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Press Release of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union Field Mission to the Republic of Burundi, from 20 to 22 June 2022

Bujumbura, 22 June 2022: The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) concludes its three-day Field Mission to the Republic of Burundi. The Field Mission took place from 20 to 22 June 2022, under the leadership of H.E. Ambassador Daniel Owassa, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Congo to the AU and the PSC Chairperson for the month of June 2022.

The Mission was pursuant to the decision of the PSC adopted through Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1078(2022)] of its 1078th meeting held on 19 April 2022, which considered the follow-up on the 10th Regional Oversight Mechanism of February 2022 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The PSC undertook the Field Mission as an expression of its solidarity with the governments and peoples of the countries of the Great Lakes Region.

The PSC was warmly welcomed, upon arrival, by H.E. Ferdinand Bashikako, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi.

The PSC delegation paid a courtesy call to H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, who graciously provided an overview of the region and shared his vision on the root causes of terrorism in Africa and on the meaningful participation of the youth in carving a prosperous future for the region, and promoting peace, security, stability, and socio-economic development at local, national and regional levels.

During its mission, the PSC held discussions with H.E. Domitien Ndayizeze, former President of the Republic of Burundi and Chairperson of the AU Panel of the Wise; ICGLR Executive Secretariat; Force Commander of the Extended Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM); Ambassador Pierre Claver Ndayicariye, the Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Independent; Dr. Sixte Vigny Nimuraba, the Chair of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Bujumbura.

The PSC used this opportunity to pay tribute to the Government of Burundi for its troop contribution to AU-led Peace Support Operations and expressed sincere condolences to the Government and people of Burundi for the troops who paid an ultimate price in their service to the Continent.

The PSC Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to promoting peace and security on the Continent and the need to realise a conflict-free Africa as envisioned in Agenda 2063, and urged all stakeholders in the Great Lakes Region to prioritise dialogue in pursuance of long-lasting peace and for them to redouble efforts to further enhance collaboration within the PSCF Agreement, share information, and further strengthen existing mechanisms for peace and security.