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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
154TH MEETING
30 OCTOBER 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/2(CLIV)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 154th meeting held on 30 October 2008, received a briefing on the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and the Additional Agreements, from the AU Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union for Côte d'Ivoire. Council also received a statement from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

Council took note of progress made, in particular since 15 September 2008, of the start up of the identification process and the registration of voters. However, Council deplored the technical and logistical problems that have led to delays with regard to the timetable initially set.

Council encouraged the follow-up mechanisms, notably the Evaluation and Accompaniment Committee (CEA) and the Permanent Framework on Consultation (CPC), of the peace process to proceed, as soon as possible, to an evaluation of the situation, and if the need arises, make necessary adjustments, in consultation with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), to ensure the finalization of the identification and voter registration process as soon as possible, within the set time frame, with the view to enabling the holding of free, fair and transparent elections.

Council requested the Ivorian parties, as well as their partners, to pursue, with the same determination, the implementation of other aspects of the peace process, including the provision of the necessary financial resources to assist the process of disarmament, demobilization and re-integration and dismantlement of militia, as well as the effective functioning of the national civic service, in order to ensure a peaceful exit from the crisis.

Council commended all Ivorian parties for their commitment and determination to lead the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire to a successful conclusion. Council renewed its gratitude to the representatives of the international community for their commitment to the process and paid tribute to His Excellency President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, Facilitator of the Direct Inter-Ivorian Dialogue and current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for the relentless efforts that he continues to deploy towards peace and reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Addis Ababa, 30 October 2008

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