

AFRICAN UNION

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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

144th MEETING

7 AUGUST 2008

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm(CLIV)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 144TH MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 144th meeting held on 7 August 2008, considered the situation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in the aftermath of the coup d'Etat that took place on Wednesday 6 August 2008, and adopted the following decision:

Council:

1. **Takes note** of the briefing by the Commission on the situation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
2. **Condemns** the coup d'Etat that took place in Mauritania on 6 August 2008 and **demands** the restoration of constitutional order and the re-establishment, without further delay, of the institutions that were democratically chosen by the Mauritanian people;
3. **Stresses** the relevant provisions of the AU Constitutive Act, the Lomé Declaration of July 2000 and the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, pertaining to unconstitutional changes of government, which provide in particular for the automatic suspension of the participation of the country concerned in the activities of the AU until the restoration of constitutional order;
4. **Demands** the release of the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and other personalities who were arrested, the preservation of their safety, security and dignity, as well as those of the members of their families;
5. **Supports** the initiative of the Chairperson of the Commission to dispatch the Commissioner for Peace and Security to Mauritania with a view to reiterating AU's position to the authors of the coup d'Etat, and to engage them to return to constitutional order and to re-establish the democratic institutions;
6. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

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