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**REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF
PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa is submitted pursuant to Article 7(q) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU). According to the Article, the PSC shall “submit, through its Chairperson, regular reports to the Assembly on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa.” The present Report, prepared in conformity with the said Article, covers the activities undertaken by the PSC in the pursuit of its mandate during the period July 2010 to January 2011, and provides an overview of the state of peace and security on the continent during the period.

2. The specific aspects covered include the signature and ratification of the PSC Protocol, membership of the PSC, rotation of the chairmanship of this organ, activities undertaken by the PSC, other issues falling within the mandate of the PSC, and the state of peace and security in Africa.

II. SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE PSC PROTOCOL

3. Since the entry into force of the Protocol in December 2003, fifty one (51) Member States have signed the PSC Protocol, while forty six (46) have both signed and ratified it. Two Member States, namely, Cape Verde and Eritrea, are yet to sign and ratify the Protocol. The following Member States have signed the Protocol, but have not yet ratified it: Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guinea Bissau, Republic of Guinea, Liberia, Seychelles and Somalia.

III. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PSC

4. As stipulated in Article 5 (1) of the Protocol, the PSC is composed of fifteen (15) members with equal rights, who are elected as follows: 10 members elected for a two (2) year term and five (5) members elected for a three (3) year term. In this respect, it should be recalled that the Executive Council, during its fourteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 28 to 29 January 2010, conducted elections for all the fifteen seats of the PSC, as they had become vacant, in line with decision Assembly/AU/Dec.106(VI) by which the Assembly delegated its power for the election of members of the Peace and Security Council, under Article 5 (2) of the Protocol, to the Executive Council for the current and future elections.

5. The current list of PSC members in the English alphabetical order is as follows: Benin, Burundi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire (currently under suspension), Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

IV. ROTATION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE PSC

6. In conformity with Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the PSC, the chairmanship of the PSC rotates among its members on a monthly basis following the English alphabetical order of the list of the PSC members. Furthermore, as provided for in the Conclusions of the July 2007 Dakar PSC Retreat on its working methods, a new list of PSC members was elaborated following the election of fifteen members of the PSC for a two-year term and a three-year term by the Executive Council in January 2010, on the basis of which a line up of the rotating chairmanship of the PSC was drawn (see Annex I attached to this Report) covering the period from April 2010 to March 2012.

7. During the period under review, the chairmanship of the PSC rotated as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| - Côte d'Ivoire | July 2010; |
| - Djibouti | August 2010; |
| - Equatorial Guinea | September 2010; |
| - Kenya | October 2010; |
| - Libya | November 2010; |
| - Mali | December 2010; |
| - Mauritania | January 2011. |

V. ACTIVITIES OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

8. During the period under review, the PSC, in discharging its mandate for the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, has engaged in continued efforts to address conflict and crisis situations in the continent in close cooperation with all other stakeholders, including AU Organs, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), UN Security Council and other AU partners. In this regard, the PSC held nineteen (19) meetings, including one at the ministerial level on 15 October 2010, in Addis Ababa, and one at the level of Heads of State and Government in Tripoli, Libya, on 30 November 2010, to consider various conflict situations and related issues. Notably, the Tripoli meeting focussed on Sudan, within the context of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the peace efforts in Darfur, as well as on the post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, whilst the ministerial meeting considered the situation in Somalia. (Annex II)

9. Among the meetings were briefing sessions to receive updates on various peace and security situations and issues. The countries concerned and relevant stakeholders were invited to these meetings and briefing sessions, in line with the established practice of the PSC and in conformity with the provisions of the PSC Protocol. Furthermore, the PSC undertook field missions to Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan. The PSC also participated in various other meetings and activities of other AU Organs, and held joint meetings with its counterparts, namely, the European Union (EU) Political and Security Committee (EU /COPS) and the Peace and Security Council of the League of Arab States, to discuss issues of common concern, as well as the strengthening of partnership.

a) **Activities relating to conflict situations**

10. Between July 2010 and January 2011, the PSC considered the following conflict and crisis situations:

(i) **Sudan**

11. During the period under consideration, the PSC remained actively seized with the various aspects of the situation in Sudan, in particular the implementation of the CPA and the pursuit of the Darfur all-inclusive political process, reviewing developments in that country on eight (8) occasions (235th meeting held on 2 July, 237th meeting held on 21 July, 246th meeting held on 28 October, 248th meeting held on 13 November, 250th meeting held on 30 November, 254th meeting held on 21 December 2010, 256th meeting held on 10 January and 258th meeting held on 20 January 2011). The decisions and communiqués adopted during those meetings can be summarized as follows:

- At its 235th meeting, the PSC commended the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on Sudan for its commitment and hard work to advance, in a holistic way, the search for peace, justice and reconciliation in the Sudan; and expressed its appreciation to the Sudanese Government and to all stakeholders for the cooperation extended to the AU and the Panel. The PSC welcomed the convening of preparatory discussion on post-referendum arrangements between the NCP and the SPLM in Mekele, Ethiopia, from 21 to 23 June 2010. It welcomed the convening, at the initiative of the Chairperson of the Commission, in Addis Ababa, on 7 May 2010, of the strategic review meeting between the AU Commission and the UN Secretariat, as well as the inaugural meeting of the Sudan Consultative Forum (SCF).
- At its 237th meeting, the PSC expressed deep concern at the deterioration in the security situation in Darfur since May 2010; strongly condemned the attacks on UNAMID personnel and that of humanitarian agencies; noted with satisfaction the progress made in the deployment of UNAMID, as well as the regular consultative meetings of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism comprising the Government of Sudan, the AU and the UN. The PSC reiterated the AU's appeal to the UN Security Council to heed the call for the deferral of the process initiated by the ICC against President Al Bashir in the interest of peace, justice and reconciliation. The PSC encouraged the parties to the Doha process to intensify their efforts, and urged the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA)/Abdul Wahid to join the process without delay. The PSC reiterated its full support to the AUHIP. It decided to extend, for a further period of 12 months, the mandate of UNAMID and requested the UN Security Council to do the same.
- At its 246th meeting, the PSC requested the Chairperson of the Commission to take appropriate measures to extend the mandate of the AUHIP by a new period of one year, with effect from 29 October 2010.

- At its 248th meeting, the PSC welcomed the visit to the Sudan of a ministerial delegation of the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction Committee on Sudan, and stressed the importance of a renewed effort in this respect.
- At its 250th meeting, the PSC received a briefing by the AUHIP, led by former President Thabo Mbeki, on the activities of the Panel and the situation in Sudan. The PSC welcomed the commitment of the Sudanese Parties and encouraged them to pursue their efforts towards the full implementation of the CPA. The PSC also expressed the AU's confidence in the leadership of President Omar Al Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit to lead the Sudan into a new era of peace, regardless of the outcome of the self-determination referendum.
- At its 254th meeting, the PSC, having stressed the importance for Sudan and for Africa as a whole of the self-determination referendum scheduled for 9 January 2011, requested the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary measures to dispatch a team of observers as large as possible to monitor the referendum and encouraged all Member States in a position to do so to deploy observers, at their own expenses and under the auspices of the AU, in order to strengthen the AU presence on the ground.
- At its 256th meeting, the PSC emphasized that the timely holding of the referendum was a further testimony of the capacity of the Sudanese parties, with genuine international support, to address the challenges facing their country. The PSC expressed appreciation to the parties for their commitment to respect the outcome of the referendum, and reiterated the AU's commitment, as one of the CPA Guarantors, to respectfully the results of the referendum whatever the outcome and to accompany the parties and the Sudanese people in general in the journey they have embarked upon towards sustainable peace, economic development and democratic transformation.
- At its 258th, the PSC expressed its concern at the surge in fighting between the Government and the armed movements, and strongly condemned the kidnapping of peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel as well as attacks against UNAMID. The PSC expressed its appreciation to all humanitarian and other agencies providing assistance to the needy population of Darfur and undertaking early recovery activities. The PSC stressed the need to ensure the speedy conclusion of the Doha peace negotiations and, once again, demanded that all parties, in particular the JEM and the SLA, engage in negotiations towards a ceasefire in good faith and extend the necessary cooperation to the Joint Chief Mediator. The PSC reiterated the importance of the prompt commencement of the Darfur political process under the auspices of the AUHIP and UNAMID, reiterated its support to the AUHIP, and welcomed the commitment of the State of Qatar to support and contribute to the DPP.

12. Furthermore, from 15 to 18 December 2010, the PSC, led by the Ambassador of Mali, Chairperson of the PSC for the month of December 2010, undertook a field

mission to Sudan. During its visits to Juba, Khartoum and El Fasher, the PSC delegation met with various Sudanese authorities and stakeholders. The PSC held meetings in Juba with the First Vice-President of Sudan and President of the Government of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, and in Khartoum with President Omar Al Bashir, respectively. The PSC also received briefings from the Chairman of the South Sudan Referendum Bureau, in Juba, and from the Chairman of the South Sudan Referendum Commission, in Khartoum, on the preparations for the Referendum. The PSC reiterated the AU's solidarity with the Sudanese leaders and people, and reiterated the AU's support to the full implementation of the CPA and the pursuit of the all-inclusive political process in Darfur. The PSC assured the CPA parties that the AU would do its utmost for the respect and implementation of the outcome of the referendum, whatever it may be. The PSC renewed its support to the AUHIP efforts in Sudan and urged the Sudanese parties to extend the required cooperation to the Panel in its work.

(ii) Côte d'Ivoire

13. During the period under review, the PSC considered the situation in Côte d'Ivoire eight (8) times (238th meeting held on 11 August, 240th meeting held on 8 September, 246th meeting held on 28 October, 248th meeting held on 13 November, 250th meeting held on 30 November, 251st meeting held on 4 December, 252nd meeting held on 9 December and 254th meeting held on 21 December 2010), and undertook one field mission to assess the preparations of the presidential election then scheduled to take place on 31 October 2010. The decisions and communiqués adopted during these meetings can be summarized as follows:

- At its 238th meeting, the PSC paid tribute to all Ivorian stakeholders for upholding their commitment to hold elections in 2010, and noted the progress made in the process for a way out of the crisis, in particular the arrangements made, on a consensual basis, to fix the date of the presidential election on 31 October 2010. Furthermore, the PSC urged the Government, the political actors and all concerned Ivorian parties to make every effort to ensure compliance with the deadline, to maintain a calm political climate and to uphold the interest of Côte d'Ivoire and its people above all other considerations, in order to complete the process for a way out of the crisis.
- At its 240th meeting, the PSC received a briefing on the state of preparations for the presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire, and requested the Commission to dispatch a sizeable team of AU observers.
- At its 246th meeting, the PSC noted the progress made towards the presidential election fixed for 31 October 2010, and reaffirmed its conviction that the holding of peaceful, free, open and transparent election constitutes a crucial step in the process for a way out of the crisis and the resolution of outstanding issues in the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and its Supplementary Agreements. Furthermore, the PSC stressed that the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) is the only institution with the authority to announce the provisional results of the election.

