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PRESS STATEMENT BY THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council, at its meeting held on 27 June 2006, considered the situation in Somalia and the DRC, as well as the relations between Chad and Sudan.

Regarding the situation in Somalia, the Council, having been briefed by the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the AU and the Commissioner for Peace and Security, reiterated its earlier decisions. The Council, in particular, stressed the need for an increased support to the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), including the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), and early deployment of IGASOM. In this respect, the Council welcomed the steps already taken by IGAD and the AU, including the joint planning meeting scheduled to be held in Nairobi, on 28 and 29 June 2006.

The Council appealed once again to the United Nations Security Council to authorize an exemption to the arms embargo to allow for the early deployment of IGASOM and the reconstitution of the Somalia Security Institutions.

The Council agreed to keep the situation under constant review, with a view to taking appropriate decisions as the need arises.

On the situation in the DRC, the Council was briefed by the Permanent Representative of the DRC, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Congo (Brazzaville), in his capacity as representative of the Chairman of ECCAS, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Botswana, in his capacity as representative of the Chairman of SADC, and the Commissioner for Peace and Security. The Council expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the transition in the DRC. It reiterated the importance it attaches to the elections scheduled to be held at the end of July 2006 and appealed to the people and leaders of the DRC to contribute to creating propitious conditions for the holding of peaceful, free and fair elections.

The Council welcomed the steps already taken by ECCAS, SADC and the AU Commission to support the electoral process in the DRC.

With respect to the relations between Chad and Sudan, the Council was briefed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan and the Permanent Representative of Chad to the AU. The Council was also briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the visit made by an AU fact-finding delegation to the two countries in April and June, as a follow-up the decision adopted at its meeting of 13 April 2006. It was also briefed by the Secretary for African Affairs of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the follow-up to the Tripoli Agreement of 8 February 2006.

The Council called on the two countries to show restraint and extend their full cooperation to the Mechanisms established by the Tripoli Agreement. It also encouraged AMIS to provide all necessary support within its current capacity and mandate. The Council agreed to meet soon to consider the report of the mission that visited the two countries in April and June 2006.

Banjul, le 29 juin 2006

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