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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
218<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
5 MARCH 2010  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR(CCXVIII)  
Rev. 1

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 218<sup>th</sup> MEETING**  
**OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 218<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 5 March 2010, received a briefing from the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Ambrose Niyonsaba, on recent developments in that country. Council was also briefed by the representative of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in her capacity as the current Chair of ECOWAS.

Council expressed its concern at the difficulties recently encountered in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and its Supplementary Agreements, and the resulting destruction of property, violence, loss of human life and stalling of the electoral process.

Council noted that the disturbances were as a result of the lack of consensus among the stakeholders on the voters' register.

Council, however, commended the efforts of the Facilitator of the Inter-Ivorian Dialogue, President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, which have made it possible to overcome the difficulties encountered in the process of ending the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. Council expressed hope that these gains will facilitate the diffusion of tension, the restoration of calm and serenity, and the restarting of the preparatory process for the elections, within the framework of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and its Supplementary Agreements, which constitute the framework for ending the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. Council stressed the need for all the concerned parties to scrupulously respect the commitments that they have made.

Council urged the Ivorian parties to give priority to the interests of their country and work to create and maintain the climate necessary for the full and effective implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and its Supplementary Agreements, and for the holding of free, fair and transparent elections within the agreed timeframe. In this regard, Council welcomed the establishment of the new Independent Electoral Commission and the formation of the new Government.

Council urged all parties to cooperate fully with the Independent Electoral Commission to enable it to effectively discharge the responsibilities entrusted to it, including the settlement of the disputes on the voters' register and the establishment of the final voters' register.

Council commended the sustained cooperation between the Facilitator of Inter-Ivorian Dialogue, the AU and ECOWAS. Council further appealed to the

international community to continue providing the necessary support to the electoral process in Côte d'Ivoire and the efforts being made to this end, including by the Government.

Council stressed the imperative of completing the process of ending the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and noted the responsibilities of each of the parties concerned and encouraged them to demonstrate the necessary spirit of consensus and mutual accommodation, bearing in mind the need for the process to be inclusive. In this regard, Council agreed to review regularly the developments in Côte d'Ivoire, at least once every month.

**Addis Ababa, 5 March 2010**

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