- At its 248th meeting, the PSC welcomed the successful holding of the first round of the presidential election, on 31 October 2010. The PSC commended the Ivorian people and political stakeholders for the massive participation in the polls, thereby demonstrating their commitment to democracy, and strongly appealed to the different actors concerned to do their utmost for the successful completion of the process, by increasing their efforts and by creating all the conditions required for the proper conduct of the second round of the presidential election, then scheduled on 28 November 2010.
- At its 250th meeting, the PSC strongly urged the Ivorian Parties to spare no efforts for the successful conclusion of the implementation process of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and its Supplementary Agreements and, in particular, to accept the verdict of the polls and the will of the people and, were it to become necessary, to resort only to the mechanisms and processes provided for by the law for the settlement of any electoral dispute. The PSC strongly appealed to the international community, in particular the Security Council, the EU and all other AU bilateral and multilateral partners, to fully support ECOWAS and AU's efforts to ensure the successful conclusion of the peace and electoral process in Côte d'Ivoire.
- At its 251st meeting, the PSC reiterated the terms of the communiqué of its 250th meeting, and welcomed and supported the efforts of ECOWAS as well as the speedy mobilization of the international community. It expressed AU's total rejection of any attempt to create a *fait accompli* to undermine the electoral process and the will of the people as expressed on 28 November 2010. It expressed full support to the initiative of the Chairperson of the Commission to entrust former President Thabo Mbeki with an emergency mission to Côte d'Ivoire in order to find a legitimate and peaceful solution to the crisis on the basis of relevant AU's instruments and decisions.
- At its 252nd meeting, the PSC endorsed the final communiqué of the ECOWAS Extra-Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government, held on 7 December 2010, which recognized Mr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara as the President-Elect of Côte d'Ivoire, and called on Mr. Laurent Gbagbo to abide by the results of the second round of the presidential election as certified by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General. Furthermore, the PSC decided, on the basis of relevant AU instruments, to suspend the participation of Cote d'Ivoire in all AU activities, until such a time the democratically-elected President effectively assumes State power, and strongly urged Mr. Laurent Gbagbo to respect the results of the election and to facilitate, without delay, the transfer of power to the President-Elect, in the best interest of Côte d'Ivoire, the region and Africa as a whole.
- At its 254th meeting, the PSC reiterated its position. The PSC welcomed the initiatives taken by the Chairperson of the Commission, including the mission he undertook to Abidjan in close cooperation with ECOWAS, on 17 December 2010, and encouraged him to continue

with and intensify his efforts, including by facilitating dialogue between all concerned parties in order to find a peaceful solution that will preserve peace in Côte d'Ivoire and respect the results of the presidential election as recognized by the international community. The PSC expressed its full support to ECOWAS, whose Extra-Ordinary Summit was then scheduled to reconvene on 24 December 2010.

(iii) Somalia

14. During the reporting period, the PSC held four (4) meetings to consider the situation in Somalia (239th meeting held on 14 August, 241st meeting held on 23 September, 245th meeting held on 15 October 2010 and 258th meeting held on 20 January 2011). The decisions and communiqués adopted during these meetings can be summarized as follows:

- At its 239th meeting, the PSC took note of the efforts by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) towards the promotion of dialogue and reconciliation, welcomed the efforts made by the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and strongly condemned the attacks and other acts of violence perpetrated by Al Shabaab and other terrorist groups against the TFG, the Somali people and AMISOM.
- At its 241st meeting, the PSC took note of the efforts made to implement the Kampala decision on the strengthening of AMISOM and requested the Chairperson to submit, for its consideration, a comprehensive report on the situation in Somalia and to expedite the appointment of a High-Level Personality to mobilize international attention and support for Somalia. The PSC also expressed concern at the continued divisions within the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), and called on the TFG to intensify its efforts with a view to reaching out to all those peace embracing groups willing to join the peace process. The PSC reiterated its call to the UN Security Council to assume fully its responsibilities and to play a role commensurate with the complexity of the challenges facing Somalia.
- At its 245th meeting, the PSC reaffirmed its full support to the TFG and reiterated the commitment of the AU to continue to provide political and diplomatic support to the TFG. The PSC expressed concern over the prevailing security and humanitarian situation in Mogadishu, in particular, and in Somalia in general, and condemned, in the strongest terms, the unbolting violence, human rights violations and other heinous acts of violence. The PSC further welcomed the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission, in line with relevant IGAD and AU decisions, of former President Jerry John Rawlings of Ghana as the AU High Representative for Somalia. The PSC endorsed the new force strength of 20,000 for AMISOM, as proposed by the Chairperson of the Commission, with the requisite air and maritime capabilities and enhanced police and civilian components. In this regard, the PSC urgently called on Member States to provide the required military and other personnel, including police, to enable AMISOM to reach its newly authorized strength, and to contribute to the mobilization of the

necessary logistical and financial resources, bearing in mind the need for Africa to demonstrate renewed determination and sense of solidarity with Somalia, one of the OAU founding members. Furthermore, the PSC called on the international community to provide the necessary political, financial and technical support to the enhanced AMISOM and, more specifically, on the UN Security Council to reaffirm its commitment to deploy a UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia through the re-hating of AMISOM and to urgently establish a timeline for this deployment. The PSC strongly urged the Somali TFIs to work towards the completion of the outstanding transitional tasks, including the constitutional process which should be finalized with nation-wide consultations and input from the Diaspora, bearing in mind that 20 August 2011 will mark the end of the transitional period.

- At its 258th meeting, the PSC decided to renew the mandate of AMISOM for additional period of twelve (12) months, starting from January 2011.

(iv) Central African Republic (CAR)

15. At its 255th meeting, the PSC reviewed the situation in CAR. The PSC welcomed the progress made in the electoral process, in particular the consensual adoption of an election timetable, as well as the pursuit by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of the preparations for the elections scheduled for 23 January 2011. The PSC strongly urged the Member States in a position to do so, in particular the neighbouring countries, to provide adequate support to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process, including its integration into the wider security sector reform, as well as to the strengthening of the capacity of the CAR defence and security forces and, more generally, to the promotion of peace and security in that country. The PSC called on the Commission to accelerate the ongoing efforts to implement measures agreed upon by the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the LRA, held in Bangui on 13 and 14 October 2010. The PSC stressed the imperative to strengthen the capacity of CAR armed forces, and urgently appealed to all AU partners to respond positively to the call for assistance made by the CAR Government.

(v) Republic of Guinea

16. During the period under review, the PSC considered the situation in Guinea on three (3) occasions (237th meeting held on 31 July, 248th meeting held on 13 November and 252nd meeting held on 9 December 2010). The decisions and communiqués adopted during those meeting can be summarized as follows:

- At its 237th meeting, the PSC welcomed the holding, on 27 June 2010, of the first round of the presidential election and stressed the imperative for the early organization of the second round; commended the Chairperson of the Commission for the timely visit he undertook to Conakry, on 7 June 2010, to encourage the Guinean parties to speedily complete the process of restoration of constitutional order; and expressed its full support to the efforts of the International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G) and the Mediator. The PSC warned against

any attempt to undermine the progress made to unduly extend the transition.

- At its 248th meeting, the PSC Council welcomed the peaceful conduct of the second round of the presidential election and commended the Guineans for having turned out in large numbers to vote, thereby manifesting their commitment to democracy and their determination to bring the transition, launched following the Ouagadougou Agreement of 15 February 2010, to a successful conclusion, through the return to constitutional order. The PSC noted with satisfaction the adoption and signing, by the two candidates to the second round of the presidential election on 7 November 2010, in Conakry, of a joint Declaration in which they committed themselves to the smooth conduct of the election and to the promotion of calm in Guinea. The PSC recalled the obligation of the authorities of the transition to show total neutrality and abstain from any action that may undermine the independence of the CENI and the integrity of the outcome of the election. In this regard, the PSC renewed its warning against any political actor, or any authority, that sought to block or delay the process of return to constitutional order, and against any actions that undermine the integrity of the poll results. The PSC expressed its determination, should it become necessary, to take appropriate measures against the authors of such actions, and endorsed the Communiqué issued by the 17th meeting of the ICG-G held in Conakry on 5 November 2010.
- At its 252nd meeting, following the successful holding of the presidential election, the PSC on the basis of the relevant provisions of the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government, decided to lift the suspension measures on the participation of Guinea in AU activities, as well as the sanctions imposed on those individuals whose actions constituted obstacles for the return to constitutional order.

(vi) Guinea Bissau

17. During the period under review, the PSC considered the situation in Guinea Bissau on two (2) occasions (247th meeting held on 2 November 2010 and 255th meeting held on 23 November 2010) :

- At its 247th meeting, the PSC welcomed the establishment of the AU Liaison Office in Guinea Bissau, and urged the Bissau Guinean parties to embrace dialogue and uphold the supreme interest of the nation.
- At its 255th meeting, the PSC reiterated its earlier communiqué, and took note of the recommendations of the 28th ministerial session of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Committee, held in Abuja on 24 November 2010, and stressed the need to design the coordination mechanism agreed upon on that occasion in accordance with the Tripoli Plan of Action of 31 August 2009. The PSC requested the Commission to approach the bilateral and multilateral partners of Guinea Bissau, for the early convening of the planned donors'

conference, to facilitate the implementation of the reform of the security and defence sector.

(vii) The Comoros

18. At its 248th meeting, the PSC commended the Comorian parties for the salutary conditions under which the primary elections for the presidency of the Union in the Autonomous Island of Moheli and the first round of the elections for the Governors of the Autonomous Islands were held on 7 November 2010. The PSC stressed the need to spare no efforts towards the smooth holding, on 26 December 2010, of the second round of the presidential election, which was to oppose, at national level, the three candidates from Moheli who obtained the largest vote at the primaries, as well as that of the Governors of the Autonomous Islands, subject to the confirmation of the provisional results by the Constitutional Court.

(viii) Madagascar

19. At its 237th meeting, the PSC received a briefing from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mediator for Madagascar (former President Joaquim Chissano). The PSC expressed its deep concern at the continued stalemate in the implementation process of the Maputo Agreement and Addis Ababa Additional Act of 6 August and 6 November 2009 respectively; reaffirmed all its previous decisions on the situation in Madagascar, and encouraged the Mediator to pursue his efforts.

(ix) Niger

20. At its 248th meeting, the PSC noted with satisfaction the smooth and successful conduct of the constitutional referendum of 31 October 2010, and expressed its deep appreciation to the people of Niger in that regard. The PSC equally appreciated the commitment of General Salou Djibo, as well as his repeated pronouncement and assurances to abide by the agreed schedule for the return to constitutional order.

(x) Tunisia

21. At its 257th meeting, the PSC considered the situation in Tunisia in the light of the departure of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The PSC strongly condemned the excessive use of force against the demonstrators which had resulted in the loss of life, expressed its solidarity with the people of Tunisia and appealed for calm. The PSC also appealed to the political stakeholders and the Tunisian people to work together, in unity, consensus and respect for legality, towards a peaceful and democratic transition which would allow the Tunisian people to choose freely their leaders through open, democratic and transparent elections. The PSC requested the Chairperson of the Commission to continue to follow closely the situation and to take any initiative that he deemed necessary to contribute to a peaceful and democratic transition.

b) PSC Field Missions

22. Pursuant to article 9 of its Protocol, and in line with the Conclusions of the July Retreat on its Methods of work, the PSC undertakes field missions to conflict or post-conflict areas. Furthermore, in its January 2010 decision on the Year of Peace and Security (YoPS), the Assembly requested the PSC to undertake specific activities in support of the YoPS, including field missions. In this respect, the PSC undertook visits to Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan, from 27 September to 3 October 2010 and from 15 to 17 October 2010, respectively. The PSC's visit to Côte d'Ivoire took place in the context of the preparation for the 31 October presidential election, to encourage the Ivorian parties to complete the peace and reconciliation process within the framework of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and its Supplementary Agreements. The mission to Sudan was aimed at reiterating AU's support and solidarity to the Sudanese parties, in the implementation of the CPA, then approaching its critical phase with the then impending self-determination referendum in South Sudan, and the peace process in Darfur.

c) Thematic Issues

(i) Maritime Security and Safety

23. At its 242nd meeting held on 4 October 2010, the PSC was briefed on maritime security and safety in Africa and the implementation status of related AU decisions. The PSC reiterated AU's serious concern at the mounting insecurity in the maritime space around Africa, including illegal fishing, dumping of toxic wastes and piracy. The PSC stressed the need to promote holistic approaches to address the issue of piracy and expressed satisfaction at the initiative taken by African countries on a regional basis to protect their maritime domain.

