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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

**179<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**16 MARCH 2009**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**PSC/PR/BR(CLXXIX)**

**COMMUNIQUE**

**Communiqué of the 179<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Peace and Security Council**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 179<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 16 March 2009, adopted the following decision on the situation in Madagascar:

**Council,**

1. **Takes note** of the briefing by the Commission and the Statement of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Madagascar to the AU;
2. **Expresses its deep concern** over the political stalemate in the country and the growing tension in the capital and in other parts of Madagascar;
3. **Reaffirms its total rejection** of any change or attempt at unconstitutional change of Government as contained in the relevant texts of the AU, in particular the Algiers Decision of July 1999, the Lomé Declaration of July 2000, the Constitutive Act of the AU and the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council;
4. **Reiterates** the call of the AU upon the Malagasy parties to exercise utmost restraint and refrain from any action likely to complicate the search for a solution, challenge the republican institutions and their functioning, and seriously jeopardize civil peace and stability in the country;
5. **Urges** the parties to uphold the spirit of dialogue and compromise in order to speedily find a peaceful and consensual solution, in conformity with the Constitution and the institutions of Madagascar, as well as the relevant instruments of the AU;
6. **Welcomes** the efforts made by the Chairperson of the Commission with the view to expediting the settlement of the crisis. In this regard, Council noted the visit recently undertaken by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, to Antananarivo and the action taken on the ground by Ablasse Ouedraogo, Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission;
7. **Underlines** the importance of close coordination between all international actors engaged in efforts to resolve the crisis in Madagascar, and, in this context, **welcomes** the collaboration between the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission, the emissaries of the United Nations, Mr. Tieble Drama, and La Francophonie, Mr. Edem Kodjo;

8. **Requests** the Commission to keep it regularly informed of the evolution of the situation to enable it to take, in due course, the necessary measures on the basis of the relevant instruments of the AU;
9. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

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