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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

95TH MEETING

10 OCTOBER 2007

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm(XCV)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 95TH PEACE
AND SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 95th meeting held on 10 October 2007, adopted the following communiqué on the situation in the Comoros:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in the Comoros [PSC/PR/2(XCV)] and the additional information provided by the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission for the Comoros and the representative of South Africa, coordinator of the regional efforts on the Comoros, the statements by the representatives of Tanzania and the Sudan, in their capacity as Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to the African Union Electoral and Security Assistance Mission to the Comoros (MAES), as well as by the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF). Council **further takes note** of the statement by the delegation of the Government of the Union of the Comoros;
2. **Expresses its gratitude** to the countries of the region for their untiring efforts in support of the process of reconciliation in the Comoros, under the leadership of South Africa, coordinator of the regional efforts on the Comoros, as well as to MAES TCCs;
3. **Deeply regrets** that, in spite of the tireless efforts of the African Union and the urgent appeals by several members of international community, the illegal authorities of Anjouan have continued to reject the proposals put forward by the countries of the region, following the two meetings held in Cape Town and Pretoria, South Africa, on 18 June and 8 and 9 July 2007, respectively, in order to end the crisis and create conditions for lasting stability and reconciliation in the Comoros;
4. **Stresses** that any further delay in the resolution of the crisis would further destabilize the Comoros and seriously jeopardize the unity of the country, as well as seriously impede the efforts to address the socio-economic problems facing the Archipelago. Accordingly, Council **reiterates** its determination to ensure that the illegal authorities of Anjouan fully and unconditionally comply with the demands of the countries of the region, as articulated in the Cape Town communiqué of 18 June 2007, and the relevant decisions of Council;
5. **Approves** the recommendations submitted, in conformity with its communiqué PSC/PR/Comm(LXXXVII) of 13 August 2007, by the meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the countries of the region, held in Cape Town on 18 September 2007, which endorsed the conclusions of the meeting of senior officials of the countries of the region and the MAES TCCs, held in Addis Ababa on 4 September 2007. In this respect, Council **decides** that:
 - a) all Member States shall immediately take the necessary measures to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of all the illegal Anjouanese authorities and all other persons that impede the reconciliation process and constitute a threat to peace and security in the Comoros,

- b) all Member States shall immediately freeze the funds, other financial assets and economic resources that are on their territories and are owned or controlled by the illegal authorities of Anjouan and all other persons and entities that impede the process of reconciliation and constitute a threat to peace and security in the Comoros,
- c) in order to facilitate the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 5 (a) and (b) above, the Government of the Union of the Comoros, in collaboration with the Commission, shall draw up a comprehensive list of all the individuals and entities concerned. The Commission shall circulate the list of the said individuals and entities to all Member States,
- d) all air and sea transport to or from Anjouan shall be monitored to ensure that they do not, in any way, benefit to the illegal authorities of Anjouan and to their supporters, bearing in mind the need to limit, as much as possible, the impact of these measures on the civilian population;

6. **Further decides**, and in conformity with its communiqué of 13 August 2007 [PSC/PR/Comm(LXXXVII)], that the mandate of MAES is reviewed as follows:

- a) to support implementation of individual and other sanctions imposed by paragraph 5 above against the illegal authorities in Anjouan,
- b) to deploy in Anjouan in order to undertake the following:
 - (i) facilitate the organization, in Anjouan, of the first round of the election of the President of the Island, in accordance with the Constitution and relevant electoral legislation, and provide the requisite security for the holding of free, fair and transparent elections,
 - (ii) supervise the encampment of the elements of the Anjouanese Gendarmerie, which will, in no way, be involved in the supervision of the electoral process, as well as their disarmament and integration into the Comorian National Army,
 - (iii) assist in the establishment in Anjouan of an internal security force in accordance with the Constitution of the Union, and
 - (iv) facilitate the restoration of the authority of the Union in Anjouan;
- c) to support the work of the inter-Comorian Committee on the Sharing of Constitutional Competences between the Union and the Autonomous Islands, as well as the efforts aimed at rationalizing the current constitutional arrangements in the Comoros, after the restoration of the authority of the Union in Anjouan;

7. **Stresses** the need to strengthen MAES and, in this respect, **requests** the Commission to liaise with the TCCs for the speedy deployment of additional troops and other elements to facilitate the implementation of the revised mandate of MAES;
8. **Further requests** the Commission and the Government of the Comoros to undertake a sensitization campaign to explain to the Anjouanese population that the measures imposed by paragraph 5 are directed exclusively at the illegal authorities of the Island and that the only objective being pursued is to restore normalcy in Anjouan;
9. **Directs** that a follow-up mechanism, made up of two members of the Peace and Security Council, namely Angola and Senegal, representatives of the countries of the region and MAES TCCs, the Government of the Union of the Comoros, and the Commission, be established at the level of MAES in Moroni, under the leadership of the African Union, to supervise the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 5 above and grant the requisite exemptions on humanitarian or other grounds. Council **requests** the Commission to take the necessary steps to strengthen the African Union Liaison Office in Moroni, to enable it to play the role expected of it, and to mobilize the resources required to that end;
10. **Stresses** the importance of securing the full support of the international community in order to enhance the effectiveness of the measures referred to in paragraph 5 above. In this respect, Council **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to formally liaise with the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the OIF, the Indian Ocean Commission, the European Union and all other concerned stakeholders to solicit their support and that of their respective Member States for the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 5 above, including providing any information at their disposal on possible violations of these measures;
11. **Decides** that the measures imposed in paragraph 5 shall be applicable for an initial period of forty-five (45) days from the date of the adoption of the present communiqué. Should the illegal Anjouanese authorities comply fully and unconditionally with the demands of the Ministerial Committee and the relevant decisions of Council, before the expiration of this period, Council **shall meet to terminate** these measures, after consultation with the countries of the region. In the event of non-compliance, Council **shall meet to adopt** further measures, including sea and air blockade of the Island, as well as MAES support to the Comorian Government to enable it take all measures necessary to restore its authority in Anjouan;
12. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit to it, within twenty-one (21) days from the date of the adoption of this communiqué, a report on the steps taken to further the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 5, and in this respect, **requests** the Member States to communicate to the Commission all relevant information on the actions that they would have taken to implement the measures imposed by paragraph 5;
13. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

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