

AFRICAN UNION

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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
136TH MEETING
12 JUNE 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/BR(CXXXVI)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 136TH MEETING OF
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 136th meeting held on 12 June 2008, adopted the following decision on the situation at the border between the Republic of Djibouti and the State of Eritrea and the evolution of the relations between the two countries:

Council,

1. **Recalls** Press Statement PSC/PR/BR(CXXV) on the relations between the Republic of Djibouti and the State of Eritrea adopted by Council at its 125th meeting held on 2 May 2008;
2. **Welcomes** the Mission dispatched by the Commission to Djibouti, from 5 to 9 June 2008, as a follow-up to the Press Statement adopted at its 125th meeting and **expresses its appreciation** to the Djiboutian authorities for the cooperation they extended to the Mission;
3. **Notes with regret** that the Eritrean authorities have not yet accepted to receive the Mission;
4. **Expresses deep concern** over the recent developments in the situation on the ground, particularly the incidents occurring between the armed forces of the two countries since Tuesday 10 June 2008, which caused losses of lives, and the risk of escalation that could result from these regrettable developments;
5. **Strongly condemns** the use of force and **stresses** the imperative need to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the independence of Member States, in conformity with the AU Constitutive Act. Council **calls** for the immediate return to the situation prevailing at the common border between the two countries before the current tension, including the withdrawal from the border of all forces that have been positioned there since 4 February 2008;
6. **Urges, once more,** the two countries to show utmost restraint, resort to dialogue to resolve any bilateral dispute, and give their full cooperation to all efforts made to this end;
7. **Reiterates its full support** to the efforts being deployed by the Commission for the Mission dispatched to Djibouti to visit Eritrea as soon as possible, in accordance with its mandate, and **urgently appeals** to the Eritrean authorities to extend their full cooperation to this Mission;
8. **Welcomes** the initiatives taken by the Chairperson of the Commission to help ease the current tension;
9. **Agrees** to convene in due course at the appropriate level to consider the situation and take the necessary decision and **decides** to remain seized of the matter.

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