(ii) Terrorism

24. As a follow up to decision Assembly/AU/Dec.311 adopted in Kampala, in which, among others, the Chairperson of Commission was requested to expeditiously submit to the PSC concrete recommendations aimed strengthening the effectiveness of Africa's action to prevent and combat terrorism, the PSC, at its 249th meeting held on 22 November 2010, considered a report of the Commission on this issue. In the communiqué adopted on that occasion, the PSC expressed serious concern over the worsening of the scourge of terrorism and the threat that this situation poses to peace, security and stability in Africa and the increased linkages between terrorism and organized crime, including drug trafficking, money laundering, illicit arms trafficking and mercenarism. The PSC also welcomed the appointment of Mr. Francisco Madeira as the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and, concurrently, as Director of the African Centre on the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT).

25. Furthermore, the PSC welcomed the finalization of the Model Law on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which was subsequently presented to the Meeting of Experts of Member States held on 15 and 16 December 2010, in Algiers, and requested the Commission to convene, in the course of 2011, regional conferences to better assess the threat of terrorism, further sensitize Member States

on relevant AU and international instruments and articulate comprehensive regional action plans. The PSC called on Member States that have not yet done so to urgently take the steps required to become parties to relevant AU and international instruments and to implement fully the provisions contained therein. The PSC reiterated AU's strong rejection and condemnation of the payment of ransom to terrorist groups. The PSC requested the Commission to finalize the draft African arrest warrant for persons charged with or convicted of terrorist acts.

d) Implementation of Sanctions

26. Pursuant to article 7 (g) of the PSC Protocol, the PSC shall institute sanctions whenever an unconstitutional change of Government takes place in a Member State, as provided for in the Lomé Declaration.

27. At its 252nd meeting held on 9 December, the PSC, in light of the successful conduct of the presidential elections held on 27 June and 7 November 2010, and on the basis of the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government, decided to lift the suspension measure on the participation of Guinea in AU activities, as well as the sanctions imposed on those whose actions constituted obstacles to the process of return to constitutional order, as contained in its communiqués PSC/PR/COMM. (CLXV), PSC/PR/COMM. (CCIV) and PSC/AHG/COMM. 2 (CCVII), adopted by its 165th, 204th and 207th meetings held on 29 December 2008, 17 September, and 29 October 2009, respectively.

28. On 9 December 2010, the PSC, on the basis of relevant AU instruments, decided to suspend the participation of Côte d'Ivoire in all AU activities, until such a time the democratically-elected President effectively assumes State power.

e) Participation of the PSC in peace and security activities of other organs/entities

(i) Meetings of the Panel of the Wise

29. It is to be recalled that the Panel of the Wise, as established under Article 11 of the PSC Protocol, is mandated to support the efforts of the PSC and those of the Chairperson of the Commission, particularly in the area of conflict prevention. The Panel held its 9th meeting in Algiers, Algeria, from 12 to 14 December 2010. The meeting took place within the framework of the implementation of the decision adopted by the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, regarding the renewal of the mandate of the Panel and the establishment of a Team of Friends of the Panel of the Wise. In addition to the Chairperson of the Panel, Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella, the meeting was also attended by the following members of the Panel: Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Dr. Mary Chinery-Hesse, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda and Advocate Marie-Madeleine Kalala Ngoy. Ms. Brigalia Bam, Ms. Elizabeth Pognon and Mr. Miguel Trovoada, as members of the Team of Friends of the Panel of the Wise, also attended the meeting.

30. The meeting reviewed the state of peace and security in Africa. Also, during the meeting, the Panel reviewed and adopted its report on *Non-Impunity, Truth, Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation in Africa: Opportunities and Constraints*, as part of

the efforts to fight impunity and promote peace, justice and reconciliation on the continent.

31. In line with the established practice of the PSC, and to keep itself informed about meetings convened on peace and security in Africa and their outcomes, the Ambassador of the Republic of Mali, Chairperson of the PSC for the month of December 2010, participated in the 9th meeting of the Panel of the Wise.

(ii) The First Conference of the States Parties to the Pelindaba Treaty

32. In its capacity as Chairperson of the PSC for the month of November 2010, the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya took part in the First Conference of States Parties to the Pelindaba Treaty on the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, which took place in Addis Ababa on 4 November 2010. The Conference paved the way for the establishment of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy and elected the members of the Commission. Furthermore, the Conference decided to establish the Headquarters of this Organ in South Africa.

(iii) Sudan Consultative Forum (SCF)

33. On 6 November 2010, the Chairperson of the PSC for the month of November 2010, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, participated in the 2nd meeting of the SCF, co-chaired by the AU and the United Nations. The SCF convened at a critical juncture in the implementation of the CPA with the impending self-determination referendum in Southern Sudan, and the final state of Doha negotiations on Darfur. The meeting recognized that, in order to meet the challenges facing them, the Sudanese Parties need a full and coordinated support from their regional and international partners.

(iv) High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa

34. The Republic of Djibouti, in its capacity as Chairperson of the PSC for the month of August 2010, participated in the High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa, which was held from 26 to 28 August 2010, in Cairo, Egypt, at the initiative of the AU Commission, in cooperation with the Egyptian Government, within the framework of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa. The meeting brought together senior officials and Special Envoys/Representatives of the AU, the RECs/MRs, the United Nations, the EU, the League of Arab States, *La Francophonie*, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as well as representatives of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. The main objective of the Retreat was to give a new impetus to the efforts aimed at bringing to an end the scourge of armed conflict and political crises in Africa and to consolidate peace where it has been achieved. In the "Cairo Call for Peace", adopted at the end of the meeting, participants encouraged the AU to organize a follow up Retreat in 2011.

(v) AMANI AFRICA Exercise

35. In November 2009, the PSC, as the key pillar of the African Peace and Architecture, actively participated in the preparations for and conduct of the Amani Africa Exercise aimed at testing the procedures relating to the deployment of the African Standby Force (ASF) and the capacity of the Commission to undertake multi-

dimensional operations. The Exercise was successfully conducted in Addis Ababa, from 13 to 29 November 2010. At its 248th meeting, the PSC welcomed the successful conclusion of this Exercise and encouraged the Commission to build on the lessons learned there from in order to further its efforts towards the full operationalization of ASF and the strengthening of the capacity of the AU to undertake peace support operations.

f) Meetings with similar Organs at the international level

36. The meetings with similar organs on peace and security were held pursuant to article 17 of the PSC Protocol, which provides that the PSC, in fulfilling its mandate, will cooperate and work closely with the United Nations Security Council and other relevant international organizations. In this context, the PSC held consultative meetings with the EU Political and Security Committee and the Peace and Security Council of the League of Arab states during the period under review.

(i) Third Consultative Meeting between the Peace and Security Council and the EU Political and Security Committee, Brussels, 18 October 2010

37. In line with the agreement reached at their first joint consultative meeting on 14 October 2008, to hold annual joint meetings, alternatively in Addis Ababa and Brussels, the EU COP held their third consultative meeting in Brussels, on 18 October 2010. On that occasion, the two Organs exchanged views and considered a number of issues, including conflict prevention and crisis situations, maritime safety and security, peace and security partnership, AU-EU coordination in situations of security and governance crises and the improvement of their working methods. The outcome of the meeting is annexed to this Report. (Annex III)

(ii) First Consultative Meeting between the AU PSC and the Peace and Security Council of the League of Arab States

38. The AU PSC and the League of Arab States Peace and Security Council held their first consultative meetings in Cairo, Egypt, from on 18 and 19 December 2010. It should be recalled that the meeting was held as a follow-up the Second Africa-Arab Summit that was held in Sirte, Libya, on 10 October 2010. Among other aspects, the Summit called on the countries of the two regions to mobilise their energies and redouble efforts to overcome various challenges and crises confronting them and to accelerate Afro-Arab cooperation in all fields. The Summit expressed satisfaction at the existing cooperation between the AU PSC and the League of Arab States Peace and Security Council, and called for the promotion of joint cooperation programmes through the mobilisation of human resources and technical know-how and coordination of positions on peace and security matters in Africa and the Arab region. (Annex IV)

39. The two organs discussed the situations in Comoros, Somalia and Sudan, assessing what each has done and what could further be done by the two bodies, individually and jointly, to strengthen the efforts for peace and post-conflict reconstruction. They also agreed on a mechanism towards cooperation. In this regard, the two organs agreed to hold annual consultative meetings alternatively in

Addis Ababa and Cairo. The next consultative meeting will take place in Addis Ababa in December 2011. The outcome of the meeting is attached to this Report.

g) Other activities falling within the purview of the PSC/Briefings by the Chairpersons of the PSC to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC)

40. In line with the Conclusions of the July 2007 Dakar PSC Retreat on its Working Methods, and in order to keep all Member States informed on the activities of the PSC, the Chairperson of the PSC for each month briefs the PRC at the end of his/her chairmanship on the activities undertaken during the month. Notably, the successive Chairpersons of the PSC for the period under review, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Libya and Mali, briefed the PRC on the activities undertaken by the PSC during the respective months.

VI. STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

41. The following paragraphs relate to the different situations of which the AU, particularly the PSC, was seized with. Generally, the developments during the last six months varied, marked by progress in some countries, the emergence of new crises as well as the persistence of deadlocks in others.

a) The Comoros

42. The period under consideration was marked by the continued efforts to complete the implementation of the June 2010 Agreement on the Management of the Interim Period, which brought to an end the crisis linked to the institutional reforms that were introduced by the new Constitution of the Union, adopted by referendum on 17 May 2009. In this context, the primaries for the election for the Office of the President of the Union took place on 7 November 2010 on the Island of Mohéli, which is to produce the next President, in application of the constitutional principle of rotating presidency. The election was held at the same time as the 1st round of the gubernatorial elections for the Autonomous Islands. Voting took place under conditions that were deemed to be generally satisfactory by all the election observer missions, including that of the AU. The results of the two elections were approved by the Constitutional Court on 13 November 2010.

43. The 2nd round of the presidential elections, at national level, pitting the three leading candidates that emerged from the primaries and the 2nd round of the gubernatorial elections for the Autonomous Islands took place on 26 December 2010. Voting was deemed to be free and fair, in spite of the shortcomings observed mainly in the Autonomous Island of Anjouan by the International Observer Mission, including the AU. The final results were announced by the Constitutional Court on 13 January 2011. Mr. Ikililou Dhoinine, who belongs to the presidential camp, was elected President of the Union of the Comoros. The presidential party also won the posts of Governor in Anjouan and in Grande Comore, while the opposition won the polls in Mohéli, thus retaining the post of Governor.

44. The elections marked a decisive step in the implementation of the 16 June 2010 Agreement and, more generally, in the consolidation of the reconciliation process in the Comoros. The Assembly may wish to commend all the Comorian

parties for the spirit of compromise which made it possible to hold harmonized elections for the Office of the President of the Union of the Comoros and the Governors of the Autonomous Islands. The Assembly may also wish to thank the international partners who supported the electoral process in the Comoros, and urge them to continue to provide the support needed by the Comoros to face up to the numerous socio-economic challenges confronting the Archipelago.

b) Madagascar

45. No significant progress was made in the search for a consensual solution to the crisis that has rocked Madagascar since the unconstitutional change that took place on 17 March 2009. The *de facto* authorities have persisted in the unilateral approach that they adopted since they rejected the Maputo Agreements of 6 August 2009 and the 6 November 2009 Addis Ababa Additional Act, the implementation of which was expected to lead to the restoration of constitutional order as part of a consensual and inclusive transition. The period under consideration was marked by the conduct of a constitutional referendum on 17 November 2010, which should have been followed by legislative elections, on 16 March 2011, and the first round of the presidential elections on 4 May 2011. An attempted military coup d'état that occurred on the very day of the referendum illustrated the precariousness of the situation in the country and the absence of a consensus on the initiatives underway. At the time of finalizing this report, the *de facto* authorities had announced the indefinite postponement of the legislative elections.

