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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
312th MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
8 MARCH 2012

PSC/PR/BR(CCCXIII)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), at its 312th meeting held on 8 March 2012, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the outcome of the International London Conference on Somalia of 23 February 2012.

Council welcomed the outcome of the London Conference on Somalia. Council noted with satisfaction that the steps agreed to at the Conference would go a long way in furthering peace and reconciliation in Somalia, as well as greater stability and security for the region and beyond. Council expressed the AU's appreciation to the UK Government, particularly Prime Minister David Cameron, for having taken this initiative in support to the AU's efforts in Somalia.

Council stressed the need to maintain the current international momentum in support of the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia. In this respect, Council looks forward to the upcoming Istanbul Conference on Somalia.

Council called on the Somali political leadership to honour fully the commitments made to complete the transition on time and put in place a more representative and inclusive political dispensation.

Furthermore, Council welcomed the adoption by the Security Council, on 22 February 2012, of resolution 2036(2012), which significantly enhances the UN support package to the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), in particular by supporting the decision made by the Peace and Security Council, at its 306th meeting held on 5 January 2012 PSC/PR/COMM.(CCCVI), to increase AMISOM's force strength from 12,000 to 17,731 uniformed personnel; expanding accordingly the UN support package for the Mission; and authorizing the inclusion, into the support package, of the reimbursement of contingent owned equipment and the provision of vitally-needed force enablers and multipliers. Council expressed its deep appreciation to the Security Council members and to the UN Secretary-General for their support and commitment to promoting lasting peace and reconciliation in Somalia.

Council noted that the adoption of resolution 2036(2012) was an important step in the efforts by the AU and the UN to build an innovative and forward looking partnership to address the daunting challenges of peace and security in Africa. In this respect, Council recalled its communiqué PSC/PR/COMM. (CCCVII) of 9 January 2012 on the partnership between the AU and the UN in the area of peace and security, as well as paragraph 16 of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.408 (XVIII) on the report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, adopted by the 18th ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union, held on 29 and 30 January 2012.

Council reiterated its appreciation to AMISOM and to the Ethiopian forces for the continued gains being made on the ground in support of the Somali security forces, including the recent advances in the Mogadishu area and the liberation of the city of Baidoa. Council looks forward to the outcome of the meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff of AMISOM TCCs and other interested countries, to be held on 9 March 2012, in Addis Ababa, in order to formally establish the Military Operations Coordination Committee (MOCC), as foreseen by the AMISOM Strategic Concept, and discuss its Terms of Reference, as well as other related issues.

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