

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**FOR THE MONITORING, VERIFICATION, AND COMPLIANCE**  
**MECHANISM**  
**OF**

**The Permanent CoHA between the FDRE and the TPLF**

**1. Background**

- a. The Monitoring and Verification Mechanism established by the *Agreement for a Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front-the TPLF signed on 2nd November 2022 (hereinafter the Agreement)* and the *Declaration of the Senior Commanders on the Modalities for the Implementation of the Agreement for Lasting Peace Through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities signed on 12 November 2022 (hereinafter implementation Declaration)*
- b. The Parties have agreed to permanently end the conflict. This commitment is reinforced by obligations the Parties assumed in rejecting violence to resolve political differences, in the detailed nature of the commitment to end all forms of hostilities, including hostile rhetoric, disarmament, and demobilization of the TPLF combatants.
- c. The Parties have agreed upon a Monitoring and Verification Mechanism comprising a Joint Committee and a Team of African Experts (TAE). This Mechanism is aimed at building confidence among the Parties and ensuring that the chapter of conflict is firmly closed.

This Terms of Reference (ToR) operationalizes the Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mechanism provided under the Agreement signed on 2nd November 2022.



## **Objectives**

The Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mechanism shall:

- a. Assist the Parties to implement the commitments they made in the Agreement and the implementation of the Declaration in an expeditious manner.
- b. Lay the foundation for Parties to undertake the political dialogue envisaged in the Agreement.
- c. Assist in monitoring the conduct of the Parties with respect to the obligations they assumed in the Agreement and the implementation of the Declaration.

### **Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mechanism: the Joint Committee and the Team of African Experts (TAE)**

#### **1. Objective**

The key objective of the MVC shall be to ensure the successful implementation of CoHA by putting in place an efficient and effective mechanism to monitor, verify and confirm compliance by both parties as well as report any non-compliance by either party for rectification.

#### **2. The Scope**

These Terms of Reference apply only to the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities and the DDR.

#### **3. The Joint Committee**

In accordance with Article 11(1), of the CoHA, the parties, IGAD and the AU-HLP shall designate one representative each to constitute the Joint Committee. The AU-HLP representative shall be the chair of the JC.



**a. Composition**

- i. The Joint Committee is composed of one representative each from the Parties and a representative of IGAD.
- ii. The AU High-Level Panel shall preside over the meetings of the Joint Committee

**b. Mandate**

- i. Deliberate, and find amicable solutions to reports received from the TAE on reported violations of the Agreement and implementation Declaration.
- ii. Provide guidance to the TAE on the procedures to follow to resolve instances of violation of commitments of the Parties under the Agreement and the implementation Declaration.
- iii. Making sure that as part of the Agreement, the disarmament of the TPLF combatants is completed, and that no acquisition, resupply, or transfer of ammunition and weapons or unauthorized movement of military equipment is done by the TPLF combatants or laying or use of mines or explosive devices nor support to proxies or other armed entities.
- iv. Making sure that TPLF's weapons have been placed in areas designated by the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (the ENDF) as part of the disarmament and guiding the TAE to undertake reconnaissance to ensure respect for the disarmament engagements.

**3.4. The TAE**

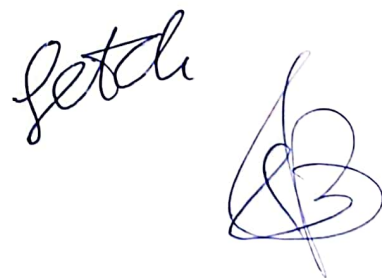
**a. Composition**

- v. In accordance with Article 11(5), African experts not exceeding 10 shall appoint to assist the Joint Committee discharge its mandate.
- vi. The Ethiopian government shall appoint experts to work with the TAE.

**b. Required Expertise of members of the TAE**

**I. Military Affairs**

- i. Troops movement of any kind;



- ii. Recruitments;
- iii. Training;
- iv. Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration

## **II. Communication**

- i. Analysis and information management
- ii. Collecting and processing press communiqués, interviews, propaganda, and social media material.

## **III. Remote monitoring technology**

- i. Remote observance, including using satellite technology
- ii. Data analysis technology, including acquisition or capturing of data, processing, and analysis.

## **IV. Alternative dispute resolution**

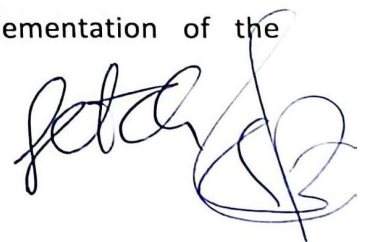
- i. Mediation, and
- ii. Facilitation for an amicable settlement, within the framework of the Agreement and the implementation Declaration.

