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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
163RD MEETING
22 DECEMBER 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/MIN/Comm.5(CLXIII)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 163RD MEETING OF
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 163rd meeting held at the ministerial level, on 22 December 2008, adopted the following decision on the situation in Guinea Bissau:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing by the Commission following the evaluation mission of the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission to Guinea Bissau, and his consultations with the Senegalese and Burkina Faso authorities;
2. **Condemns**, once again, the attack perpetrated on 23 November 2008 on the residence of President João Bernardo Vieira;
3. **Deplores** that, despite the proper conduct of the legislative elections of 16 November 2008, which all international observers, including the AU observers, considered satisfactory, the attack on 23 November 2008 **undermines** the ongoing democratic process in Guinea Bissau;
4. **Welcomes** the fact that the political parties in the country that had deemed it necessary, following the elections on 16 November 2008, decided to resort to legal means to address their complaints. To this end, Council **invites** the political parties concerned to scrupulously respect the final results to be announced by the Constitutional Court;
5. **Expresses its supports** to the President of the Republic and **encourages** him, as well as the entire political class, to embark upon the formation of a new National Assembly, as well as a new Government, on the basis of the final results of the legislative elections of 16 November 2008, thereby re-establishing normalcy in the political life of the country;
6. **Expresses** its concern over the drug trafficking and **calls on** the Bissau Guinean authorities to cooperate with the international community in the fight against this scourge;
7. **Commends** ECOWAS for its initiatives in the aftermath of the attempted assassination of President João Bernardo Vieira and the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government meeting in Abuja on 19 December 2008 for the strategies it adopted on Guinea Bissau. Council **endorses** these strategies and **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take appropriate measures to provide AU support towards their implementation;

8. **Urgently appeals** to Member States as well as to AU's bilateral and multilateral partners to assist Guinea Bissau in the reorganisation of the security services, in particular those in charge of the security of the President of the Republic and of the leaders of the country's key-institutions by providing security advisers and appropriate equipment for members of the said services;

9. **Decides** to remain seized of this matter.

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