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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
147TH MEETING
12 AUGUST 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/BR(CXLVII)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 147th meeting held on 12 August 2008, was briefed by the Commission and the representative of the Government of Burundi on the situation in Burundi.

Council expressed its deep concern over the procrastination and delaying tactics that continue to affect the implementation process of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement of 7 September 2006, despite the return to Bujumbura of the representatives of the Palipehutu/FNL in the Joint Verification and Follow-up Mechanism, as well as the return of Mr. Agathon Rwasa, leader of the Movement, on 16 and 30 May 2008, respectively.

Council requested the Government and Palipehutu/FNL to demonstrate greater political will to overcome the obstacles that continue to impede the implementation of the Agreement. In this respect, Council reminded the two parties that the patience and generosity of the international community have limits. Accordingly, Council urged the parties to place national interest above any other consideration and to demonstrate the patriotism required to meet the aspirations of the Burundian people for peace, security, stability and national reconciliation, as well as for social and economic development of the country.

Council reiterated its gratitude to the Facilitation for its initiatives aiming at overcoming the serious difficulties facing the peace process and for the remarkable efforts that it is deploying in support of the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement. Council further encouraged the Political Directorate to continue supporting the efforts of the Facilitation.

Council also commended the Regional Peace Initiative for the determination with which it continues to work with the parties in support of the peace process in Burundi.

Council encouraged the Commission of the African Union to continue supporting the peace process.

Addis Ababa, 12 August 2008

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