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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
47TH MEETING
21 MARCH 2006
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/Comm.1(XLVII)

COMMUNIQUE ON THE SITUATION IN THE COMOROS

COMMUNIQUE OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
ON THE SITUATION IN THE COMOROS

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 47th meeting, held on 21 March 2006, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Comoros:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in the Comoros [PSC/PR/2(XLVII)] and the pertinent observations contained therein;
2. **Reiterates** its commitment to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Union of the Comoros;
3. **Notes with satisfaction** the significant progress made in the reconciliation process in the Comoros since the signing of the Agreement on the Transitional Arrangements in the Comoros of 20 December 2003, including the election of the Assembly of the Union and the Assemblies of the Autonomous Islands, in March-April 2004, the formation of a National Unity Government in July 2004, and the establishment of the Constitutional Court in September 2004. Council **appeals** to all Comorian parties to work closely together in a spirit of openness and compromise in order to resolve the outstanding problems, within the framework of the new Comorian institutions and the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros;
4. **Reiterates its gratitude** to South Africa, as coordinator of the regional efforts on the Comoros, and the other countries of the region, for their support to the reconciliation process in the Comoros;
5. **Welcomes** the Donors Conference for the Comoros, convened in Mauritius, on 8 December 2005, under the co-chairmanship of President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam of Mauritius, and **stresses** the importance of socio-economic development in sustaining the reconciliation process in the Comoros. Council **appeals** to those who have not yet fulfilled their pledges made during the Donors Conference to do so without further delay;
6. **Notes** that the reconciliation process in the Comoros will enter a crucial phase with the holding, on 14 May 2006, of presidential elections at national level, which will be preceded by primaries, on 16 April 2006, on the Autonomous Island of Anjouan, which will provide the next President of the Union of the Comoros within the framework of the rotating presidency of the Union;
7. **Takes note** of the request by President Azali Assoumani, as contained in his letter of 11 October 2005, to the Chairperson of the Commission and the unanimous request of the Comorian parties that the AU provide security for the electoral process, as well as the technical, logistical and financial support required for the holding of credible, free and fair elections;
8. **Requests** the Commission to take all the necessary steps to observe and monitor the electoral process in the Comoros in its entirety, from the primaries, on 16 April 2006, in Anjouan, to the presidential elections at national level, on 14 May 2006, through the deployment of a team of election observers and monitors;

9. **Authorizes** the deployment, until 9 June 2006, under the overall responsibility of a Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission, of an African Union Mission for Support to the Elections in the Comoros (AMISEC), comprising the team of election observers and monitors referred to above and 462 military and civilian police personnel, with South Africa as lead nation, as well as the necessary support staff, bearing in mind that the security forces in the archipelago shall not be involved in the conduct of the electoral process in any capacity. AMISEC mandate shall be as follows:

- to support the reconciliation process in the Comoros and the implementation of the Agreements signed by the Comorian parties,
- to observe and monitor the electoral process,
- to assist in creating a safe and stable environment before, during and after the completion of the electoral process,
- to verify that, during the electoral period, the Comorian security forces, both from the Union and the Autonomous Islands, are not involved in the electoral process,
- to provide any other support to the electoral process, with a view to contributing to the holding of credible, free and fair elections, and
- to take all measures necessary to protect its personnel, as well as civilians within the proximity of the polling stations;

10. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, in close collaboration and consultation with South Africa, as the coordinator of the efforts of the countries of the region on the Comoros and as lead nation for AMISEC, to take all necessary steps for the effective deployment of AMISEC and the satisfactory discharge of its mandate, including the finalization of the Status of Mission Agreement (SOMA) and the Rules of Engagement (RoE);

11. **Encourages** the countries of the region to dispatch election observers to the Comoros who will be part of the team of AU observers and monitors during the elections of April and May 2006. Council **further encourages** the countries of the region to continue to lend any other support likely to facilitate the ongoing process in the Comoros and to consolidate the progress made thus far;

12. **Requests** the Commission to coordinate closely its efforts with the AU partners in the Comoros, namely the European Union (EU), the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF), the United Nations, including UNDP, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the League of Arab States, in order to facilitate the smooth holding of the electoral process and the successful conclusion of the reconciliation process. Council **also appeals** to the AU partners to provide the necessary financial and logistical support to facilitate the deployment of AMISEC and the accomplishment of its mandate;

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

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