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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
177TH MEETING
11 MARCH 2009
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.(CLXXVII)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 177th MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 177th meeting held on 11 March 2009, adopted the following decision on the situation in Somalia:

Council:

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Somalia [PSC/PR/2(CLXXVII)], as well as the statements made by a Ministerial delegation of the Republic of Burundi, by the representatives of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the League of Arab States and the United Nations;
2. **Recalls** all its previous decisions on the situation in Somalia ;
3. **Welcomes, once again**, the recent progress made in furtherance of the Djibouti Agreement of 19 August 2008, notably the expansion of the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), the election of the new President, as well as the designation of a new Prime Minister and the establishment of a Government of National Unity. Council **further welcomes** the relocation of the Somali officials and institutions to Mogadishu;
4. **Expresses serious concern** over the precarious security situation in Mogadishu, in particular, and in Somalia, in general. Council **strongly condemns** all acts of violence perpetrated against civilians and humanitarian workers, in violation of International Humanitarian Law, as well as the deliberate and planned attacks on AMISOM personnel and positions;
5. **Reiterates its strong condemnation** of the terrorist attack on the Burundian contingent on 22 February 2009, resulting in the killing of twelve (12) soldiers and the injuring of fifteen (15) others, by elements bent on undermining the ongoing efforts to promote peace and stability in Somalia;
6. **Expresses, once more, its gratitude** to the Governments of Burundi and Uganda for their unwavering commitment to the cause of peace and reconciliation in Somalia. Council **lauds** the dedication and commitment of the AMISOM personnel, in spite of recent tragic losses and the difficult security conditions under which they operate;
7. **Expresses satisfaction** at the readiness of the Governments of Uganda and Burundi to contribute an additional battalion each to further strengthen AMISOM, and **urges** the other AU Member States, in particular those that have been approached by the Commission, to respond positively to the requests forwarded to them to contribute troops and other personnel to enable AMISOM reach its authorized strength;

8. **Calls on** AU Member States and international partners to contribute generously towards capacity building for the Somali security forces;

9. **Reiterates its call** on AU Member States and international partners to provide the required logistical and financial support for the full deployment of AMISOM and the sustenance of its operations. Council **expresses appreciation** for the support, both financial and logistical, provided by some AU Member States, bilateral and multilateral partners, which have made current AMISOM operations possible;

10. **Welcomes** the adoption by the UN Security Council, on 16 January 2009, of resolution 1863(2009) in which it expressed its intent to establish a UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia as a follow-on force to AMISOM, **and calls on** the Security Council to adopt the requisite decision by 1st June 2009. Council **further welcomes** the proposals made by the UN Secretary-General on 19 December 2008, for a logistical package to support AMISOM, including equipment and services, and requested the Secretary-General to establish a Trust Fund to provide financial support to AMISOM until a UN peacekeeping operation is deployed and to assist in the re-establishment, training, and retention of all inclusive Somali security forces;

11. **Notes** that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security remains that of the United Nations Security Council. In this context, Council **reiterates** its call on the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly to authorize, **as soon as possible**, the expected support package for AMISOM as contained in the UN Security Council resolution 1863 (2009);

12. **Recalls** its decision endorsing the targeted sanctions imposed by the 30th Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of IGAD held in Addis Ababa on 18 November 2008, against all those hindering the on-going efforts towards reconciliation, peace and stability in Somalia. In this respect, Council **requests** the Commission, working closely with all relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations , to establish a list of individuals and entities on whom the sanctions are to be imposed and on the modalities for the implementation of these sanctions;

13. **Reiterates its request** to the Security Council to grant to the TFG an exemption to the arms embargo imposed on Somalia by resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992, to enable the TFG to equip the Somali security forces in order to address the security needs of the country;

14. **Decides** to extend the mandate of AMISOM for three (3) additional months, starting from 17 March 2009;

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

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