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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

31ST MEETING

8 JUNE 2005

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm.(XXXI)

COMMUNIQUE

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 31ST MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 31st meeting, held on 8 June 2005, adopted the following decision on the situation in Guinea-Bissau:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Guinea-Bissau [PSC/PR/2(XXXI)];
2. **Welcomes** the progress made towards the full restoration of constitutional rule in Guinea-Bissau following the events of 14 September 2003. Council **further welcomes** the presidential elections scheduled to take place on 19 June 2005 and the fact that the electoral campaign launched by all the candidates on 28 May 2005 has thus far been conducted in a relatively calm atmosphere;
3. **Appreciates** the efforts made by Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, current Chairperson of the AU, Mamadou Tandja of Niger, current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, as well as by the international community at large, to lower the tension among political parties and contribute to a climate conducive to the holding of peaceful, transparent, free and fair presidential elections;
4. **Urges** all the presidential candidates and their followers to refrain from any act that may disrupt the electoral process, to commit themselves to accepting the results of the election, and to address any complaints that may be filed through the mechanisms provided to that end;
5. **Welcomes** the decision of the Commission to deploy an observer mission to monitor the presidential elections of 19 June 2005;
6. **Stresses** the need for the international community to help all the parties and stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau to engage in political dialogue in a spirit of reconciliation and inclusiveness in order to enhance efforts towards peace, stability and socio-economic development and facilitate all necessary reforms in this respect;
7. **Appeals** to the AU partners and to the international community at large to continue to provide the necessary assistance to help Guinea-Bissau to meet its immediate and long term development needs and, in that regard, **calls** for the acceleration of the preparations for the Donors Round Table Conference scheduled to be held in October 2005;

8. **Supports**, in principle, the proposal to establish an AU Liaison Office in Guinea-Bissau that would, in close collaboration with ECOWAS, the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, support efforts to promote stability and socio-economic development, and enhance democracy and respect for the rule of law and human rights. In this respect, Council **requests** the Commission to submit to it a more detailed proposal, elaborating the mandate of the envisaged Office and the modalities of its interaction with the other institutions represented on the ground, in Guinea-Bissau;

9. **Decides** to remain seized of the situation.

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