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PRESS RELEASE

AU Peace and Security Council Concludes its Two-Day Field Mission to the Republic of The Gambia

Banjul, 31 July 2019: The African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) has just concluded its two-day field mission in the Republic of The Gambia, which took place from 29 to 30 July 2019. The mission was conducted in line with the Council's mandate of promoting peace, security and stability in Africa and, in particular within the context of implementation of various decisions of the Council on the post-conflict situation in The Gambia.

Representatives of the fifteen PSC Member States namely: Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zimbabwe participated in the field mission, led by His Excellency, Sebade Toba, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Togolese Republic to the African Union, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the PSC for the month of July 2019.

Upon arrival, the Delegation was briefed by the Experts of the AU Support Technical Group (AUSTG) on the efforts of the AU in The Gambia. The Delegation also received a briefing by the Executive Secretary of the African Commission for Human Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). During the field mission, the Delegation held consultations with President of the Republic of The Gambia, His Excellency Adama Barrow, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, international Cooperation and Gambian Abroad of The Republic of The Gambia, Honourable Dr. Mamadou Tangara, and the Minister of Interior of the Republic of The Gambia, Honourable Ebrima Mballow. The Delegation also held consultations with the Office of National Security, the National Human Rights Commission, the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and the Constitutional Review Commission. The Delegation also held consultation with the Special Representative the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to The Gambia. Last but not least, the Delegation of the PSC, represented by the PSC Troika, paid a courtesy call to the Ambassador of Germany to The Gambia.

The main objectives of the field mission were: to express the AU solidarity with the people and Government of The Gambia and reiterate the full commitment of the AU to support the ongoing peace building and peace consolidation efforts, the constitutional review process, as well as all other ongoing institutional reforms; to get a better appreciation of the dynamics of the situation and unique experience of the Gambia within the context of the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy. The Delegation also sought to understand the challenges being faced in the reforms processes, in order to ascertain the additional support which may be required from the AU and the PSC in particular.

The Delegation encouraged the Government of The Gambia and all Gambian political actors to place the national interests of the country above all else, uphold their commitments and expeditiously implement all necessary reforms, as well as to work towards national reconciliation, in order for the country to build strong State institutions, open a new and positive chapter in its political history and prevent a relapse. The PSC Delegation commended the Government of the Gambia for the progress made in stabilizing the country despite the challenges being facing and called upon the Government to remain resolute. The Delegation also commended ECOWAS and all development partners, particularly, the Federal Government of German, for their continued support to The Gambia and encouraged all those bilateral partners who had made pledges at the last International Donors' Conference to expeditiously redeem their pledges.

The PSC delegation commended the Government of The Gambia, the AU Technical Support Team to the Gambia and the ACHPR for facilitating the successful conduct of the field mission.

Upon return to the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, the PSC will formally issue the full Report of the field mission.

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