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**Peace and Security Council
247th Meeting
2nd November 2010
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

PSC/PR/BR (CCXLVII)

PRESS STATEMENT

**PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 247TH MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 247th meeting held in Addis Ababa, on 2nd November 2010, was briefed by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Guinea-Bissau, Head of the AU Liaison Office in that country, Professor Sebastiao da Silva Isata, on the evolution of the situation in Guinea Bissau, as well as on the AU efforts in the country.

Council welcomed the operationalization of the AU Liaison Office, and noted with satisfaction the warm welcome given to the Special Representative by the Bissau-Guinean authorities and by the representatives of the international community in Bissau, as well as the interest shown by all stakeholders in the AU Liaison Office.

Council noted with satisfaction the actions taken by the Special Representative since his assumption of duty, which contributed to creating an atmosphere of confidence and cooperation and to building a new momentum on the Bissau-Guinean political landscape. In this regard, Council expressed its appreciation to the Special Representative for his initiatives, encouraged him to pursue his efforts, and assured him of its full support.

Council expressed concern at the divisions within the political class and the impact on the functioning of the State. In this regard, Council urged all the Bissau-Guinean parties to embrace dialogue and uphold the supreme interest of the Nation over partisan and personal ambitions.

Council welcomed the readiness expressed by the Bissau-Guinean authorities to receive the AU/ECOWAS Joint Stabilization Mission, with the mandate to further peace building and stability, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development, in conformity with the Tripoli Plan of Action adopted on 31 August 2009. In this regard, Council requested the Commission to immediately undertake the necessary consultations for the deployment of the Mission. Council called on the United Nations, the European Union and other AU bilateral and multilateral partners, urging them to contribute an appropriate support for the speedy deployment of the Mission.

Council took note of the declared commitment of the Bissau-Guinean parties to implement the security sector reform. It called on the Member States, partners of Guinea-Bissau and the international community as a whole to re-launch the Donors Conference, the success of which will contribute to the implementation of this programme. In this regard, Council noted with satisfaction and gratitude the contribution of US\$35 million made by Angola and the pledge made by China to contribute US\$12 million.

Council stressed the imperative of the fight against impunity and urged the Bissau-Guinean authorities, with the help of the international community, to take the steps required to this effect.

Council took note of the commitment of the Bissau-Guinean authorities to combat drug trafficking, including through the adoption of legislation criminalizing possession, transfer, processing and trafficking of drugs. Council called on the United Nations and the international partners to provide support to the region, particularly to Guinea-Bissau to enable the country to successfully fight this scourge.

Council expressed its conviction that the situation in Guinea-Bissau requires sustained action at political, developmental and security levels, including the implementation of the indispensable security sector reform, as well as a renewed involvement of the international community as a whole.

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