### **c. Appointment**

- i. The African Union Commission (AUC) shall consult the Parties on the proposed members of the TAE.
- ii. The Parties must be given sufficient time to study and react to the proposed staff. This shall not exceed 24 hours.
- iii. The additional expertise and support staff shall be appointed by the AUC in consultation with the Joint Committee

### **d. Duties and responsibilities**

- i. **Monitoring**, which will involve;
  - 1. On the ground supervision by the team of African experts to gather information on the conduct of the parties with regard to the implementation of the agreement and the implementation of the declaration.





2. Conducting a field inspection and collecting evidence of any violation of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities.
3. Oversee the disarmament of the TPLF combatants.
4. Scrutinizing expressions, statements, interviews, and declarations in any form that could undermine or violate the Agreement.
5. Inspecting activities by the Parties that may cause an adverse impact on the implementation of the Agreement

**ii. Verification, which involves:-**

1. Investigation of incidents violating the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities, terms of disarmament, and demobilization are reported by the Team of African Experts.
2. Immediately ascertain all relevant facts with a view to resolving the problem through the mutual agreement of the Parties.
3. Verification does not stop the continued monitoring by the TAE.
4. The process of disarmament of heavy and light weapons at the designated team sites, as agreed by the parties.
5. Undertaking joint patrols to designated team sites, consistent with the COHA.
6. Verify the withdrawal of foreign and non-ENDF forces to their respective borders, and ensure the deployment of ENDF along the international border of Ethiopia and in the areas convenient to its operation.
7. Confirm the humanitarian access and service delivery across the conflict-affected region.
8. Confirm the resumption of services across the conflict-affected region.

**iii. Reporting**

- i. Submit reports on all incidents and activities with recommendations and points for action by the Joint Committee.



**iv. Resolving incidents and disputes: the TAE;**

- i. When they find instances of violation, they will first discuss with the representative of the concerned Party and ask it to take corrective action.
- ii. To resolve a particular incident of violation or discuss with the representatives of the Parties represented in the TAE with a view to reaching an agreement on an urgent matter of implementation of the Agreement. The TAE shall immediately report the results of its work in this respect to the Joint Committee

**3.5. Duration and the termination of the Mandate;**

- i. The Joint Committee and TAE shall remain in office for six months.

**3.6. Command and Controls;**

The organizational the MVCM will operate at three primary levels:

- i. **The Strategic level:** The Joint Committee, which will be hosted at the AUC HQ in Addis Ababa shall provide high-level political guidance and coordination with partners for the implementation of the permanent COHA.
- ii. **The Operational level:** Shall be composed of the TAE Headquarters (HQ) is responsible for developing and conducting the general plan for the operational TAE activities dealing primarily with the allocation of mission resources, and definition of Critical Information Requirements (CIR). The HQ also ensures the general liaison with agreement parties at the operational level. The operational command will be based in Mekelle.
- iii. **The tactical level:** shall be composed of Team Sites Leaders responsible for the overall coordination TAE activities.

**e. Free movement and security;**

- i. The Parties will assure the free movement of the TAE and the supporting staff to all areas of the Tigray region, and coordinate among themselves and with the AUC to ensure the safety of the TAE and its support staff.



#### **f. Sub-committees**

The TAE shall form a different committee to expedite the discharge of its functions in an expeditious manner, including:

- i. Sub-Committee on Military Affairs;
- ii. Sub-Committee on remote monitoring technological systems,
- iii. Sub-Committee on surveillance of expressions and communications by the Parties, and
- iv. Sub-Committee on alternative dispute settlement.

#### **g. Media**

The TAE and any of the supporting staff or advisors shall not undertake any form of media reporting or interviews during or after the completion of their role.

#### **h. Code of Conduct**

Any person participating in this process must;

- i. Disclose if they have a prior engagement with or have worked with any one of the Parties or Parties hostile to either of the Parties.
- ii. The AUC must ascertain that all individuals respect this provision.
- iii. Any person with undue collaboration or collusion with either of the Parties must relinquish the status in this process or must be dismissed.

#### **4. General support**

- a. The AUC shall undertake to mobilise resources including human, logistical and financial support to ensure the full implementation of the mandate.
- b. The AUC Shall keep the information gathered in this process in a secure record.

#### **5. The role of Partners**

- a. The AU High-Level Panel will provide regular information to partners.





- b. The AUC shall establish partnerships with partners to secure resources, financial aid, and technical support for the discharge of the monitoring and verification functions.
- c. The partners willing to support the Joint Committee shall undertake to promote respect for the Agreement and the implementation Declaration.
- d. The AfDB shall provide financial support;

#### **6. Communication & Information Systems**

- i. The required communications and information system (CIS) capabilities shall reflect the command structure of the JMVC mechanism and allow for shared situation awareness and facilitate timely decision-making, and synchronized planning to enable successful mission accomplishment.
- ii. The CIS capabilities shall be designed and tailored to fit the nature of deployment of the JMVC mechanism components at each echelon.
- iii. The CIS apparatus and capabilities shall get the license in compliance with communication equipment licensing guidelines of the country.

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