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P.O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.:(251-11) 551 38 22 Fax: (251-11) 551 93 21
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org, oau-ews@ethionet.et

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
194TH MEETING
15 June 2009
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

PSC/PR/COMM.(CXCIV)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 194th MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 194th meeting held on 15 June 2009, considered the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Somalia and adopted the following decision:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission [PSC/PR/2(CXCIV)] on the situation in Somalia;
2. **Recalls** its earlier decisions and communiqués on the situation in Somalia;
3. **Reiterates its strong condemnation** of the recent acts of aggression perpetrated against the TFG of Somalia, the civilian population and AMISOM in Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia by armed groups, including foreign elements, bent on undermining the peace and reconciliation process and regional stability. Council **expresses deep concern** at the increased presence of foreign elements in Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia;
4. **Demands** that the armed groups currently involved in attacks against the TFG, the civilian population and AMISOM, immediately put an end to their actions, which are tantamount to an attempt at unconstitutional change of Government, in violation of the relevant AU instruments. In this respect, Council **reiterates** its call to the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on those who oppose the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, in accordance with the communiqué of its 190th meeting held on 22 May 2009;
5. **Expresses deep concern** at the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia, and **calls** on AU Member States and the international community at large to urgently provide needed support to address the situation. Council, once again, **stresses** the obligation by all the parties to comply with international humanitarian law and ensure unrestricted humanitarian access and assistance to needy civilians;
6. **Reiterates its call** to all the Somali parties who have not yet done so, to join the peace process without any precondition and any further delay;
7. **Reiterates its support** to the TFG and **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to continue to reach out to all concerned and convey the AU position to fully support the TFG as the legitimate authority of Somalia;
8. **Welcomes** the steps being taken by the Commission for the deployment to Mogadishu of the police and civilian components of AMISOM, and **requests** that the process of relocation be accelerated in order to enhance the mission and its capacity to fully discharge its mandate. In this regard, Council **requests** the Commission to report on the steps taken to this effect;

9. **Stresses the need** to support socio-economic recovery, provision of basic services and the rebuilding of governance institutions, including capacity building and **encourages** the international community to extend the necessary assistance to the TFG for these purposes, as well as the Commission to identify key areas in which immediate support will be provided by the AU and its Member States in this regard;
10. **Further encourages** AMISOM to continue to play a coordinating role in the overall capacity building efforts in Somalia to ensure cohesion and standardization of the process;
11. **Appeals** to all the AU Member States to urgently provide all the required support to the TFG, including military support, to enable it to neutralize the armed elements carrying out attacks against it;
12. **Stresses the need** for all concerned, both within the region and outside, to refrain from any action likely to undermine the ongoing efforts and threaten the security of AMISOM personnel, including through the provision of equipment, funds and other forms of support to the armed groups opposed to the TFG;
13. **Reiterates its appreciation** to the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) namely Burundi and Uganda and AMISOM, as well as to all countries and institutions providing support to the Mission. Council **welcomes** the pledge by Sierra Leone and Malawi to contribute one battalion each to AMISOM and **urges** AU Member States and partners to provide the required logistical support for the early deployment of those battalions. Furthermore, Council **urges** the AU Member States that have pledged troops to AMISOM to urgently deploy them. Council further calls upon the Chairperson of the Commission to step up efforts to mobilize troops from Member States to enable AMISOM to reach its authorized strength of nine battalions;
14. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the UN support package to AMISOM pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1863 (2009), **and welcomes** the efforts being made towards its implementation. Council further **expresses** appreciation to the international community for its support at the Brussels pledging conference on Somalia and **calls** for the expeditious disbursement of all pledges made at the conference;
15. **Reiterates its call** for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia, noting that the primary responsibility for international peace and security remains that of the UN Security Council;
16. **Decides** to renew the mandate of AMISOM for a period of seven months beginning from 17 June 2009. In this respect, Council **requests** the Commission to review the AMISOM Rules of Engagement with a view to enhancing its response mechanism so that the mission can better protect its personnel, equipment, key installations, as well as provide more effective support to the TFG;
17. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.