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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
283RD MEETING
6 AND 12 JULY 2011
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR.(CCLXXXIII)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 283rd meeting held on 6 and on 12 July 2011, was briefed on the evolution of the situation in Madagascar by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, and by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mediator for Madagascar, former President Joaquim Alberto Chissano. Council also listened to presentations by Ambassador Albert Muchanga, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the AU, on behalf of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security; Mr. Hugo Sada, Delegate for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy of the International Organization of *La Francophonie* (OIF), on behalf of the OIF, and Ambassador Zachary D. Muburi-Muita, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the AU, on behalf of the United Nations (UN).

Council reaffirmed all its previous decisions on the situation in Madagascar. Council recalled the paragraph on Madagascar of the decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, as adopted by the 17th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 30 June to 1st July 2011, and in which the Assembly, among others, stressed the need for continued efforts to find a lasting solution to the crisis in Madagascar, within the framework of AU instruments relating to unconstitutional changes of Government.

Council took note of the decision of the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Sandton, South Africa, from 11 to 12 June 2011, in which the Heads of State and Government, among others, noted that: a) the return of Madagascar to constitutional normalcy is a matter of urgency; b) approved, with amendments, the Roadmap for a way out of the crisis in Madagascar; c) urged the leaders of Mouvances Ratsiraka, Ravalomanana and Zafy to support the Roadmap once the necessary changes have been made; d) urged the High Transition Authority (HTA) to allow Malagasy personalities in exile for political reasons to return to the country unconditionally, including Mr. Marc Ravalomanana; e) and urged the HTA to develop and implement urgently all pending legal instruments to ensure political freedom for all Malagasy in the inclusive process leading to free, fair and credible elections. In this context, Council requested that the Roadmap be amended accordingly and be fully consistent with the relevant decisions and instruments of the AU and SADC.

Council commended SADC for its efforts to facilitate the return to constitutional order in Madagascar, on the basis of the "Roadmap for a way out of the crisis in Madagascar." Council reiterated its appreciation to the SADC Mediator, and encouraged him to pursue his efforts to reach an as consensual and inclusive solution as possible to the crisis in Madagascar.

Council requested the Commission and the SADC Secretariat to take the necessary steps to establish a joint presence on the ground, in order to better monitor the evolution of the situation and facilitate the implementation of the SADC Roadmap, in close coordination and collaboration with the AU partners, in particular the UN, the OIF, the European Union and the Indian Ocean Commission.

Council also stressed the need for renewed efforts by the AU and SADC to mobilize the support of the international community to the ongoing efforts of the SADC Mediation. In this regard, Council requested the Chairperson of the Commission to convene, in due course and in consultation with the SADC Mediator, a meeting of the International Contact Group on

Madagascar (ICG-M) to coordinate the action of the international community in support of the implementation of the Roadmap and the restoration of constitutional order in Madagascar.

Council further called on all the Malagasy stakeholders to place the national and permanent interests of their country above all other considerations and to live up to their historical responsibilities at a time when a spirit of reconciliation and compromise needs to prevail for the sake of peace, democracy and development in the country.

Council agreed to remain seized of the situation in Madagascar.

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