46. The situation in Madagascar constitutes a real challenge for SADC, the AU and the international community at large. No effort should be spared to tackle this challenge and break the current deadlock, through a consensual solution to the crisis. In this respect, it is important to further mobilize the international community, particularly AU partners, for the scrupulous implementation of the sanctions decided by the PSC in February and March 2010. The efforts of the SADC Mediator, former President Joaquim Chissano, should continue to be supported toward a « Consensual Crisis Exit Road Map ».

c) Somalia

47. Since the last session of the Assembly, tremendous efforts continue to be made to support the peace and reconciliation process in that country. The overall security situation remains highly volatile. Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs), led by al-Shabaab have not relented in their attacks against the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), the Somali population and the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

48. In execution of the mandate, AMISOM forces have consolidated and expanded their areas of control in Mogadishu, while continuing to provide limited humanitarian support to the civilian population. Furthermore, AMISOM and other members of the international community, in support of priorities identified by the TFG, continue to assist in the rebuilding of the Somali Security Forces. Efforts also continue to be made to strengthen AMISOM. The troop strength of AMISOM has increased to 8,000, comprising a total of 9 battalions: 4 from Burundi and 5 from Uganda. The strength of the police component of AMISOM is now 50 contributed by Burundi, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Uganda. These officers are serving as

trainers and mentors in the training programmes for the Somalia Police Force taking plan in Mogadishu, Kenya and Djibouti.

49. On the political front, the Djibouti peace process is again regaining momentum, after months of internal bickering within the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), which had seriously eroded their internal cohesion and undermined their ability effectively to implement their transitional mandate, including writing a new federal Constitution for Somalia, rebuilding the national security forces, reconciling the people of Somalia, restoring regional administrations, and leading the transition to constitutional governance by August 2011. In September 2010, public acrimony between then Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke and President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed reached its peak, sucking in their supporters in the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP) and the Cabinet. On 21 September 2010, Prime Minister Sharmarke tendered his resignation in a move to break the political impasse. The AU, the United Nations, IGAD and other partners engaged with the leaders of the TFIs, encouraging them to demonstrate leadership and unity of purpose to meet the challenges at hand.

50. Subsequently, on 14 October 2010, President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed appointed Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed "Farmajo", as the new Prime Minister. Following weeks of intense bickering over procedural issues, the TFP, on 31 October 2010, confirmed him as Prime Minister, and he was sworn in the next day. Nearly two weeks after his endorsement, the Prime Minister, after broad consultations with Somali stakeholders, named a new, smaller Cabinet of 18 ministers, against 39 in the previous Government. This included three key ministries for Al Sunna Wal Jama'a, the moderate religious group that signed a Framework of Cooperation Agreement with the TFG in March 2010, in Addis Ababa. On 27 November, the Somali Parliament approved Prime Minister Mohamed's Cabinet, which was sworn in the next day.

51. In the meantime, on 8 October 2010, and in accordance with relevant AU and IGAD decisions, the Chairperson of the Commission appointed former President Jerry John Rawlings of Ghana as the AU High Representative for Somalia. Former President Rawlings will undertake advocacy work to further mobilize the continent and the rest of the international community to assume fully their responsibilities and contribute more actively to the quest for peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia. In this regard, President Rawlings will work in close coordination with the countries of the region, the United Nations and other AU partners.

52. On 15 October 2010, as a follow-up to the IGAD and AU Summit decisions of July 2010, the PSC endorsed a new force strength of 20,000 for AMISOM, as well as an enhanced police and civilian component, as proposed in the report of the Chairperson of the Commission. The PSC called on the UN Security Council to take the decisions required of it, in line with its primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security, by endorsing the revised Concept of Operations, including the newly-authorized strength of AMISOM, and authorizing an enhanced support package for the Mission, funded through UN assessed contributions.

53. On 22 December 2010, the Security Council adopted resolution 1964 (2010) in which it authorized the AU to maintain the deployment of AMISOM until 30 September 2011 and to increase its force strength from 8,000 to 12,000 troops. The

Security Council noted the recommendations made by the PSC, and underlined its intention to keep the situation on the ground under review. The Security Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide a logistical support package for AMISOM, as called for by resolution 1863(2009), for a maximum of 12,000 troops, comprising equipment and services but not including the transfer of funds. It encouraged the Member States to support AMISOM and the Somali Security Sector Institutions and to contribute generously and promptly to the UN Trust Fund for AMISOM, without caveats, or to make direct bilateral donations in support of AMISOM. On 20 January 2011, the PSC extended the mandate of AMISOM for a further period of one year.

54. The situation in Somalia has also been the focus of a number of other international forums. These include the mini-Summit on Somalia convened by United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, in New York on 23 September 2010; the 18th meeting of the International Contact Group (ICG) held in Madrid, Spain, on 28 September 2010; and the Interactive Dialogue on assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights, organized by the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, on 29 September 2010.

55. The issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia remains a serious concern to the AU and the rest of the international community. In its communiqué of 15 October 2010, the PSC reiterated that any lasting solution to the problem of piracy requires that the underlying problems within Somalia itself and other related problems, in particular illegal fishing and dumping of toxic wastes off the coast of Somalia, be adequately addressed. The Commission is pursuing its interaction with the United Nations and other stakeholders in support of a comprehensive approach to the phenomenon of piracy.

56. The Assembly may wish to reiterate the AU's appreciation to Burundi and Uganda for their outstanding contribution to the cause of peace and reconciliation in Somalia, notably through the deployment of troops under AMISOM, as well as to IGAD and its Chair, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, for the leadership and pro-activeness they have demonstrated. The Assembly may also wish to call on the Somali stakeholders to demonstrate the required leadership, resolve and unity of purpose, for without such dispositions, no amount of external assistance will make it possible to effectively turn around the situation and enable Somalia to regain its rightful place in the comity of nations. Finally, the Assembly may wish to call on the larger international community, which so far has failed to fully assume its responsibility in Somalia, to rise to the challenges at hand and respond, with the swiftness required, to the call for assistance of the people of Somalia.

d) Peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia

57. During the period under review, there has been no movement in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia. It is to be noted that the State of Eritrea has re-established its Permanent Mission to the African Union, in Addis Ababa. Against this background, the Assembly may wish to reiterate its concern over the continued impasse in the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea and reaffirm AU's readiness to assist the two countries to overcome the current deadlock through dialogue and normalize their relations.

e) Relations between Djibouti and Eritrea

58. As the Assembly is aware, on 6 June 2010, Djibouti and Eritrea signed an Agreement by which the two countries mandated the Emir of Qatar, His Highness Hamed Ben Khalifa Al Thani, to mediate a resolution of their border dispute. At its Kampala Session, the Assembly welcomed this Agreement, and called for its scrupulous implementation.

59. On 4 December 2010, the Djiboutian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, sent a letter to the Chairperson of the Commission, informing him of the status of implementation of the Agreement of 6 June 2010. The Minister noted that the Eritrean forces, who occupied Doumeira and Doumeira Island, had been redeployed on the Eritrean side of the border and that to ensure the *status quo ante*, Qatari units of several tens of elements had taken position along the common border and were conducting patrols. The Minister further added that the Mediator had made contact with international organizations, including the United Nations, to prepare for the future demarcation of the border. He stressed that his country had spared no effort to provide all the information necessary to enable the Mediator to carry out his mission. He concluded by recalling that Eritrea had not yet responded to the repeated requests from Djibouti on the fate of the Djiboutian prisoners of war, while his country had informed the ICRC on the situation of the Eritrean prisoners of war. The Commission encouraged the Eritrean side to submit its views on the status of the situation and prospects of its evolution. The Assembly may wish to reiterate the need for the timely and faithful implementation of the Agreement concluded under the auspices of Qatar.

f) Burundi

60. In 2010, Burundi held its first post-conflict electoral process. This process began on 24 May, with the election of municipal counsellors, followed by presidential elections on 28 June, parliamentary elections on 23 July, senatorial elections on 28 July and, finally, culminated with the election of "*conseils de collines*" or quarter counselors, on 7 September 2010.

61. Despite the political crisis which arose from the contestation of the results of municipal elections by the "Alliance of Democrats for Change in Burundi", followed by its boycott of the rest of the electoral process, including the 28 June and 23 July 2010 presidential and legislative elections, respectively, these various elections marked a significant step in the consolidation of peace and democracy. The Assembly may wish to appeal to all stakeholders to put the interest of Burundi and its people above partisan considerations, draw lessons from the various elections that have taken place and work to deepen the democratic process in the country and towards its socio-economic recovery.

g) Democratic Republic of Congo (RDC)

62. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the period under review was marked by the intensification of the military operations against the national armed groups (Mai Mai) and foreign armed groups (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda - FDLR in Eastern DRC, Lord's Resistance Army - LRA and the Alliance of Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda - ADF/NALU, in the Eastern

Province). Efforts deployed by the Congolese Government, with support from the UN Mission for Stabilization of the Congo (MONUSCO), have reduced significantly the destructive capacity of the armed rebel groups, who nonetheless continue to commit atrocities against civilians. The arrest in Paris on 11 October 2010, of the Vice-President of the FDLR, Calixte Mbarushimana, following those of Ignace Murwanashyaka and Straton Musoni on 19 September 2009 in Germany, both of them leaders of the political wing of the FDLR, has destabilized the command chain of this Movement. It should also be noted that, in the context of the implementation of the Tripoli Action Plan, steps were taken to facilitate a more coordinated regional action to neutralize the LRA and to stop its atrocities and destabilizing activities in the DRC, South Sudan and CAR. On its part, the UN Security Council decided, on 29 November 2010, to extend until 30 November 2011 the arms embargo imposed in 2008 against armed groups in DRC, whose activities are deemed illegal because of their connection to mafia and criminal networks. Moreover, the Congolese Government has continued with its efforts to implement the Act of Engagement of Goma of 23 January 2008 and the Agreements of 23 March 2009 with Congolese armed groups, including the National Congress for People's Defense (*CNDP*), which has become a political party.

63. In the context of a peace that grows stronger every day on the ground, the Congolese Government has embarked on an ambitious national program of stabilization and reconstruction in the areas emerging from conflict, called STAREC. The restoration of state authority in the provinces of North and South Kivu has been accompanied by an effort towards regional infrastructure development and a program to reduce poverty. The revival of regional cooperation, through the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, opens new prospects for development. In addition, under the enhanced Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC), the DRC has benefited from substantial measures to cancel its debt, which reward the political and economic progress made by the country.

64. Given the foregoing, the Assembly may wish to encourage all Congolese parties to spare no effort to ensure the proper preparation of the general elections, with a view to consolidating the progress thus far made.

h) Sudan

i) Southern Sudan/Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)

65. As the Assembly is aware, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) implementation process was designed to culminate in a "Referendum on the Self-Determination of the People of Southern Sudan", on 9 January 2011. The registration process for the referendum was thus conducted between 15 November and 8 December 2010. In preparation for the voting process, polling stations were set up in north and south Sudan, as well as in selected other countries to enable the Diaspora population to participate in this historic exercise. On 9 January 2011, the voting process for the South Sudan referendum commenced as scheduled, lasting for 7 days. With the peaceful, credible and timely holding of the referendum, the country has completed the main benchmark of the CPA. The referendum is a success for President Omar Hassan al Bashir, First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit, the people of Sudan, and Africa.

66. The period was also characterized by renewed efforts towards the implementation of the CPA outstanding issues (Abyei, the demarcation of the North-South border, the Popular Consultations in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan States, and security arrangements) and the post-referendum arrangements (citizenship, economic arrangements, including oil sharing, currency, assets and liabilities, security arrangements, and international treaties and other legal issues). The AU, notably through the High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) comprising former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Abdulsalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya, has continued to play a central role in helping the Parties address the challenges at hand.

