

AFRICAN UNION

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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

355TH MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

13 FEBRUARY 2013

PSC/PR/COMM.1 (CCCLV)

COMMUNIQUÉ



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The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 355th Meeting, held on 13 February 2013, in Addis Ababa, adopted the following decision on the Situation in Madagascar:

Council,

1. **Takes Note** of the statements made by the Acting Commissioner for Peace and Security, Prof. Jean-Pierre Ezin, the Mediator of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), former President Joaquim Alberto Chissano, on the Situation in Madagascar, as well as the statements made by the Representatives of Mozambique, country chairing SADC and the United Nations;
2. **Recalls** all its previous decisions and Communiqués on the situation in Madagascar, as well as the decisions adopted by the 20th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, from 27 to 28 January 2013, and its commitment to the Roadmap to end the crisis in Madagascar, of 17 September 2011, which provided the appropriate framework for the restoration of Constitutional order and the overall solution to the crisis faced by Madagascar;
3. **Welcomes** the progress made in the process of ending the crisis in Madagascar, particularly the renunciation by Mr. Andry Rajoelina and Mr. Marc Ravalomanana of their respective candidatures for the forthcoming presidential election, and **calls on** all Malagasy Parties to fully implement the Roadmap as the only viable mechanism to put an end to the crisis in the country;
4. **Takes note** of the updated election calendar which provides for, among others, the 1st round of Presidential election on 24 July 2013, and the 2nd round of the presidential election, coupled with the Legislative election on 25 September 2013, and the Local election on 23 October 2013;
5. **Also takes note** of the Decision of the Summit of the Troika of the Organ of the SADC Heads of State and Government with Mozambique, in its capacity as the Chairman of SADC, held in Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, from 10 to 13 January 2013, in which the Heads of State and Government, among others, reaffirmed their support to the Roadmap;
6. **Stresses** that, despite the progress made, some provisions of the Roadmap are still not implemented or are partially implemented, particularly Article 20 and consequently, **decides** to maintain the suspension of the participation of Madagascar in the activities of the AU and the sanctions imposed against Madagascar, while reiterating its will to lift these measures as soon as possible. In this respect, Council, endorsing the recommendations of the Mediator :

- (i) **demands** that Malagasy Institutions of Transition remain neutral, in particular during the electoral period ;
- (ii) **emphasizes** the need to maintain the independence, integrity and credibility of the Independent National Electoral Commission for the Transition (CENI-T), and calls for respect and compliance with decisions taken by this institution;
- (iii) **demands** that the Malagasy political stakeholders exercise restraint and fully assume their political responsibility of peacefully bringing Madagascar back to constitutional normalcy.

7. **Recalls** that, at its 303rd meeting, held in Addis Ababa, on 8 December 2011, it had expressed its intention to lift suspension of the participation of Madagascar in the activities of the AU, as contained in the Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(CLXXXI), adopted at its 181st meeting, held on 20 March 2009, as well as the sanctions imposed under its Communiqués PSC/PR/COMM.1(CCXVI) and PSC/PR/COMM.1(CCXXI), adopted at its 216th and 221st meetings, held on 19 February and 17 March 2010, respectively. In this regard, Council **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with SADC, to report to it, in the beginning of April 2013, at the latest, on the progress made in the implementation of the Roadmap, including its Article 20, so as to enable it take a decision on the lifting of the suspension of Madagascar;

8. **Encourages** the Chairperson of the Commission to mobilise Africa and the international community at large for them to provide the necessary support to the transition process in Madagascar, as provided for in the Communiqué of 8 December 2011;

9. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of SADC, to enhance the Joint AU/SADC Office in Madagascar, with a view to ensure a greater presence during the electoral period;

10. **Congratulates** SADC on its efforts aimed at facilitating the restoration of Constitutional order in Madagascar, on the basis of the “Roadmap to end the crisis in Madagascar”. Council **reiterates** its appreciation to the Mediator of SADC, President Joaquim Alberto Chissano, and **encourages** him and his team to pursue their efforts to reach a consensual and inclusive solution to the crisis in Madagascar;

11. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

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