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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
645TH MEETING

ADDIS ABABA
22 DECEMBER 2016

PSC/PR/BR(DCXLV)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 645th meeting held on 22 December 2016, agreed on to the following, with regard to developments in the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Council endorsed the press release published on December 19, 2016, by the Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad.

Council reiterated the terms of its communique [PSC/PR/COMM.(DCXLII)] adopted at its 642nd meeting, held on 6 December 2016, in which Council welcomed the signature, on 18 October 2016, of the "Political Agreement for the Organization of Peaceful, Free, Fair and Credible Elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo", under the Facilitation of the AU Envoy, His Excellency Mr. Edem Kodjo.

Council, in these crucial juncture in the history of the DRC, underscored the imperative for all Congolese stakeholders to demonstrate utmost restraint, as well as a spirit of compromise and a high sense of responsibility and to place the supreme interest of their country above any other considerations.

Council called upon all concerned actors to remain engaged, in good faith, in the dialogue process led by the National Episcopal Conference of Churches of Congo (CENCO), with a view to reaching the broadest possible consensus, within the framework of the 18 October 2016 Agreement.

Council urged the DRC authorities to ensure protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as contained in the country's Constitution. Council reiterated the commitment of the AU to continue to assist all political actors and civil society in their efforts aimed at reaching a consensus, with a view to safeguarding the progress made in the DRC at enormous sacrifices.

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