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UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Abéba, Ethiopie, B.P.: 3243 Tel.: (251-1) 51 38 22 Fax: (251-1) 51 93 21
Email: oau-ews@telecom.net.et

**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
37TH MEETING
8 SEPTEMBER 2005
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/Comm.1(XXXVII)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 37TH MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 37th meeting, held on 8 September 2005, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania:

The Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, including the results of the visit of the AU Ministerial delegation to Nouakchott on 9 August 2005 [PSC/PR/2(XXXVII)];
2. **Recalls** Declaration PSC/PR/Decl.(XXXVI)-(ii) on the situation in Mauritania adopted at its 36th session on 4 August 2005;
3. **Takes note** of the developments in Mauritania since the August 3rd coup d'état and the commitments made by the new Mauritanian authorities towards the swift restoration of constitutional order by a process which will culminate in the holding of free, fair and transparent elections. The Council **takes note**:
 - the adoption of decrees instituting an inter-ministerial Committee for justice, an inter-ministerial Committee for the democratic transition process charged with proposing the measures and provisions intended to guarantee the smooth holding of scheduled elections, in consultation with political parties and the civil society, and of an inter-ministerial Committee for good governance;
 - the adoption of a Constitutional Ordinance relating to the ineligibility of the President and members of the CMJD, of the Prime Minister and members of Government, for presidential and legislative elections scheduled within the framework of the democratic transition process;
 - the commitment not to co-opt, favour any political party, or create any party or organisation;
 - the request addressed to the United Nations on 26 August 2005 for electoral assistance toward organising a constitutional referendum on July 2006, at the latest, to be followed by presidential and legislative elections before 3 August 2007; and
 - the announcement, on 5 September 2005, of a general amnesty for all Mauritians being prosecuted, indicted or sentenced for political crimes and offences.

4. **Encourages** the Mauritanian authorities and other stakeholders to continue to work together for the swift return to constitutional order, to pursue and to enhance dialogue and consultation between all the stakeholders and to consolidate democracy and the rule of law, within the context of the unity and sovereignty to Mauritania;
5. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, in liaison with the Chair of the AU and the Chair of the PSC, to take all necessary support measures in order to facilitate the swift return to constitutional order, within the shortest possible time, taking into account the commitments made by the new authorities, and to contribute to the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, in accordance with the AU Constitutive Act, the Algiers Decision and the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government;
6. **Calls** on the international community in its entirety, to continue to support the efforts of the African Union and to provide all necessary assistance to support the return to constitutional order in Mauritania;
7. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

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