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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
77TH MEETING
9 MAY 2007
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

PSC/MIN/Comm.1(LXXVII)

COMMUNIQUE ON THE SITUATION IN THE COMOROS

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 77TH MEETING OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SITUATION IN THE COMOROS

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 77th meeting held on 9 May 2007, at Ministerial level, adopted the following on the Situation in the Comorian Island of Anjouan:

The Council:

1. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** over the situation in The Comoros, notably the incidents that took place in the Comorian Island of Anjouan and the negative consequences that they could have on the national reconciliation process in The Comoros, particularly the holding of the forthcoming elections of the Presidents of the autonomous islands scheduled to take place from 10 to 24 June 2007, and **FIRMLY CONDEMNS** the attacks perpetrated by the Anjouanese gendarmerie against the National Comorian army, as well as acts of harassment that have been committed in the Island;
2. **CALLS** for the scrupulous respect of the Constitution of the Union of The Comoros and other fundamental texts governing the functioning of the Union, as well as the authority of the central government;
3. **APPEALS** to all the Comorian parties to refrain from any action that can aggravate the situation and compromise the holding of the elections for the Presidents of the Islands, as scheduled in the electoral calendar adopted by the National Independent Electoral Commission. Council **URGES** the Comorian parties to engage in constructive dialogue in order to overcome the difficulties confronting the reconciliation process;
4. **WELCOMES** the initiatives taken by the Chairperson of the Commission to help the Comorian parties to overcome the current crisis through, *inter alia*, the mission currently being undertaken in the Archipelago by the Special Envoy, Mr. Francisco Madeira. Accordingly, Council **CALLS ON** all the Comorian parties to fully cooperate with the Special Envoy in order to speedily resolve the current crisis within the framework of the Constitution of the Union and other fundamental texts governing its functioning and the authority of the central government;
5. **AUTHORIZES** the Chairperson of the Commission, in response to the request of the Comorian Government, to take the necessary steps to provide the security assistance needed to facilitate the smooth running of the elections of the Presidents of the autonomous islands. In this regard, Council **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the two joint missions by the African Union and South Africa (in its capacity as coordinator of the regional efforts on The

Comoros) dispatched to The Comoros in March and April 2007, and **INVITES** the Chairperson of the Commission, in close consultation with the Chair of the Ministerial Committee on The Comoros, to finalize the modalities of the envisaged AU Electoral and Security Assistance Mission to The Comoros (MAES) and ensure its deployment as soon as possible;

6. **DECIDES** that MAES shall be deployed for an initial period running from 13 May to 31 July 2007, with the following mandate:
 - i. to assist the Comorian security forces to create a secure and stable environment for the holding of free, fair and transparent elections of the Presidents of the Islands;
 - ii. to oversee and ascertain that the Comorian security forces play an effective role in ensuring that the elections are trouble-free, in accordance with international standards;
 - iii. to monitor the electoral process;
 - iv. to encourage dialogue among the Comorian parties;
 - v. to provide long-term assistance to strengthen the capacities of the Comorian forces and facilitate the effective restoration of the authority of the central government in Anjouan;
7. **URGES** Member States to contribute the military and civilian police personnel, as well as the financial and logistical resources required, to facilitate the timely deployment of MAES and the successful accomplishment of its mandate;
8. **APPEALS** to the AU partners to provide the necessary financial and logistical support to facilitate the deployment of MAES and the effective accomplishment of its mandate;
9. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the Ministerial Committee of the countries of the region on The Comoros for the work accomplished under the coordination of South Africa, and **ENCOURAGES** the Committee to pursue its efforts, including undertaking a mission to The Comoros as soon as possible, to support the efforts aimed at consolidating the reconciliation process in the country;
10. **DECIDES** to remain seized with the matter.

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