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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
117TH MEETING
28 MARCH 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR(CXVII)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 117th meeting held on 28 March 2008, was briefed about developments in the situation in the Comorian Island of Anjouan.

Council expressed satisfaction at the fact that the Comorian forces backed by Tanzania, the Sudan and Libya have succeeded in restoring the authority of the Union of the Comoros in the Island of Anjouan, thus putting an end to the illegal regime of Colonel Mohamed Bacar who has constantly rejected all the proposals submitted by the AU as a way out of the crisis.

Council seized the opportunity to express the gratitude of the AU to the Governments of Tanzania, the Sudan and Libya for their logistical support and the troops provided, in response to the appeal for assistance made by the Comorian Government and in conformity with decision *Assembly/AU/Dec.186(X)* adopted by the Assembly of the Union at its 10th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa from 31 January to 2 February 2008. Council also expressed its gratitude to Senegal for its contribution in the planning of the military operation.

Council reiterated AU's support to the Government and the people of the Comoros for their efforts aimed at promoting peace, stability and reconciliation in the archipelago. Council stressed that the AU will continue to support the Comorian Government in the new phase that has opened, including the organization of new elections in Anjouan. To this end, Council welcomed the commitment made by the Comorian Government to organize as soon as possible elections in Anjouan, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and other relevant texts governing the *modus operandi* of the Union of the Comoros.

Council appealed to all the AU member States and the international community as a whole to provide the necessary support for the consolidation of peace, stability and reconciliation in the Comoros.

Council agreed to meet soon to consider the modalities according to which the AU will continue to lend support to the efforts of the authorities of the Union and those of the autonomous islands, in order to consolidate peace and stability in the Comoros and facilitate the search for an adequate solution to the institutional problems of the new Comorian entity.

Addis Ababa, 28 March 2008

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