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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
123RD MEETING
29 APRIL 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm (CXXIII)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 123RD MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

At its 123rd meeting held on 29 April 2008, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) adopted the following decision on the situation in Somalia:

Council:

1. **Takes note** of the Information Note on the situation in Somalia [PSC/PR/2(CXXII)] and the statement made by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Somalia, as well as the statements made by the representatives of Somalia and Kenya, in its capacity as the current Chair of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD);
2. **Recalls** its previous decisions on the situation in Somalia, as well as Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.3(X) adopted by the 10th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, from 31 January to 2 February 2008, on the situation in Somalia, in which the Assembly, *inter-alia*, demanded that all parties in Somalia reject violence, uphold the principles and spirit enshrined in the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC) and work towards genuine national reconciliation within that framework;
3. **Expresses deep concern** at the fact that, nearly 18 months after its initial decision authorizing the deployment of AMISOM, the Mission has still not yet reached its authorized strength. In this respect, Council **appeals, once again**, to the member States to provide the required troops and other personnel needed, as well as financial and logistical support to facilitate the deployment of AMISOM and the sustenance of its operations. Council **further appeals** to AU partners to provide increased financial and logistical support to the Mission;
4. **Welcomes** the commitment expressed by the TFG to the promotion of an inclusive dialogue and reconciliation and the efforts it is exerting to this end, as well as the readiness expressed by opposition groups, including the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS), to enter into talks with the TFG, with the view of peacefully resolving the crisis in Somalia;
5. **Further welcomes** the statement made by President Abdullahi Yusuf of Somalia, at the high-level meeting of the UN Security Council held in New York on 16 April 2008, reiterating his commitment and that of the TFG to dialogue and reconciliation in Somalia;
6. **Calls upon** all Somali stakeholders to reject violence, commit themselves to seek a peaceful solution to the problems facing their country and to intensify their efforts towards promoting an all-inclusive political process and achieving genuine reconciliation and lasting peace in their country, within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter of Somalia. In this respect, Council **requests** all the Somali stakeholders to participate in the talks that are scheduled to take place in Djibouti on 10 May 2008;
7. **Requests** the Commission, including through the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission, working closely with the United Nations and all

other stakeholders, to continue to lend AU's full support to the ongoing process and to engage with all Somali actors;

8. **Reiterates** its appreciation for the work done by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops, as well as its gratitude to the Governments of Uganda and Burundi for their support on the ground to peace and reconciliation in Somalia;

9. **Calls on** member States and the larger international community to desist from providing whatever support to those Somali groups bent on using violence to undermine the dialogue, peace and security process in Somalia;

10. **Strongly condemns** the attacks against AMISOM positions, including the suicide attack of 8 April 2008 against the Burundi contingent which led to the death of a member of the contingent and to the wounding of several others and **further condemns** the killing of Government Officials, as well as all other acts of violence perpetrated by those elements seeking to undermine the political process, hinder the operations of AMISOM and undermine regional peace and stability;

11. **Reiterates its request** to the United Nations Security Council to urgently take the steps required for the deployment of a UN peacekeeping operation, bearing in mind that it has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In the meantime, Council **stresses once again** the need for the UN to put in place a financial, logistical and technical support package for AMISOM, within the framework of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter;

12. **Expresses deep concern** at the increasing acts of piracy off coast of Somalia, which hinder humanitarian operations and other maritime activities, **expresses** its appreciation to France, Denmark and Netherlands for providing escorts to ships carrying World Food Programme (WFP) humanitarian supplies to Somalia, and **reiterates its call** to member States in position to do so to contribute to the protection of WFP humanitarian supplies;

13. **Reiterates its call** to Member States, especially the countries of the region, and the larger international community, to stand by the legitimate Somali Institutions and provide adequate and concrete support in order to enhance their capacity, including that of the TFG and its security and defence forces;

14. **Expresses deep concern** at the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia and **demands** that all parties take the necessary steps to facilitate the humanitarian operations, including the safety and security of the humanitarian workers and unhindered access to the needy populations, and to strictly comply with international humanitarian law. Council **commends** the humanitarian agencies and organizations, as well as their personnel on the ground for their sustained efforts, in spite of the very challenging conditions in which they are working and **appeals** to them to continue their support to the needy populations;

15. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this decision and to report regularly on the steps taken to this effect;

16. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

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