



## DECISIONS OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF COMMANDANTS

05-08 November 2012

Abuja, Nigeria

1. **NOTING WITH PRIDE AND APPRECIATION** the hosting of the 6<sup>th</sup> ACoC by the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Nigeria, with the theme "The Role of Staff Colleges in Preparing Officers to Meet Emerging Security Challenges;
2. **FURTHER NOTES WITH PRIDE** the final adoption of the ACoC Constitution and Logo;
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that ACoC is an important forum for exchanging ideas on contemporary security challenges and for enriching indigenous knowledge on unique African security challenges;
4. **REITERATES** the importance for African militaries and Staff Colleges to develop and enhance cooperation to confront emerging security challenges whereby robust cooperative Professional Military Education training and exercises will help bridge the gap in operational concepts and cultural differences;
5. **FURTHER NOTES** the increasing importance of a paradigm shift from state-centric to human-centred approaches in addressing emerging security challenges;
6. **FURTHER** observes the critical importance of the role of the officer in society, and the importance of his or her overall professional development;
7. **FURTHER REITERATES** that in enhancing the role of the Staff Colleges in concretely dealing with African security challenges, Staff Colleges need to design and conduct their exercises, where lessons learned can be fed into the African Union Commission to enrich common continental security responses;
8. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the contribution that regional centres and affiliations with academic institutions of excellence could make to education on security issues and common continental security challenges by utilising available expertise such as retired military officers;
9. **FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES** the need for incorporation of lessons learned from exercises and operations, to the process of education,

20. **NOTES** that the role of Staff Colleges is to help young men and women develop the attributes and competencies needed to accomplish their missions, whatever their future duties may be in order to create understanding of what young leaders must 'Be, Know, and Do';
21. **OBSERVES** that while there is no single right way to successfully develop military professionals due to the different operational environments, there are common educational outcomes and objectives that are relevant to all armed forces;
22. **FURTHER OBSERVES** the need for Staff Colleges to design and determine academic programmes, through needs analysis and programme design addressing what graduates must be able to do in the performance of their duties as field grade officers;
23. **NOTES** also the importance of designing and managing education programmes of study, which best prepare young military leaders to accomplish their duties and responsibilities, while recognising it is not clear what they will be asked to do in the future, as well as assessing or measuring if the students are able to accomplish designed objectives;
24. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that Staff Colleges need to manage change in their curricula, as change is a constant in military education which is based on assessing whether Staff Colleges have achieved the learning they had designed to accomplish, or that the operational environment is changing and the need to adjust their learning outcomes to anticipate this change and adjust accordingly;
25. **NOTING** the importance of cooperation amongst Staff Colleges to strengthen professional military education;
26. **REITERATES** that ACoC needs to be aware of lessons learned from similar organisations, experience of members attending common courses, seminars, research, undertaking outreach initiatives and field study visits etc., and also integrate academic lectures with expertise from their member colleges through DS exchange programmes;
27. **FURTHER STRESSES** the increasing need for harmonised leadership development in preparing officers, based on common courses to solve common African problems;
28. **ACKNOWLEDGES** ongoing challenges in gaining formal recognition by continental bodies;
29. **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;
30. **ENDORSES** the importance of the platform that ACoC provides in sharing experiences and best practice which Staff Colleges should take into consideration and model to their own unique environments;

43. **FURTHER EXTENDS APPRECIATION** to the Senior Command and Staff College, Uganda for its continued commitment and participation in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> ACoC Troika;
44. **FURTHER** extends its heartfelt support and wishes to the current ACoC Chair;
45. **DECIDES** that the following be undertaken to enhance and consolidate ACoC achievements:
- a. Sustainable action plans need to be derived from deliberations of conferences in order to attain the objectives of the association
  - b. The incumbent Chair should make a deliberate effort to visit the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) during his term in order to establish the reasons for their absence in ACoC conferences despite numerous invitations, and to address those obstacles;
  - c. High-level and lower-level colleges would not be allowed membership but higher-level Colleges/ academies should be invited as observers to ACoC conferences
  - d. The Troika should use the AU contribution assessment in determining individual contribution of each College;
  - e. The Chair through the Staff Colleges should write to the individual Governments informing them of the Decision taken to prescribe a membership fee to each ACoC member
  - f. The Strategic Plan and the Marketing Strategy, informed by the Constitution, should be finalised and distributed by the Chair within three months, when members should submit their comments and suggestions concerning the Strategic Plan by 01 February 2013
  - g. The Troika should approach the Regional Economic Communities and friends of ACoC to seek funding opportunities for the association
  - h. The Troika should make an effort to ensure that the ACoC agenda is tabled again at the AU Commission and in particular at the African Chiefs of Defence Staff Meetings at their next meeting
  - i. Members should commit to undertake ACoC's activities as mandated, and encourages Staff Colleges to demonstrate commitment through sustained participation
  - j. Conscious of relevant international instruments on gender, Staff Colleges should ensure gender mainstreaming in their curricula
  - k. Staff Colleges should consider introducing topics on good governance and democracy in Africa in their syllabus