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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
356<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
27 FEBRUARY 2013  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR (CCCLVI)

PRESS STATEMENT

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 356<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 27 February 2013, received a briefing from the Commission on the signing of the "Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Region", which took place at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, on 24 February 2013.

Council welcomed the signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region. Council also welcomed the signing of the Framework, as witnesses and guarantors of its implementation, by the Chairperson of SADC and the representative of the Chairman of the ICGLR, as well as by the UN Secretary-General and Chairperson of the AU Commission.

Council paid tribute to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for initiating this important document and for facilitating the consultations of all stakeholders for its enrichment, and congratulated the Chairperson of the Commission on her efforts towards the completion of this process and the contribution of the Commission in this regard. Council also paid tribute to the leaders of the ICGLR and SADC for their role and commitment to promote a holistic and proactive search for a lasting solution to the recurrent crises in Eastern DRC.

Council also welcomed the proposed appointment of a Special Envoy of the United Nations to support the efforts of national actors, as well as regional and international partners, to find a lasting solution to the crisis. In this regard, Council stressed the need for the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for the Great Lakes region and the UN Special Envoy to work closely together, as part of the partnership between the two organizations.

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