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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
16TH MEETING
17 SEPTEMBER 2004
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/Comm.(XVI)

COMMUNIQUÉ

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its sixteenth meeting, on 17 September 2004, adopted the following Communiqué:

A. ON THE SITUATION IN THE DARFUR REGION OF THE SUDAN

Council,

1. **Welcomes** the convening, in Abuja, Nigeria, since 23 August 2004, of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on the crisis in Darfur, under the auspices of the AU and with the support of its Partners;
2. **Urges** the Parties, namely the Government of the Sudan (GoS), the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), to comply fully with the N'djamena Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004. Council **further calls** on the Parties to extend full cooperation to the AU, to remain committed to the negotiation process and to work with determination towards a lasting and comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Darfur;
3. **Pays tribute** to President Olusegun Obasanjo, Chairman of the AU, for his leadership and sustained efforts in promoting an early and negotiated solution to the conflict in Darfur;
4. **Commends** the efforts of the Chairperson of the AU Commission and his Special Envoy for Darfur, Hamid Algabid, deployed with the support of the AU Partners;
5. **Urges** the GoS to demonstrate more commitment and determination to address the prevailing situation in Darfur and to extend full cooperation to the AU Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) to allow it to act more effectively;
6. **Reiterates** the need for the AU to continue to play a leading role in the efforts to find a solution to the conflict in Darfur and, in this regard, **welcomes** the support rendered by the international community. Council **expresses appreciation** for the support given by the UN and the UN Secretary-General to the AU in its efforts on the conflict in Darfur;
7. **Stresses** the need for sustained efforts to ensure that progress continue to be made in the Naivasha Peace Process;
8. **Requests** the Commission to expedite the preparations for the enhancement of the AMIS and to submit to it proposals in that regard, in conformity with paragraph 9 of the PSC Communiqué of 27 July 2004.

B. ON THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA**Council,**

1. **Welcomes** the establishment of the Transitional Federal Parliament of Somalia, on 29 August 2004, and the election of the Speaker of the Parliament, Hon Sherif Hassan Sheikh Aden;
2. **Commends** the efforts of the IGAD Facilitation Committee and **requests** the latter to remain seized with the matter. Council further **commends** the Government of Kenya and all those that have worked tirelessly and contributed to the notable achievements in the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference taking place at Mbagathi, Nairobi, Kenya. The Council **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission and his Special Envoy for Somalia to continue to extend fullest support to the IGAD Facilitation Committee and to the Reconciliation Process;
3. **Invites and encourages** all Members of the Somalia Transitional Federal Parliament to remain focused and to work for the early election of the President and the formation of the Transitional Federal Government;
4. **Invites** all Somali Parties to contribute effectively to the restoration of their nation-State through the creation of a conducive environment for the installation and functioning of their newly created governance institutions;
5. **Strongly denounces** the activities of all those who seek to undermine the process and **urges** them to desist from any action that would, in any form, tend to compromise the welcome outcomes of the Somali National Reconciliation Conference. Council **invites** all Member States, in particular those in the region, to take all measures necessary against such spoilers to ensure the consolidation and advancement of reconciliation, peace and stability in Somalia;
6. **Affirms, once again,** the determination of the African Union to effectively support the outcomes of the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference and, in this regard, **invites** the Commission to expeditiously pursue its efforts towards the deployment of an AU Peace Support Mission to support the reconciliation process, in conformity with the relevant decisions of the Executive Council and the Peace and Security Council;
7. **Invites** AU Members and the international community at large to render as a matter of urgency all necessary assistance to the in-coming Somali national institutions to facilitate their functioning and consolidation.

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