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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
60th MEETING
18 AUGUST 2006
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/Comm(LX)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 60TH PEACE
AND SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 60th meeting held on 18 August 2006, adopted the following decision on the situation and the post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Liberia:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Information Note presented by the Commission on the situation and the post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Liberia [PSC/PR/2(L)];
2. **Commends** President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and her Government for the steps taken towards peace building and post-conflict reconstruction in Liberia, since their inauguration last January. Council, in particular, **welcomes** the initiatives taken to improve governance and combat corruption, including the transparent management of the country's resources, the revision of the mandate of the Governance Reform Commission so as to include in its tasks the preparation of an anti-corruption strategy and a code of conduct for civil servants, the progress made in the implementation of the Governance and Economic Management and Assistance Programme (GEMAP), and the continued cooperation with the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme;
3. **Further commends** the Government of Liberia for the efforts deployed to promote national reconciliation and human rights, through the launching and operationalization of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the re-establishment of the Independent Human Rights Commission;
4. **Encourages** the Government to vigorously pursue its efforts, building on the gains already achieved and the overall thrust of its policy as articulated by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf when she was sworn into office. Council **further encourages** the different Liberian institutions and stakeholders to work closely together to facilitate the post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts in Liberia;
5. **Notes** with satisfaction the tremendous contribution made by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the regional leaders, other AU Member States, the Commission, including through the Special Envoy of the Chairperson, Ramtane Lamamra, and the AU Liaison Office in Monrovia, as well as the wider international community, in particular the United Nations, the European Union and the United States of America, towards the restoration of peace and stability in Liberia;
6. **Urges** the international partners to pursue their efforts and provide continued and increased assistance to facilitate the peace building and post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Liberia. In this respect, Council **welcomes** the recommendations made by the United Nations Secretary-General in his tenth progress report on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), dated 14 March 2006, including the need for a consolidation phase of up to two years to safeguard and amplify the gains made so far;

7. **Notes** the adoption by the United Nations Security Council, on 13 and 20 June 2006, respectively, of resolutions 1683(2006) and 1689 (2006), providing for the partial lifting of the arms embargo for limited supplies of weapons and ammunition for the new security forces of Liberia and deciding not to renew the measure contained in resolution 1521(2003) of 22 December 2003 that obligates Member States to prevent the import into their territories of round log and timber products originating in Liberia;
8. **Supports** the request made by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf requesting the Security Council to consider lifting the sanctions imposed on Liberia under resolution 1521(2003). In this respect, Council **encourages** the Security Council to review these measures in light of the developments in the peace process in Liberia;
9. **Stresses the need** for the AU and its Member States to make a significant contribution towards peace building and post-conflict reconstruction in Liberia. In this respect, and in order to facilitate a concerted effort, Council **requests** the Commission, in close consultation with ECOWAS, the African Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), to dispatch, as soon as possible, a multidisciplinary team of experts to Liberia, to assess the situation and come up with concrete recommendations on the assistance that could be rendered by the AU and its Member States, within the framework of the Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) adopted by the Executive Council at its Banjul session held in June 2006;
10. **Appeals** to Member States to provide, in the meantime, support to the Liberian Government, particularly in the training of the armed and security forces and the provision of equipment, as well as the reform of the judiciary and **requests** them to inform the Commission of any initiative they may take in this respect;
11. **Stresses** the importance of a regional and integrated approach to promote lasting peace and stability in Liberia and in the neighboring countries. In this respect, Council **welcomes** the adoption by the Security Council, on 9 August 2006, of a Presidential Statement on Peace Consolidation in West Africa and **requests** the Commission to continue to work closely with the United Nations, ECOWAS and other stakeholders within the framework of a regional and integrated approach;
12. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

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