67. As indicated in the PSC July 2010 report to the Assembly, following discussions between the AUHIP and the Parties, the latter signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Mekelle, Ethiopia, on 23 June, whereby they agreed to conduct the negotiations on post-referendum arrangements on a bilateral basis, with the Panel serving as the facilitator, with the support of IGAD, the IGAD Partners' Forum and the UN. From 7 to 15 November 2010, and in pursuance of the Mekelle MoU, the Parties to the CPA, under the auspices of the AUHIP, met to negotiate on the outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA and the post-referendum arrangements. On 13 November 2010, they agreed to a seminal document entitled "Framework for Resolving Outstanding Issues Relating to the Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Future Relations of North and South Sudan". In this Framework, the Parties recognized that the people of Southern and Northern Sudan have close historical, cultural, social, geographic and economic ties that cannot be severed, regardless of the outcome of the January referendum. In case of a vote for southern secession, the Parties committed to the creation of two viable states, and never to return to war. The Parties have also committed themselves to adopt a "soft border" that enhances mutual security, good neighbourliness, and mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

68. Since then, albeit slowly, some progress has been made in the negotiations on the post-referendum arrangements. As a follow-up to the meetings of the Lead Negotiation Panel (LNP) held in Juba from 8 to 13 December 2010, under the facilitation of the AUHIP, the Parties met again in Khartoum, on 18 December, and in Juba, from 22 to 23 December. Other LNP meetings are due to take place in February 2011 to address issues relating to currency, oil and security.

69. The issue of Abyei has proved to be one of the most difficult and contentious in the implementation of the CPA. At the time of finalizing this report, the Panel was conducting further consultations with the Parties on the basis of the proposals it submitted to them, with a view to reaching a compromise. Clearly, as stated by the Panel in its interaction with the Parties, a settlement of the Abyei issue will need to be holistic. Such a settlement would include the implementation of existing agreements, notably the Abyei Protocol of the CPA and its provision for a referendum to be held for the people of Abyei Area, to decide whether they belong to Northern Sudan or Southern Sudan, and the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague on the position of the northern border of Abyei Area. It would also take into account the concept of Abyei as a 'bridge' between north and south, as specified in the CPA, the interests of the communities concerned, and the context of post-referendum arrangements.

ii) Darfur

70. The security situation in Darfur continues to cause concern due to a number of incidents which have led to a loss of human life and displacements of people. Sporadic but deadly clashes erupted again between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the rebel factions, especially the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (Abdul Wahid). Military actions against SLM/Minni also took place in November. However, inter-ethnic conflicts, which were recurrent during the first half of the reporting period, have decreased considerably. In July, there was a disturbing new development with the outbreak of violence in the Kalma IDP camp, in which groups supportive of and opposed to the Doha peace talks engaged in a deadly clash that claimed several lives. In September, this conflict spread to Humeidiya camp, near Zalingei, resulting in more deaths. Equally disturbing was the massacre, in early September, of civilians at a Tabara market. This is the worst such incident of its kind in several years. Besides civilians, UNAMID and the humanitarian agencies continue also to be subjected to sporadic attacks despite the significant decrease of carjacking incidents. UNAMID has almost reached its authorized strength.

71. The peace negotiations on Darfur conducted by the AU-UN Joint Mediator, Djibril Bassole, with the support of the State of Qatar, have continued. From 26 November to 2 December 2010, the Mediation conducted consultations within Sudan, in order to solicit inputs from civil society on the pending issues in the negotiations, as well as to generate popular awareness and support for the peace process. The Mediation also reached out to JEM and SLM/A (AW). Consultations with JEM have resulted in the resumption of indirect talks on ceasefire between this Movement and the Government of the Sudan. So far, the two sides remain far apart on basic demands. The Government of the Sudan delegation left Doha on 31 December in accordance with its stated position and the Mediation timeline. However, the GoS continues to engage with the Mediation, dispatching small negotiating teams to Doha in order to facilitate the early conclusion of the Agreement with the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM).

72. Clearly, today more than ever before, there is an urgent need for an all inclusive process to resolve the conflict in Darfur. Such a process should involve both belligerent and non-belligerent parties and Darfur constituencies and stakeholders, on a comprehensive agenda. This is in line with the AU High-Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD) report and its recommendations, which have become the AU policy on Darfur.

73. It is against this background that, at the second meeting of the Sudan Consultative Forum, co-chaired by the AU and the UN and held in Addis Ababa on 6 November 2010, it was agreed that the Doha negotiations should result in an Outcome Document to be completed no later than December 2010, in accordance with the timetable agreed to by the Parties. The Doha outcome will be the point of departure for the initial launching of the Darfur Political Process under the auspices of the AUHIP and UNAMID and in partnership with the State of Qatar. In mid-January, at a meeting chaired by the AUHIP and involving, in addition to the Panel, UNAMID, GoS and the US Government, an agreement was reached on the launch of the DPP no later than February, as a complementary and concurrent process to the Doha Peace Talks. The modalities of the DPP were agreed in outline, including

emphasis that it is to be an independent process convened jointly by the AUHIP and UNAMID. It should also be noted that the Qatari authorities have confirmed their intention to conclude the Doha negotiation shortly and to partner with the AUHIP and UNAMID in implementing the next stages of the process.

74. The AU, through the AUHIP, is also taking steps to follow-up actively on the other recommendations of the AUPD, as endorsed by the PSC. During the period under review, the Panel continued to engage the GoS on the details of its proposals to promote justice and reconciliation, including specific measures to strengthen the Special Criminal Courts for Events in Darfur, which will be the main forum for the prosecution of the Darfur crimes. Through the DPP, the Panel will encourage the active participation of the population of Darfur in the process of identifying and endorsing the specific measures that will be required to implement the strategy. The Panel will also continue to engage the Government on the establishment of a hybrid court to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for the crimes committed in Darfur.

75. Sudan stands at a crossroads of its national history. 9 July 2011 will mark the culmination of the CPA, which in itself is an historic achievement. During the period, since the CPA was signed, Sudan has faced enormous challenges. There have been both successes and setbacks, but the single most important reality is that peace between North and South has been sustained and the main components of the CPA have been implemented.

76. Critical to Sudan's success in navigating the challenges of the next few months is leadership. The President and First Vice President of Sudan will both be called upon, separately and together, to continue to exercise exceptional national leadership. Such leadership must transcend partisan concerns and constraints, and deal with vital issues with the perspective that they require. Africa is a partner in Sudan's journey from war to peace, from crisis to recovery, and will continue to support it on its path to a genuinely representative democracy.

i) Relations between Chad/Sudan et MINURCAT

77. The normalisation of relations between the Sudan and Chad continued satisfactorily. The leaders of the two countries have made repeated gestures of goodwill, which have helped to consolidate their relations. The implementation of the N'Djamena Agreement helped in tackling the problems that poisoned the relations between the two countries, i.e. that of securing the common border and the recurrent problem of the incursions of politico-military groups within Chad. The Protocol on the Securing of the Borders resolved the first concern with the establishment of the joint border monitoring and security force and the effective launching of its patrol activities along the common border. With regard to the second concern, the two countries took appropriate measures to prevent the rebel groups or movements from carrying out hostile activities in either country.

78. The Assembly may wish, once again, to commend Presidents Idriss Déby Itno and Omar Hassan Al Bashir for their courageous political decision to normalise relations between their two countries, and for their perseverance in the path of dialogue, consultation and good neighbourliness.

79. In addition, with the definitive withdrawal of MINURCAT from Chad on 31 December 2010, the Chadian Government, true to its commitment to take full responsibility for the security and protection of the civilian population in Eastern Chad, including the refugees, displaced persons, returnees and host communities, has thus far fulfilled its obligations in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1923 (2010). In the United Nations' opinion, the security situation remains "relatively calm", including in the refugee and displaced persons' camps, attributable largely to the vigilance of the central and local Chadian authorities, as well as to the Integrated Security Detachment (DIS) and the joint Chadian/ Sudanese patrols along the common border.

j) Central African Republic (CAR)

80. The political situation in the CAR was characterised by continued efforts to organise the general elections which had been repeatedly postponed. After the adoption by the National Assembly, on 10 May 2010, of a constitutional law extending the term of Office of the President of the Republic and members of Parliament up to the organisation of the next presidential and legislative elections, the Head of State signed a decree, on 30 July 2010, announcing the elections for 23 January 2011. On 10 August 2010, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) presented a revised and initialled calendar setting the date for the 1st round of elections for 23 January 2011, and the 2nd round for 20 March 2011. Voters' registration took place as scheduled from 22 September to 21 October 2010. The Constitutional Court validated the list of the five candidates for the presidential race and 885 candidates for the legislative poll. On the side of the IEC, despite the logistical and financial challenges it faces, preparations are progressing satisfactorily.

81. Some rebel groups in the country, particularly the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace-CPJP (non-signatories to the Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement), continue to be active on the ground, as evidenced, among other things, by the attack perpetrated by the CPJP against the town of Birao, in the north eastern part of the country. Similarly, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has continued with its criminal attacks against the civilian populations, particularly in the eastern part of the country, thus contributing to worsening an already worrying humanitarian situation. The definitive withdrawal of MINURCAT forces from Birao, which began on 15 October 2010, created a security vacuum, partly filled by the reinforcement of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and the support of bilateral partners. Regarding the DDR (Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration) programme, it has remained in its first phase - that of disarmament. Noteworthy is the goodwill and cooperation shown by the Government and the various political-military groups signatories to the Libreville Agreement.

82. The CAR continues to face numerous, political, security, socio-economic challenges. In this regard, the successful conduct of the forthcoming elections, the conclusion of the DDR programme, the adoption of appropriate measures for the restoration of State authority, the beefing up of security throughout the territory and the pursuit of economic reforms are of crucial importance. The Assembly may wish to urge AU Member States to show solidarity towards the CAR. Substantial effort on the part of the international community is absolutely necessary, particularly in terms of the strengthening and reform of the security sector and the post-conflict reconstruction of the CAR, in general.

k) Côte d'Ivoire

83. Recently Côte d'Ivoire seemed to be moving towards a consensual end to the crisis facing the country, after several years of sustained efforts by the international community, particularly President Blaise Compaoré in his capacity as ECOWAS Facilitator of the Inter-Ivorian Direct Dialogue, with the support of the AU and the United Nations. However, the country has once again plunged into serious political crisis with untold consequences both for Côte d'Ivoire and the continent. The period following the Kampala Summit was marked by continued spirit of dialogue and consultation which, pursuant to the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement (OPA), culminated *inter alia*, in the consensual adoption of the final voters' register by the members of the Permanent Consultation Framework, on 6 September 2010. In accordance with the provisions of the OPA, President Laurent Gbagbo promulgated a presidential decree on 9 September 2010, authorizing the issuance of national identity cards to persons registered on this final voters' register.

84. The 1st round of the presidential election took place on 31 October 2010 under conducive conditions, and the population turned out to vote in their numbers (more than 80%). The three key players in the political arena polled in the following order: Laurent Gbagbo (incumbent President) - 38.04%, Alassane Dramane Ouattara (President of the RDR) - 32.07%, and Henri Konan Bédié (President of the PDCI-RDA) - 25.24%.

85. The second round, which took place on 28 November 2010, with a turnout of over 70%, was fought by the two candidates who led in the first round. It is noteworthy that candidate Henri Konan Bédié called on his supporters to vote in the second round for Mr Alassane Ouattara, who had become the candidate of the *Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)* (Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace). The campaign for the 2nd round saw an amicable one-and-one TV debate during which the two candidates presented their programmes, promised to respect the verdict of the ballot box and appealed to voters to be calm, in contrast to the tension which prevailed during the electioneering campaign. A curfew was imposed by presidential decree on the eve of the polls, and extended on several occasions, up to 21 December 2010. Election Observer Missions were unanimous in their view as to the fairness, transparency and credibility of the polls in their entirety.

