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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

503RD MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

30 APRIL 2015

PSC/PR/COMM.3(DIII)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 503rd meeting held on 30 April 2015, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the evolution of the situation in Burundi. Council also listened to the statement made by the representative of Burundi to the AU.

Council welcomed the press release on the situation in Burundi issued by the Chairperson of the Commission, on 29 April 2015. Council reiterated its concern about the serious threats that the prevailing situation in Burundi poses to peace, security and stability in the country, with far reaching implications for the whole region. Council renewed its urgent appeal for restraint and dialogue, to help overcome the current difficulties, preserve the gains made and deepen democracy and the rule of law, in accordance with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. Council underlined its rejection of violence and its demand for the scrupulous respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as for the disarmament of all militias and other illegal armed groups.

Council looks forward to the early dispatch to Burundi of a high-level mission in Burundi by the Chairperson of the Commission and urged the Government of Burundi and all other stakeholders to cooperate fully with the planned mission. In the meantime, Council requested the Commission to undertake urgent consultations with the Government of Burundi to agree on practical measures to de-escalate the situation and to create a climate conducive to dialogue and the search for a solution, including the deployment of human rights observers and other civilian elements.

Council requested the Commission to keep it updated on the evolution of the situation and the efforts to defuse the tension and promote dialogue.

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