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**LIMITE**

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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council

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Subject: Concept note for an assistance measure under the EPF to support the deployment of the Rwanda Defence Force in Mozambique  
- Approval

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1. On 3 May, pursuant to Article 57(1) of the Council Decision establishing a European Peace Facility (EPF), the High Representative submitted to the Council a concept note on an assistance measure under the EPF to support the deployment of the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) in Mozambique (8539/22).
2. The objective of the assistance measure is to support the continued deployment of units of the RDF in Mozambique's northern province of Cabo Delgado in order to extend, protect and sustain the territorial and tactical gains they have made so far. The scope of the proposed assistance measure is in line with Article 1(2), point (b), subpoint (ii), of the EPF Decision, as it supports military aspects of a peace support operation led by a third state.
3. The Political and Security Committee (PSC) examined the concept note at its meeting on 13 May and instructed the Africa Working Party (COAFR), in consultation with the Politico-Military Group (PMG), to assess and make a recommendation on the note.

4. On 25 May, COAFR, in consultation with the PMG, adopted a position in which it:
  - (a) stressed the importance of access, monitoring and regular reporting;
  - (b) stressed the importance of ensuring compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, calling for strong safeguards and monitoring mechanisms before providing the proposed assistance;
  - (c) called for further strengthening of regional ownership and coordination between the various stakeholders;
  - (d) stressed the added value of the integrated approach to the crisis in Cabo Delgado.

On this basis, and without prejudice to the ongoing discussions in other fora, COAFR gave a positive assessment of the concept note, including as regards a maximum reference amount of EUR 20 million and an implementation period not exceeding one year.

5. On 16 June, the PSC approved the concept note and agreed that it should be submitted to the Council for approval.
6. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council approve the concept note as set out in 8539/22.

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