86. Contrary to the consensus that accompanied the first round, the proclamation of the results of the second round triggered profound divergences. While the IEC, which was supposed to proclaim the provisional results within three days, that is, up to midnight of Wednesday 1st December, was yet to obtain consensus on the consolidation or otherwise of some of the votes, the President of the Constitutional Council announced, on 2 December, that the deadline allotted to the IEC had expired and that the Council had been petitioned to issue a ruling on the disputes and petitions that had been filed, and to proclaim the final results within a compulsory deadline of seven days. Later, the Chairman of the IEC announced that Alassane Ouattara had been elected President of the Republic with 54.10% of the votes, against 49.90% for Laurent Gbagbo. For his part, after deciding on the petitions submitted by candidate Gbagbo in the afternoon of 3 December 2010 and annulling the votes in seven Departments in the North, affecting 640,000 ballot papers, the

President of the Constitutional Council proclaimed Laurent Gbagbo winner of the presidential election with 51.45% of the votes against 48.55% for his opponent, and swore him in as President the following day. On the same day, Mr. Alassane Ouattara also took the oath of office as President by means of a correspondence addressed to the same Constitutional Council.

87. After the proclamation of the results by the Constitutional Council, pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1765 (2007) of 16 July 2007 and in accordance with the Agreement concluded between the Ivorian Parties, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Côte d'Ivoire went on to certify the second round on 3 December 2010, affirming that the decision of the Constitutional Council did not correspond to the facts. He confirmed the election of Alassane Ouattara on the basis of the results proclaimed by the IEC, expressing the view that even if all the claims of the presidential majority were taken into account in terms of the record of proceedings, the result proclaimed by the IEC would not change. The certification of the Special Representative was supported by the United Nations Security Council.

88. It was against this background that the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, was entrusted with an emergency mission to Abidjan on 5 and 6 December, in a bid to prevent an irreversible escalation of the existing positions and to consider with all the stakeholders ways and means to end the crisis. At its 251st meeting held on 4 December 2010, the PSC, in furtherance of the Press Statement of its 250th meeting held at the level of Heads of State and Government on 30 November 2010, voiced AU's total rejection of any attempt to create a *fait accompli* in order to derail the electoral process and undermine the popular will as expressed on 28 November 2010, while reserving for itself the possibility of taking appropriate measures against perpetrators of acts likely to jeopardise the integrity of the electoral process. Subsequently, the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, meeting in an Extraordinary Session on Côte d'Ivoire in Abuja on 7 December 2010, recognized Alassane Ouattara as the President-Elect of Côte d'Ivoire, and urged Laurent Gbagbo to respect the results of the presidential election as certified by UNOCI. It also decided to suspend Côte d'Ivoire from all its decision-making bodies until further notice. In the same vein, at its 252nd meeting held on 9 December 2010, the PSC decided, on the basis of the relevant AU instruments, to suspend Côte d'Ivoire from participation in all AU activities, until the democratically-elected President Alassane Dramane Ouattara effectively assumes the reins of government. The PSC made an urgent appeal to Laurent Gbagbo to respect the results of the polls and to facilitate, without delay, the transfer of power to the President-Elect in the higher interest of Côte d'Ivoire, the region and Africa at large. The current Chairperson of the African Union also made a similar appeal. The United Nations, the European Union and many other international partners have also recognized Alassane Ouattara as President-Elect, and called upon Gbagbo to immediately relinquish power peacefully.

89. On 17 December 2010, the Chairperson of the Commission proceeded to Abuja for consultations with President Goodluck Jonathan, the current Chairperson of ECOWAS, then to Abidjan where, accompanied by the President of ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Victor Gbeho, and the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, he met with the actors concerned, particularly the President-Elect Alassane Ouattara, and Mr. Laurent Gbagbo. Subsequently, and as a follow-up to the communiqué of the 254th meeting of the PSC, the Chairperson of the Commission requested Mr. Raila

Odinga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya, to follow through the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and to enhance the chances of success of the ongoing endeavours. On 3 January 2011, Prime Minister Odinga, alongside the Presidents of Cape Verde, Benin and Sierra Leone, participated in a joint AU-ECOWAS mission to Abidjan for talks with the outgoing President, Laurent Gbagbo, and the President-Elect, Alassane Ouattara, on how best to exit from the post-electoral crisis. Prime Minister Odinga undertook a second mission to Abidjan from 17 to 18 January 2011. At the same time, both the Chairperson of the Commission and the Commissioner for Peace and Security have continued to conduct a series of consultations with ECOWAS and several African countries, as well as with the United Nations, the European Union and other partners.

90. In this context, and with the PSC due to convene at the level of Heads of State and Government on 28 January 2011, to discuss the Ivorian question, the Assembly may wish to encourage all Ivoirians, especially the various stakeholders and political leaders, to spare no effort to ensure the triumph of wisdom in the higher interest of Côte d'Ivoire and its people, in strict compliance with the will of the people as expressed on 28 November 2010. The Assembly may also wish to seize this opportunity to reiterate its strong condemnation of the acts of violence and other human rights violations perpetrated in different parts of Côte d'Ivoire. The Assembly of the Union should exert its authority to promote the goals of democracy and peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

I) Liberia

91. Liberia has continued to make sustained progress towards peace building and post-conflict reconstruction, focusing both on the strengthening of national institutions and socio-economic recovery and development. Regarding the security aspects, it is worth noting the efforts being made by the Liberian Government, in collaboration with the other countries of the Mano River Union (MRU), to address challenges associated with transnational organized crime, as demonstrated by the establishment, in October 2010, of the Transnational Crime Unit (TCU), which is part of the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) and the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on the issue.

92. It should be noted that Liberia was formally placed on the agenda of the UN Peace Building Commission, on 16 September 2010. As a result, the Government of Liberia and the United Nations Peace Building Commission's Liberia Country Configuration jointly endorsed a Statement of Mutual Commitment (SMC) on peace building, in Monrovia, on 15 November 2010. The SMC identified three priority areas, namely the strengthening of the rule of law, supporting security sector reform and promoting national reconciliation. The inauguration of the long-awaited Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC), in September 2010, is also significant in many respects as this body would seek to ensure the implementation of the recommendations made in the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report and also address other equally important human rights issues.

93. The Assembly may wish to reiterate the need for continued support from Africa and the larger international community to help Liberia consolidate the remarkable achievements made over the past few years. The Assembly may also wish to

encourage the Government of Liberia and all other stakeholders to persevere in their efforts, including through the smooth holding of the general elections scheduled for this year.

m) Niger

94. At its session in Kampala, the Assembly took note of the transition calendar and the process of restoring constitutional order, as defined by the *de facto* authorities in Niger in consultation with the Nigerien parties, and requested all the Nigerien stakeholders to ensure its scrupulous implementation. The Assembly appealed to Member States and the international community at large to provide the support required for the successful conduct of the transition process, particularly the elections, as well as the assistance needed to address the food shortage situation in Niger.

95. During the period under review, significant progress was achieved towards the restoration of constitutional order with the conduct, on 31 October 2010, of a constitutional referendum which adopted the new Constitution. Presidential elections have been scheduled for 31 January 2011. The Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission has maintained close contact with all the stakeholders to facilitate the success of the transition. Moreover, the Commissioner for Peace and Security visited Niamey from 13 to 14 January 2011 as part of a joint AU/ECOWAS/UN mission to evaluate the situation and encourage all the parties to work towards the conclusion of the transition and return to constitutional legality through successful presidential and legislative elections. At the time of finalizing this report, the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission for Niger was to undertake a mission to Niamey as a follow-up to the visit by the Commissioner.

96. The Assembly may wish to appeal to the political parties and all stakeholders involved in the transition process to place the higher interest of Niger above partisan and other considerations in order to facilitate the speedy completion of the process of return to constitutional order, which will culminate with the swearing in of the new President of the Republic on 6 April 2011 at the latest.

n) Republic of Guinea

97. During the period under review, the AU and ECOWAS, particularly through the International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G), co-chaired by AU and ECOWAS, continued in its efforts to facilitate a successful transition and the proper organization of the elections, in close coordination with the Mediator in the Guinean crisis, President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, and with the support of the United Nations, through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in West Africa, Ambassador Saïd Djinnit.

98. It is in this context that, on 3 September 2010, in Ouagadougou, the two candidates who received the most votes in the first round of the presidential election which took place on 4 June 2010, Cellou Dalein Diallo and Alpha Condé, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the auspices of President Blaise Compaoré. Subsequently, following a consultation initiated by the ICG-G at its 17th meeting held in Conakry on 5 November 2010, the two candidates also signed a Joint Declaration in which they reiterated their commitment to work towards a

peaceful, free and democratic election throughout the national territory in accordance with the Ouagadougou MoU.

99. The second round of the presidential election, postponed several times, took place on 7 November 2010. The provisional results announced by the CENI gave Alpha Condé victory, with 52.52% of votes cast, against 47.48% for Cellou Dalein Diallo. On 2 December 2010, the Supreme Court proclaimed the final results confirming the victory of Alpha Condé, with 52.5% of votes cast against 47.5% for Cellou Dalein Diallo. It is worth indicating, that clashes broke out between militants of the unsuccessful candidate and the police on 17 November 2010, thus compelling the President of the Transition to declare a state of emergency throughout the whole national territory.

100. At its 248th meeting held on 13 November 2010, the PSC expressed satisfaction at the peaceful organization of the second round of the presidential election, and congratulated the Guineans on having turned out in their numbers to vote, thus demonstrating their commitment to democracy and their determination to ensure the successful conclusion of the transition launched following the Ouagadougou Joint Declaration of 15 January 2010, through the restoration of constitutional order. It is in this context that the PSC, at its 252nd meeting held on 9 December 2010, decided to lift Guinea's suspension from participation in the activities of the AU, as well as the sanctions imposed on those who, by their actions, constituted an obstacle to the process of restoration of constitutional legality. The swearing-in-ceremony of President Alpha Condé took place on 21 December 2010 in the presence of several Heads of State and Government from the region, Africa and elsewhere.

101. The Assembly may wish to underscore the historic importance of the advent of a democratically elected President in Guinea, and appeal to all the partners of Guinea who, through their assistance throughout the transition, provided evidence of their readiness to work for the development of this country, to pursue and intensify their support, at a time when the new authorities are gearing up to tackle the immense task of socio-economic recovery and development.

o) Guinea Bissau

102. In pursuance of the relevant AU decisions, the Commission opened the AU Liaison Office in Guinea Bissau in anticipation of the deployment of the AU-ECOWAS Joint Stabilization Mission. The Office is led by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission, Professor Sebastião da Silva Isata, former Angolan Deputy Minister of External Relations. His mandate relates to the necessity of an effective and coordinated presence of the international community in Guinea Bissau and calls for the harmonisation of efforts with those of ECOWAS, CPLP and the United Nations.

103. Upon assuming office, on 4 October 2010, the Special Representative undertook a number of initiatives to boost AU support to the peace building process in the country. Worth mentioning, at this juncture, are the efforts deployed to strengthen cohesion at the helm of the State with the improvement of relations between the President of the Republic, Malam Bacai Sanha, and the Prime Minister, Carlos Gomes Jr., the sustained interaction with Guinea Bissau institutions as

evidenced in the acceptance by the Parliament of Guinea Bissau of AU proposals for adoption of a legislation criminalizing drug possession, transfer, processing and trafficking, and establishing a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and advocacy with bilateral and multilateral partners of Guinea Bissau represented in Bissau for the creation of favourable conditions that will enable the competent authorities of Guinea Bissau to realistically and efficiently undertake the fight against drug trafficking.

