

**PRESS RELEASE****VISIT OF A DELEGATION OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION
IN COTE D'IVOIRE AND IN THE REGION**

A delegation of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), led by the Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the AU, in his capacity as Chairperson of the PSC for the month of September 2010, undertakes, from today, a visit in Côte d'Ivoire and in the region. The delegation will visit Côte d'Ivoire from 27 September to 1 October 2010.

This visit is a follow up to the decisions taken by the PSC at its 234th and 238th meetings, held on 28 June and 11 August 2010, during which the PSC decided to dispatch a delegation to Côte d'Ivoire and to the region to assess the situation in that country and identify measures to further contribute to process for a way out of the crisis. The visit is also part of the implementation of the decision on the Year of Peace and Security in Africa adopted by the Assembly of the Union at its Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 31 January to 2 February 2010. In that decision, the Assembly requested the PSC to undertake specific activities in support of the Year of Peace and Security, including further field visits.

During its stay in Côte d'Ivoire, the PSC delegation will meet with the Ivorian authorities and parties, as well as with representatives of civil society organisations. The delegation will also meet with representatives of the international community in Côte d'Ivoire.

From 2 to 4 October 2010, the PSC delegation will travel to Burkina Faso. In Ouagadougou, the PSC delegation will consult with the Burkina Faso authorities on the evolution of the process for a way out of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and its Supplementary Agreements. It should be recalled, in this regard, that President Blaise Compaoré is the Facilitator of the inter-Ivorian Dialogue.

The visit of the PSC to Côte d'Ivoire intervenes in a context marked by remarkable progress in the process for a way out of the crisis, as evidenced in particular by the decision to organise the presidential elections on 31 October 2010 and the ongoing preparations for the smooth conduct of the electoral process.

Addis Ababa, 27 September 2010