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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
502ND MEETING
ADDIS ABABA
29 APRIL 2015

PSC/PR/COMM.1(DII)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 502nd meeting held on 29 April 2015, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the situation in Mali. Council also took note of the statements made by representatives of France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, the UN Secretariat and the European Union (EU).

Council, reaffirming its commitment to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Mali, recalled its earlier communiqués and press statements on the situation in Mali, in particular communiqué PSC/PR/COMM/2.(CDXCVI), adopted at its 496th meeting held on 27 March 2015, in which it decided, *inter alia*, to fully support the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers Process.

Council, stressing that the negotiation phase is definitely over, reiterated its conviction that the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, initialed, on 1 March 2015, by the Malian Government and the Movements of the Algiers Platform, is a balanced compromise taking into account the legitimate concerns of all the parties, with due respect for the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Mali, as well as for the secular nature and the republican form of the State.

Council, once again, made an urgent appeal to the Coordination of Movements of Azawad (CMA), to subscribe, without further delay, to the Agreement, whose implementation will facilitate the restoration of lasting peace and security in northern Mali and bring to an end the suffering inflicted upon the civilian populations. Council stressed that the implementation of the Agreement will also make it possible to enhance the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime both in northern Mali and in the Sahel region, in general.

Council took note with satisfaction of the decision to organize the formal signing ceremony of the Agreement in Bamako, on 15 May 2015. Council welcomed the continuing efforts of the Mediation Team, led by Algeria, with the support of the international community, in order to bring the Movements of the Coordination to join the Agreement. Council reaffirmed its determination, in coordination with the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to take appropriate measures, including sanctions, against individuals and entities whose actions undermine regional and international efforts to restore peace and security in Mali. In this context, Council took note of the statement to the press made by the Security Council, on 10 April 2015, by which it expressed support for the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.

Council paid tribute to Algeria, Chef de File of the Mediation, and the members of the Mediation Team (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and Niger, the Economic Community of West

African States - ECOWAS, the UN, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation - OIC, the AU and the EU) and other international actors, for their contribution to the Algiers Process.

Council reiterated its serious concern at the security situation obtaining in Mali, particularly the increase in terrorist attacks in northern Mali against civilian populations, the Malian army, and the international forces present on the ground, particularly the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Council further noted with concern the spread of the attacks to the central and southern parts of the country. Council strongly condemned these terrorist acts. Council also noted with concern the clashes between armed movements, in violation of the Ceasefire Agreement of 23 May 2014 and the Declaration of Cessation of Hostilities of 24 July 2014.

Council reiterated its support for MINUSMA and reaffirmed the readiness of the AU to contribute to its strengthening, to enable it more effectively contribute to the search for peace, security and stability in Mali. In this regard, Council requested the Commission to take the necessary steps for the early convening of the meeting of the Ministers of Defense of the countries participating in the Nouakchott Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation and the Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan Region, which is expected to make recommendations on the follow-up to the conclusions of the ministerial meeting of the African Troop Contributing Countries to MINUSMA, held in Niamey, Niger, on 5 November 2014, and the relevant provisions of the Declaration of the Summit of the member countries of the Nouakchott Process of 18 December 2014.

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