104. At its 247th meeting held on 2 November 2010, the PSC expressed satisfaction at the ongoing developments in Guinea Bissau. For its part, the 28th Ministerial Session of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council, held in Abuja on 24 November 2010, requested the Joint ECOWAS-CPLP Committee to put in place a coordination mechanism to speed up the implementation of the Roadmap on Defence and Security Sector Reform (DSSR) in Guinea Bissau. At its 255th meeting held on 23 December 2010, the PSC reiterated the terms of the communiqué of its 247th meeting, took note of the recommendations of the 28th Ministerial Session of the Mediation and Security Council of ECOWAS, and requested the Commission to undertake the necessary contacts with bilateral and multilateral partners of Guinea Bissau towards holding, as soon as possible, the planned Donors' Conference, with a view to facilitating the DSSR implementation and making adequate contributions on that occasion. Furthermore, in implementing the decisions of the 247th and 255th meetings of the PSC, the Commission intends to send an experts' mission to assist the Parliament of Guinea Bissau to draft legislation criminalizing drug possession, transfer, processing and trafficking. At the same time, and with a view to establishing, in the best possible manner, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the AU Commission stands ready to lend its support to the Guinea Bissau authorities, who have expressed the desire to benefit from similar experiences elsewhere.

105. The Assembly may wish to appeal urgently to all stakeholders to do all in their power to ensure the holding of the Donors' Conference, which has been postponed several times, and whose outcome will facilitate the implementation of the long-awaited DSSR priority programme.

p) Tunisia

106. During the past weeks, the political situation in Tunisia has witnessed a fundamental transformation, marked in particular by President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali leaving power. Chronologically, the events which rocked Tunisia began on 17 December 2010, when a young fruit and vegetable hawker set himself alight in front of a government building in Sidi Bouzid, in the centre of the country. The movement then gradually spread to all parts of the country, including Tunis, pulling increasingly larger crowds, particularly the youth who, among other demands, clamoured for jobs. The demands themselves took on a political twist, widening to include the denunciation of police repression, which had claimed dozens of victims, abuse of public liberties and corruption, as well as the demand for the democratisation of public life.

107. The response of the authorities changed with time. Initially, they denounced the protesters as a minority of extremists and agitators acting counter to the interests of their country. They then dismissed some Ministers, announced measures to improve the lot of the vulnerable segments of the population and indicated that the message of the demonstrators had been understood. On 12 January, President Ben

Ali dismissed the Interior Minister and imposed a curfew in the capital city and its surrounding areas. The following day, and while the popular demonstrations were garnering increasing momentum, the President, in what was his third speech since the start of the crisis, announced that he would not stand for re-election in 2014, adding that he had been misled by his entourage in the assessment of the situation. He ordered the security forces to refrain from using weapons with live ammunition against the protesters and promised to strengthen freedoms, including press freedom. These measures were followed by the dissolution of the Government, an announcement of early legislative elections and declaration of a state of emergency. The demonstrations continued in spite of these measures. It was in that context that Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi announced, on 14 January 2011, that President Ben Ali was temporarily unable to perform the duties of his office and declared that he would assume the functions of interim President until elections were held, whereas, according to informed circles, President Ben Ali had left the country.

108. The situation has since witnessed major developments. Mr. Ghannouchi has been replaced by the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Fouad Mebazaa, as interim Head of State, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Constitution, following a confirmation by the Constitutional Council that President Ben Ali had definitely relinquished power and proclamation of a transitional period. On the other hand, a "Transitional Government of National Unity" has been formed with the mandate to organise legislative and presidential elections within six months. It is, however, worth noting that this Government has continued to attract criticism from those opposed to the assignment of key positions to Ministers of the *Rassemblement constitutionnel démocratique* (Constitutional Democratic Rally – RCD), which led those concerned, following in the footsteps of Messrs. Mebazaa and Ghannouchi, to relinquish their party affiliation. Substantively, the Government has taken some appeasement measures, notably the freeing of political prisoners and the adoption of a draft general amnesty law for people condemned on account of politically motivated judicial decisions, and pledged to accredit all political parties that so apply, a commemoration to honour the victims of violence and return of the tangible and intangible assets of the RCD to the State.

109. The Assembly of the Union may wish, along the lines of the PSC Press Statement of 15 January 2011, to express its solidarity with the Tunisian people. The Assembly may also wish to urgently appeal to the political actors and the Tunisian people to work together in unity, consensus and respect for legality, to ensure a peaceful and democratic transition which will enable Tunisians to freely choose their leaders through open, democratic and transparent elections.

q) Western Sahara

110. During the period under review, no progress has been recorded in the search for a just and lasting solution to the dispute over Western Sahara, despite the peace efforts that continue to be made under the aegis of the United Nations. The Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Ambassador Christopher Ross, paid his fourth visit to the region, from 18 to 25 October 2010, to continue his consultations with Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO, as well as with Algeria and Mauritania, as neighbouring countries.

111. Subsequently, the Personal Envoy convened the third and fourth informal talks between the Parties, on 8 and 9 November and 16 to 18 December 2010, in Manhasset, New York. While the Parties did agree to continue with the 5th and 6th rounds of informal talks, on 21 and 22 January and in March 2011, respectively, no breakthrough was achieved, due to Morocco's pre-condition that its autonomy proposal be the sole basis of discussion, excluding the Frente POLISARIO's referendum proposal that includes the option of independence as well.

112. The tragic events that unfolded in Laayoune, on 8 November 2010, as a result of the assault by Moroccan forces against the peaceful encampment of Sahrawi protestors in the outskirts of the city, highlight the need for renewed efforts to find a solution to the conflict, consistent with relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, which provide for the right of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara. The Commission will continue supporting such efforts, in line with the relevant provisions of the Tripoli Plan of Action, which provide for a referendum of self-determination by which the people of Western Sahara will freely choose either independence or integration within the Kingdom of Morocco.

VII. CONCLUSION

113. Despite the achievements made and the sustained the efforts deployed, the overall peace and security situation remains no less unsatisfactory, as evidenced, among others, by the unfolding situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the events in Tunisia, the persistent crisis in Darfur and the continued violence in Somalia. Moreover, the persistent stalemate in the Western Sahara conflict and in the Eritrea-Ethiopia peace process underscores the need for sustained efforts to help open up the prospects of peace at the level of the entire continent.

114. The continent has also continued to be faced with terrorist violence. After the criminal attacks in Kampala in July 2010, some other regions experienced similar incidents. These include, in particular, the Sahel-Sahara region, with the hostage taking and other acts of terrorism perpetrated in recent months; Nigeria, with the attack unleashed on the day of the country's Independence Anniversary celebration; and Egypt with the attack on a church in Alexandria. This situation calls for even more coordinated response on the part of African countries, on the basis of relevant African Union instruments and the decisions of AU policy organs, including those adopted by the PSC on 22 November 2010.

115. In more general terms, it is absolutely necessary to redouble efforts to resolve the existing conflicts and consolidate peace in the countries and regions where it has been achieved. Fundamentally, however, and in pursuance of the objectives set forth in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, prevention should be at the core of AU initiatives. In this regard, it is of urgent importance that the Member States which have not yet done so ratify the AU instruments on governance, human rights and democracy and that the commitments made are scrupulously implemented, for respect for these commitments will, to a large extent, contribute to the structural prevention of conflicts. In the same vein, Member States should extend all the cooperation required to enable the AU to effectively discharge its mandate in terms of direct prevention, in accordance with their obligations under the PSC Protocol.

Assembly/AU/5(XVI)
ANNEX I

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS (2010 - 2013)

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS (2010 - 2013)

1. Benin
2. Burundi
3. Chad
4. Côte d'Ivoire
5. Djibouti
6. Equatorial Guinea
7. Kenya
8. Lybia
9. Mali
10. Mauritania
11. Namibia
12. Nigeria
13. Rwanda
14. South Africa
15. Zimbabwe

**Assembly/AU/5(XVI)
ANNEX II**

**MEETINGS AND BRIEFING SESSIONS OF THE PEACE AND
SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION,
JULY 2010 – JANUARY 2011**

**MEETINGS AND BRIEFING SESSIONS OF THE PEACE AND
SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION, JULY 2010 – JANUARY 2011**

Meeting/ Briefing	Date	Agenda	Communiqué/ Other Output	Working Documents
235 th	2 July 2010	Consideration of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the activities of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on Sudan	Communiqué of the PSC: PSC/PR/COMM.(CCXXXV)	Report of the Chairperson: PSC/PR/2(CCXXXV)
236 th	5 July 2010	1. Improving the method of considering conflict and crisis situations and the formulation of communiqués 2. Briefing on recent developments in the situation in Comoros	Communiqué of the PSC: PSC/PR/COMM.(CCXXXVI)	Documents: 1. Agreement of the Union of the Comoros for management of the Interim period 2. Programme proposal of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (Chairperson of the PSC for the month of July 2010)
238 th	11 August 2010	Briefing on recent developments in the situation in Côte d'Ivoire	Press Statement: PSC/PR/BR(CCXXXVIII)	
239 th	24 August 2010	Briefing on recent developments in the situation in Somalia.	Press Statement: PSC/PR/BR(CCXXXIX)	
240 th	8 August 2010	Briefing by the Political Affairs Department on the upcoming presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire		
241 st	23 September 2010	1. Briefing of the Commission on the implementation of AU and IGAD decisions on Somalia 2. Preparation for the PSC Field Mission to Côte d'Ivoire	Press Statement: PSC/PR/BR(CCXXXI)	

Meeting/ Briefing	Date	Agenda	Communiqué/ Other Output	Working Documents
242 nd	4 October 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing on recent developments in the situation in Niger; 2. Briefing on recent developments in the situation in the Republic of Guinea. 	Communiqué: PSC/PR/BR.(CCXXXII)	
243 rd	6 October 2010	Preparations for AU PSC – EUCOPS Meeting.		
244 nd	13 October 2010	Preparation for the ministerial meeting on Somalia		
245 rd	15 October 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Somalia 2. Update on Sudan. 	Press Statement: PSC/MIN/1(CCXXXV)	Report on Somalia: PSC/MIN/1(CCXXXV)
246 th	28 October 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration of the Report of the PSC Field Mission to Côte d'Ivoire. 2. Update on Somalia 	Communiqué: PSC/PR/Comm.1(CCXLVI)	Report on Cote D'Ivoire : PSC/PR/1(CCXLVI)
247 th	2 November 2010	Briefing on the situation in Guinea Bissau	Press Statement : PSC/PR/BR (CCXLVII)	
248 th	13 November 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing on recent developments in the situation in the Republic of Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Niger 2. Briefing on the Mission of the AU Ministerial Committee on Post-conflict Reconstruction to the Sudan 3. Briefing on Exercise Amani Africa 	Communiqué: PSC/PR/BR.(CCXLVIII) Rev.1	

Meeting/ Briefing	Date	Agenda	Communiqué/ Other Output	Working Documents
249th	22 November 2010	Consideration of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on measures to strengthen cooperation in the prevention and combating of terrorism	Communiqué: 11PSC/PR/COMM.(CCXLVIX)	Report on Terrorism PSC/PR/2(CCXLIX)
250th	30 November 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration of the Progress Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the implementation of the Tripoli Declaration on the elimination of conflicts in Africa and the promotion of sustainable peace and on the Tripoli Plan of Action 2. Consideration of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Situation in Sudan and the activities of the AU High Level Implementation Panel on Sudan 	Press Statement : Côte d'Ivoire PSC/PR/Comm. 2(CCL) Press Statement : Sudan PSC/PR/Comm. 1(CCL)	Report on Tripoli Declaration and Plan of Action PSC/AHG/2(CCL) Report on Sudan PSC/AHG/3(CCL)
251st	4 December 2010	Briefing on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire	Press Statement: PSC/PR/BR (CCLI)	
252nd	9 December 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea Conakry 2. Preparation for the PSC Field Mission to Sudan (15-18 December 2010) and for the joint meeting of the AU PSC and the Peace and Security Council of the League of Arab States (18-19 December 2010) 	Communiqué: PSC/PR/COMM.1(CCLII) PSC/PR/COMM.2 (CCLII)	Information note on the field mission of the peace and security council (PSC) to Sudan (Khartoum, El Fasher and Juba) 15-18 December 2010 ***** Joint meeting between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU PSC) and the Peace and Security Council of the League of Arab States (LAS PSC) Cairo, 18-19 December 2010

Meeting/ Briefing	Date	Agenda	Communiqué/ Other Output	Working Documents
253rd	14 December 2010	Preparations PSC FIELD MISSION TO THE SUDAN 15- 17 December 2010		
254 th	21 December 2010	1. Briefing on the recent developments in the situation in Cote d'Ivoire 2. Briefing on the situation in Sudan	Communiqué: PSC/PR/COMM.1(CCLIV) PSC/PR/COMM.2(CCLIV) Rev.2	
255 th	23 December 2010	1. Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in the Central African Republic 2. Briefing on the situation in Guinea Bissau	Press Statement: CAR PSC/PR/COMM.(CCLV) Press Statement: Guinea PSC/PR/COMM.2(CCLV)	Report on CAR PSC/PR/2(CCLV)
256 th	10 January 2010	Briefing on the situation in Sudan	Press Statement: PSC/PR/COMM.2(CCLVI)	
257 th	15 January 2010	Consideration of the situation in Tunisia	Press Statement: PSC/PR/COMM.2(CCLVII)	

**Assembly/AU/5(XVI)
ANNEX III**

**PRESS STATEMENT
OF THE 3RD JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING
BETWEEN THE EU PSC AND THE AU PSC
BRUSSELS, 18 OCTOBER 2010**



**PRESS STATEMENT
OF THE 3RD JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING
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(1) The Political and Security Committee of the European Union and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held their 3rd Joint Consultative Meeting in Brussels.

