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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

196th MEETING

29 JUNE 2009

SIRTE, LIBYA

PSC/MIN/COMM.(CXCVI)

COMMUNIQUE

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 196TH MEETING OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 196th meeting held on 29 June 2009 in Sirte, Libya, at the ministerial level, having received briefings from the Chairperson of the Commission and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal, in his capacity as the representative of the Facilitator of the political talks between the Mauritanian parties, adopted the following decision on the situation in Mauritania, following the entry into force of the Dakar Framework Agreement on Mauritania:

Council,

1. **Commends** the conclusion of the Dakar Framework Agreement, which is in line with the consensual elements to resolve the crisis set out in its relevant communiqués;
2. **Takes note** of the entry into force of the Dakar Framework Agreement and the measures taken to this effect, particularly the formation of a national transitional union Government, the transformation of the High Council of State into a defence organ, which, in accordance with Article 34 of the Mauritanian Constitution, is placed under the Government's authority, the implementation of the consensual transition in accordance with Article 40 of the Mauritanian Constitution, the decision of President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi to hand in his mandate to the Mauritanian people, and the President of the Senate taking over as acting President of the Republic, all of which are measures marking the return to constitutional order;
3. **Decides**, in light of the aforesaid and in accordance with the Lomé Declaration, to lift the suspension measure taken against Mauritania after the coup of 6 August 2008, as well as the sanctions set out in its communiqués of 22 December 2008, 5 February 2009 and 26 March 2009;
4. **Looks forward** to the presidential election whose first round is scheduled for 18 July 2009, and **requests** that all efforts be deployed for the election to take place in the required conditions of transparency, fairness and freedom. Council **further requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to report regularly on the evolution of the situation to enable it take any decision that may be required, including the re-imposition of sanctions, in the event that situations which warrant such a step are duly noted by Council;
5. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

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