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P.O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.:(251-11) 551 38 22 Fax: (251-11) 551 93 21
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org, oau-ews@ethionet.et

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
242TH MEETING
4 October 2010
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR.(CCXXXII)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 242ND MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 242nd meeting held on 4 October 2010, was briefed by the Commission on maritime security and safety in Africa and the implementation status of related AU's decisions. Council also followed a presentation by the European Union (EU) to the AU on EU's efforts and initiatives on maritime security and safety.

Council recalled the relevant provisions of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.252(XIII) on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, adopted by the 13th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Sirte, Libya, from 1 to 3 July 2009, and of the Plan of Action adopted by the Special Session of the Assembly of the Union on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, held in Tripoli, on 31st August 2010.

Council further recalled the conclusions of the Workshop of Experts on Maritime Security and Safety, held in Addis Ababa from 6 to 7 April 2010, as well as decision Assembly/AU/Dec.294(XV) adopted by the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Kampala, from 25 to 27 July 2010.

Council reiterated AU's serious concern at the mounting insecurity in the maritime spaces around Africa, including illegal fishing, dumping of toxic waste, drug and arms trafficking, oil bunkering, as well as piracy and armed robbery at sea. Council strongly condemned these illegal activities and stressed the need and urgency of a comprehensive strategy to protect the African maritime domain. In this respect, Council welcomed the efforts being made by the Commission towards the implementation of the conclusions of the Workshop on Maritime Security and Safety. Council looks forward to the early development of an African integrated maritime strategy.

Council stressed the need to promote holistic approaches to address the issue of piracy, including off the coast of Somalia. It reiterated that such approaches should be informed by a proper understanding of this phenomenon and the context in which it is taking place, and involve both security measures at sea and efforts to promote land-based initiatives, including the enhancement of structures of governance and protection of the livelihoods of coastal populations, through effective measures to combat illegal fishing and dumping of toxic wastes. Council urged the United Nations Security Council and the international community as a whole to adopt such a holistic approach.

Council expressed satisfaction for the initiative taken by African countries on a regional basis, and urged AU partners to lend their full support to the efforts being made by the continent to protect its maritime domain and develop the required instruments in this respect.

Council requested the Commission to keep it informed of developments relating to maritime security and safety and AU's efforts.

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