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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
390TH MEETING
16 AUGUST 2013
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR.(CCCXC)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 390th meeting held on 16 August 2013, was briefed by the Commission on the latest developments in the situation in Egypt and the efforts being deployed by the AU.

Council recalled the content of its communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(CCCLXXXIV) and press statements PSC/MIN/BR.2(CCCLXXXVII) and PSC/PR/BR.(CCCLXXXIX) adopted at its 384th, 387th and 389th meetings held on 5 July, 27 July and 14 August 2013, respectively.

Council, reiterating its firm condemnation of all acts of violence, as contained in its press statement of 14 August 2013, expressed deep concern at the escalation of violence in Egypt and strongly deplored the considerable loss of human lives, the injuries sustained and the property damaged in Cairo and elsewhere in the country. Council offered AU's heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and wished speedy recovery to the wounded.

Council reiterated its solidarity with the entire people of Egypt in this challenging and sad chapter of their national history. Council, once again, called on all Egyptian stakeholders, including the interim authorities and the Muslim Brotherhood, to exercise utmost restraint in order to avoid further losses of human lives and destruction of property. Council recalled that, since the onset of the current crisis, the AU has repeatedly stressed the need for all the Egyptian stakeholders to embrace the spirit of mutual accommodation, dialogue and national reconciliation and to refrain from any act of violence and retribution. Council further recalled that it was in this context that the AU established a High-Level Panel for Egypt, which visited Cairo from 27 July to 4 August 2013.

Council stressed that the tragic events that took place in Egypt were a stark reminder for the Egyptian stakeholders of the imperative and urgency for dialogue, with the view to overcoming the current challenges and facilitating an inclusive and peaceful transition that would lead to the early restoration of constitutional order. Council, in line with its duties and responsibilities towards all AU Member States stressed, once again, AU's determination not to relent in its efforts to promote and foster an African solution within the African framework, based on the relevant AU instruments. In this respect, Council noted that the Commission had already formally seized the Egyptian authorities to inform them of the envisaged second visit of the High-Level Panel for Egypt to Cairo, to further consult with the Egyptian stakeholders and assist them in overcoming their differences. Council looks forward to an early and positive response from Egypt's interim authorities, to enable the Panel travel to Cairo in the course of next week, as well as to an unreserved cooperation from all stakeholders. Council requested the Commission to keep it informed of the steps being taken for the visit and related interaction with the Egyptian interim authorities and other stakeholders.

Council called on AU bilateral and multilateral partners to lend their full support to the High-Level Panel, as it engages with the interim authorities and Egyptians of all affiliations, in order to facilitate a consensual way out of the current difficulties, bearing in mind that Egypt's challenges are also Africa's challenges. Council requested the High-Level Panel to continue to work with the League of Arab States as part of the strategic partnership between this organization and the AU and in furtherance of their shared interest for a peaceful, stable and democratic Egypt.

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