

AFRICAN UNION

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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
197TH MEETING
10 JULY 2009
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/COMM(CXCVII)

COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 197TH
MEETING OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 197th meeting held on 10 July 2009, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Republic of Guinea:

Council:

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in the Republic of Guinea [PSC/PR/2 (CXCVII)] and the briefings by the Commissioner for Peace and Security and the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission for Guinea;
2. **Recalls** the conclusions of the meeting of the local representation of the International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G), held in Conakry on 18 and 19 June 2009, and the final communiqué of the 4th meeting of the ICG-G held on 27 June 2009 in Sirte, Libya;
3. **Recalls also** the relevant paragraph, regarding the situation in the Republic of Guinea, of the decision adopted on the Report of the Peace and Security Council of the AU on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, by the 13th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Sirte, Libya, from 1 to 3 July 2009;
4. **Notes with appreciation** the efforts of the Authority of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government on the situation in Guinea, at its 36th Ordinary Session held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 22nd June 2009, and particularly, its commitment to the implementation of the agreed timetable and the restoration of constitutional order in 2009, through inclusive, free and fair elections;
5. **Expresses grave concern** at the lack of significant progress in the transition towards the restoration of constitutional order in the Republic of Guinea and the holding of legislative and presidential elections in 2009, as provided for under the chronogram, including:
 - (i) the absence of a sustained, peaceful and productive political dialogue between the different actors in the transition, which constitutes an obstacle to the country's return to constitutional order no later than the end of 2009,
 - (ii) the non-establishment of the National Transitional Council (CNT), which should have been put in place several months ago,
 - (iii) the suspension of the electoral identification process and the lack of clarity as to its finalization,

- (iv) the deteriorating security situation and the violation of human rights, including increasing arbitrary arrests and detentions,
 - (v) limitations to freedom of expression and association, particularly the denial of access for political parties to the state media and the hindrances to their public activities.
6. **Underscores** the urgency to re-launch the dialogue between the National Council for Development and Democracy (CNDD) and all the concerned Guinean parties. In this respect, Council **demands** that the recent meeting of the CNDD and Active Forces be followed by the rapid and effective establishment of the proposed ad hoc Commission, as well as the CNT;
7. **Calls** for the making and implementation of all necessary arrangements for the holding of elections before the end of 2009, as scheduled by the chronogram;
8. **Further stresses** the importance of the fulfillment of mutual obligations in the current phase of the transition, including the formalization of the commitment of the President and members of the CNDD and the Prime Minister, not to stand for the coming legislative and presidential elections, and **reiterates** the commitment of the AU to continue to support Guinea in this regard;
9. **Takes note** of the release, on 30 June 2009, by the CNDD and the Government of the first portion of the contribution of Guinea to the electoral process and **encourages** them to keep this momentum in order to promote the holding of elections at the agreed time;
10. **Welcomes** the contributions and pledges made by international partners during the 4th meeting of ICG-G and **reiterates** its appeal to member States of the AU and the international community for further financial and technical assistance to Guinea;
11. **Expresses concern** at the repeated acts of violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as acts of violence and extortion carried out by armed elements in uniform against businessmen and civilians, which further contributes to the deterioration of the economic and financial situation of the country. In this regard, Council **demands** that the CNDD and the Transitional Government intensify the fight against impunity and ensure respect for human rights;
12. **Awaits with interest** the outcomes of the 5th meeting of the ICG-G scheduled to take place in Conakry on 16 and 17 July 2009, as well as the ongoing engagement of ECOWAS leaders with the situation in Guinea;
13. **Reaffirms** the provisions of the AU Constitutive Act and the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government and **expresses its resolve** to apply the said provisions should the Authorities in Guinea not expeditiously, in conformity with the chronogram, take the necessary steps required to return to constitutional order;

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

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