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UNIÃO AFRICANA

B.P.: 3243, Addis Abéba, Ethiopie Tél.: (251-1) 51 38 22 Fax: (251-1) 51 93 21
Email: oau-ews@telecom.net.et

PSC/AHG/Statement (XXIII)

**STATEMENT OF THE 23RD MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE
ELECTIONS IN PALESTINE**

Meeting at its 23rd Session in Libreville, Gabon, from 10 to 11 January 2005,
the PSC,

The Council,

Welcomes the recent elections held in Palestine and **salutes** the maturity and responsibility demonstrated by the Palestinian people in electing their leaders through democratic elections;

Congratulates Mr. Mahmoud Abbas for his election as leader of the Palestinian people;

Expresses its full support to Mr. Abbas and the new Palestinian leadership in their efforts to achieve the legitimate aspirations of their peoples through dialogue;

Urges the international community to extend full support to the new Palestinian leadership and to welcome the recent elections as an important step toward the revitalization of the peace process, aimed at establishing an independent State of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side with Israel.

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