolidated and operationalised.

   iv. The role of the Secretariat will remain that of providing secretarial duties and undertaking any other activities as directed by the Chair.

   v. Logos submitted so far should be edited as suggested by the plenary. The logos will then be re-circulated to ACoC members for consideration and endorsement. Some suggestions and comments include the removal of the stars, rifle images and incorporate symbols of peace, like a dove or olive branch.

   vi. In funding future conferences host colleges will continue to pay for costs related to accommodation, meals for 2 delegates per college, venue for the Conference and associated costs (interpreters, local transport, etc); while the ACoC Secretariat will bear costs for invited speakers and observers (flights and accommodation). Each college represented will incur their own travel costs. The total cost related to any additional participants should be covered by the particular college.
DECISIONS MADE AT THE 5TH AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF COMMANDANTS (ACOC), HELD IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA, FROM 28 – 30 NOVEMBER 2011

SIGNATORIES:

(GOTSILEENE MORAKE)
COMMANDANT BOTSWANA DEFENCE COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE: BRIG

(KASIITA-APOLLO GOWA)
DEP. COMMANDANT UGANDA SENIOR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE: BRIG

(MAHOUD MOHAMED AHMED KHALIFA)
COMMANDANT EGYPTIAN COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE: MAJ GEN

(KWESI YANKSON)
COMMANDANT GHANA ARMED FROCES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE: MAJ GEN

(JACKSON N WAWERU)
COMMANDANT KENYA DEFENCE STAFF COLLEGE: MAJ GEN

(ALI ALTEFE)
COMMANDANT LIBYA COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE: BRIG GEN

(RICK R.K CHIMOWA)
COMMANDANT MALAWI STAFF COLLEGE
(GABRIEL EDMUND OKOI)
DEP COMMANDANT NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE: REAR ADMIRAL

(P.T DUZE)
COMMANDANT SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE: REAR ADMIRAL (JG)

(KAMAL-ELDIN HAMAD ELNIL)
SUDANESE JOINT SERVICES STAFF AND COMMAND COLLEGE: BRIG

(HENRY NYUNDU)
COMMANDANT ZAMBIA DEFENCE SERVICES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE: BRIG GEN

(AUGUSTINE CHIPWERE)
COMMANDANT ZIMBABWE STAFF COLLEGE: BRIG GEN

(TWAGIRAYEZU CALLIXTE)
COMMANDANT BURUNDI HIGHER MILITARY TRAINING CENTER: COL

(FREDERICK SILUZUNGILA)
COMMANDANT NAMIBIA MILITARY SCHOOL: BRIG GEN
OBERVERS (COLLEGES)

BRIG GEN ADJETEY ANNAN
BRIG ONKABETSE SEBODEGE
BRIG M MOPHUTING
COL CHRISTOPHER NUTAKOR
GROUP CAPTAIN FRANK TAGARIRA
CDR EBIOWE ABDUR RASHID
COL HAMA ABOUD
COL ISMAIL MAHLUF ALGAMATI
COL E. RAMABU
COL LOONENNA NAISHO
COL NURI AHMED AMGDER
COL S DIKEDI
COL SEAN STRATFORD
LT COL ALAAEIDIN OSMAN MIRGHANI
LT COL BABATUNDE IBRAHIM ALAYA
LT COL CHRISTOPHER FERGUSON
LT COL JASON MALIMA
LT COL MOHAMED SAMAH MOHAMED ELZOMOR
WING CDR OLAHINKA OLUSOLA OYESOLA
MAJ MUREGO OSEE
FLIGHT LT HARUNA SHANONO IBRAHIM

OTHER OBSERVERS

BRIG GEN ARNOLD GORDON-BRAY
BRIG GEN GERM BISCHOF
BRIG KESTORIA O. KABIA
BRIG GEN MARCEL CHIRWA (RTD)
COL HUGH BLACKMAN
LT COL ANDY MUDDIMAN
MAJ JAMIE WOODFINE
MR. ALBERT SCHONEVELD
MS ANNE MOEN
PROF. DAVID ABDULAI