(2) They discussed the issues of **Conflict Prevention and Crisis Situations**, where they called on the Sudanese parties to remain committed to and implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to make progress regarding the conduct of the referenda in Abyei and South Sudan. Both sides emphasized the importance of these processes being credible and timely and stressed that the negotiations on the post-referendum arrangements should be pursued in good faith. They encouraged cooperation between their respective electoral observation missions for the referenda and to work together on the post referendum issues. Both sides called on the parties to respect the outcome of the referenda. An inclusive settlement on Darfur in Doha and other processes such as the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue needs to be reached without any further delay and unhindered access for humanitarian aid needs to be guaranteed. Both sides reconfirmed their common resolve to fight impunity and encouraged all efforts to bring peace, reconciliation and justice to Darfur, pledging their full support to the work and the efforts of the AU High Level Implementation Panel for Sudan.

(3) Both sides welcomed the appointment of the AU High Representative for Somalia and looked forward to the relocation of civilian components of AU and UN to Mogadishu. The meeting agreed to urgently follow up on the outcome of the 245th meeting of the AU PSC held on 15 October 2010 and concurred in calling upon the Somali political leadership to improve the functioning of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) and advance political dialogue through an inclusive process. They underscored the importance of strengthening AMISOM and of the building up of Somali security forces alongside a reinvigorated political approach within the framework of the Djibouti process. In this context, they welcomed the contribution of the EU Training Mission. They agreed to seek increased engagement with the regions of Somaliland and Puntland within the framework of the Transitional Federation Institutions.

(4) On the issue of **Maritime Safety and Security (MSS)**, both sides welcomed African efforts in coming up with regional solutions to counter piracy and look forward to the setting up of a continental framework for an integrated MSS Strategy for Africa in line with the conclusions of the workshop on maritime security and safety held in Addis Ababa in April 2010. They welcomed in particular the initiative of the second regional ministerial meeting on piracy and maritime security in the Eastern and Southern Africa-Indian ocean region. On Somalia, both sides agreed to explore

ways to step up coherence in efforts of maritime safety and security on sea and to stabilize Somalia on shore.

(5) Regarding the **Peace and Security Partnership** both sides welcomed the progress made in the elaboration of the Action Plan 2011-13 under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. They stressed the need to reinforce co-operation in crisis management and peace-building, in close co-ordination with the UN, also recalling the UNSC resolution 1325 on the role of women in peace and security. To this effect, they welcomed the efforts made by the AU and Regional Economic Communities to prepare a forward-looking roadmap for the operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture, as well as the ongoing first AU-organised AMANI Africa exercise.

(6) Both sides agreed on the importance of a strengthened **AU-EU coordination in situations of security and governance crises**. Concerned by the growing transnational challenges such as terrorism, organized crime and trafficking of all kind, including insecurity in the Sahel region, they agreed on the need to assist the efforts of the countries in the region within the framework of a concerted and comprehensive strategic approach. The AU and the EU further stressed the importance of the second presidential round in Guinea scheduled for 24 October 2010 and agreed to cooperate as regards their respective electoral observation missions. Regarding Madagascar, both sides reaffirmed their support to the AU mediation, called for a more inclusive and consensual dialogue and for a rapid return to the constitutional order.

(7) Finally, both sides agreed to **improve their working methods**, notably in view of establishing regular contacts between both Chairs of the EU and AU PSC. In the context of unconstitutional changes of government, they underlined the importance of enhancing the effectiveness of International Contact Groups as well as of examining the possibility of joint EU-AU declarations/demarches and of coordination concerning the implementation of sanctions.

(8) Both sides agreed to meet again in Addis Ababa in 2011

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ANNEX IV**

**1ST JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE PEACE AND
SECURITY COUNCILS OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE LEAGUE
OF ARAB STATES CAIRO, EGYPT, 18 – 19 DECEMBER 2010**

JOINT COMMUNIQUE



**1ST JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE PEACE AND SECURITY
COUNCILS OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
CAIRO, EGYPT, 18 – 19 DECEMBER 2010**

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

1. The Peace and Security Councils (PSC) of the League of Arab States (LAS) and the African Union (UA) convened their first joint consultative meeting in Cairo, Egypt, on 18 and 19 December 2010. The meeting was held in pursuance of the Declaration, as well as the Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy and the Joint Action Plan for the period 2011 – 2016, as adopted by the 2nd Africa-Arab Summit, held in Sirte, Great Jamahiriya, on 10 October 2010.
2. The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Amr Moussa, and the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, as well as the Chairperson of the AU PSC for the month of December 2010, Ambassador Amadou N'Diaye, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mali to the AU, and the Chairperson of the LAS PSC, Ambassador Jaber Habib Jaber, from Iraq, made statements during the opening session of the meeting.
3. The two Councils seized the opportunity of the meeting to review issues of common concern and devise ways and means of fostering peace, security and stability in the two regions, as they mutually impact on each other, and enhancing coordination of related efforts and initiatives.
4. In particular, the two Councils had in-depth discussions on the situations in Sudan, Somalia and the Comoros and other related situations, as well as on the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict.
5. On the Sudan, the two Councils recognized that the country was going through a very critical period in its history, with the self-determination referendum scheduled to take place on 9 January 2010. They commended the Parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) for their commitment to conduct a free, fair and transparent referendum, and to respect its outcome as the expression of the will of the people of Southern Sudan. They reiterated their full support to the efforts being made by the Parties towards the full implementation of the CPA and the resolution of the post-referendum arrangements and, in this respect, called on them to continue to extend full cooperation to the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on the Sudan.

6. The two Councils also stressed the need to speed up the ongoing efforts to find a solution to the crisis in Darfur, and reiterated their support to the Arab-African sponsored peace process, being conducted in Doha by the AU-UN Joint Mediator, with the support of the State of Qatar. They urged all the armed movements to join the peace process without further delay or preconditions. They also stressed the need for the speedy launching, within Darfur, under the auspices of the AUHIP and UNAMID, with an active involvement of the League of Arab States, of the inclusive and comprehensive political process as agreed to by the 2nd meeting of the Sudan Consultative Forum, held in Addis Ababa on 6 November 2010. They underlined the need for continued and close collaboration between the African Union and the League of Arab States.

7. The two Councils urged the international community to fully support the Sudanese Parties and to take all measures required to facilitate their tasks and enable them to meet the challenges at hand. In this respect, the two Councils strongly reiterated the call to the United Nations Security Council for it, in the interest of peace, justice and reconciliation in the Sudan, to respond promptly and positively to the request for the deferral of the process initiated by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the President of the Republic of the Sudan, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute. They also requested the lifting of the sanctions imposed on Sudan, as well as debt cancellation measures for the country.

8. On Somalia, the two Councils reiterated the full support of the African Union and the League of Arab States to the peace and reconciliation process in the country, in accordance with the Djibouti Process, as well as to the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs). They urged the TFIs to show the leadership and political will demanded by the current challenges facing Somalia, including reaching out to all Somali stakeholders willing to renounce violence and pursue their political objectives peacefully, in order to strengthen the national reconciliation process, and speedily completing the transitional tasks, as provided for in the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC). The two Councils expressed their appreciation for the efforts being made on the ground by the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). They strongly condemned the terrorist attacks perpetrated by the armed opposition groups against the TFIs, AMISOM and the Somali people. They also expressed deep concern over the scourge of piracy off the coast of Somalia and other associated problems, including illegal fishing and dumping of toxic waste.

9. The two Councils called on the international community in general, in particular the United Nations Security Council, to fully assume its responsibilities in Somalia, including through the speedy provision of the required support for the strengthening of AMISOM and the enhancement of the capacity of the Somali Security Forces, as contained in the AU PSC communiqué of 15 October 2010. The two Councils pledged to closely cooperate towards the promotion of lasting peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia, in particular at the level of UN Security Council.

10. On the Comoros, the two Councils welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Agreement on the Management of the Transitional Period, signed in June 2010, under the auspices of the AU. They looked forward to the successful

completion of the electoral process, and pledged continued support by the AU and the Arab League towards the socio-economic recovery of the country and the consolidation of the reconciliation process. In this respect, they welcomed the successful convening in Doha, by the Arab League, of a Donors' Conference on the Comoros, as well as the measures and initiatives being taken as a follow-up to the Conference.

11. The two Councils had an exchange of views on the dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea, in light of the relevant decisions of the Arab League and the AU. They requested the Arab League Secretariat and the AU Commission to continue to monitor the evolution of the situation, including the mediation efforts spearheaded by the State of Qatar, underlining the need for a speedy and lasting solution to the dispute.

12. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the Arab League side to brief the AU PSC on the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict. In this regard, the two Councils recalled the relevant provisions of the Sirte Declaration adopted by the 2nd Africa-Arab Summit. The AU PSC reiterated AU's full support to the efforts and initiatives of the Arab League towards a just and comprehensive solution, including the fulfillment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the liberation of all occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights and the Lebanese territories, to the lines of 4 June 1967, in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

13. The two Councils urged all states to recognize the Palestinian State based on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and denounced the continued occupation by Israel of Arab territories, its policy of aggression, and building settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. In this regard, the AU PSC fully supported the communiqué issued, on 15 December 2010, by the Arab Peace Initiative Ministerial Committee, urging the UN Security Council to take the required measures to deal with the current situation and to adopt a resolution that would, among others, emphasize the illegal and illegitimate nature of the Israeli settlement policy and oblige Israel to immediately cease such activities.

14. The two Councils recognized the critical importance of mobilizing the resources required for the effective implementation of the activities agreed to in the Sirte Joint Plan of Action. In this respect, they requested the Arab League Secretariat and the AU Commission to take the required steps for the early submission of concrete proposals on how to operationalize the African-Arab Mechanism to support the peacekeeping and peace building efforts of the two Organizations, as spelt out in paragraph 15 of the Partnership Strategy.

15. The two Councils agreed to institutionalize their relationship, in particular through the following:

- (i) holding of annual joint consultative meetings, alternately in Addis Ababa and Cairo;

- (ii) exchange of agendas and programmes of work;
- (iii) regular interaction between the Chairpersons of the two organs on issues of common concern;
- (iv) joint field missions to assess situations of common concern and identify further joint action as may be needed;
- (v) holding of joint retreats/brainstorming sessions to reflect on existing and emerging threats to peace and security in Africa and the Arab world and develop appropriate response strategies; and
- (vi) organizing joint training sessions and seminars in the area of peacekeeping, conflict resolution and preventive diplomacy.

16. The two Councils agreed to convene their next meeting in Addis Ababa, in December 2011.

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