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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
226TH MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
19 APRIL 2010

PSC/PR/COMM.(CCXXVI)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 226th meeting held on 19 April 2010, was briefed by the Permanent Representatives, or the designated representatives, of South Africa, Ireland and Mexico to the United Nations in New York, in their capacity as the Facilitators designated by the President of the General Assembly, Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, for the review of the United Nations Peace Building Commission (PBC). Council was also briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the status of implementation of the AU Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), adopted by the AU Executive Council in Banjul, in June 2006.

Council underlined the importance of this exercise as part of the overall efforts aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the PBC, especially in view of the fact that all the four countries currently on the PBC's agenda are from the African continent, namely: Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone.

Council welcomed the ongoing review of the UN PBC, in light of the relevant provisions of paragraph 27 of resolution A/RES/60/180, adopted by the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly, as well as the need to strengthen synergies and complementarities between all the actors involved in the work of post-conflict reconstruction and development. Council also stressed the need for the review process to make recommendations that would help strengthen local and national ownership, in keeping with the core principles that underpin the AU Policy on PCRD and in order to ensure that PCRD activities address the root causes of conflict, contribute to the creation of sustainable peace, social justice, renewal and participatory governance.

Council reiterated the importance of the AU PCRD Policy Framework, and, in this respect, underlined the need for the current review process to result in detailed recommendations on how best to enhance cooperation and coordination between the UNPBC and Regional Organizations, in particular the AU, and develop effective partnership in the area of peace building.

Council also highlighted the need for the review process to pay due attention to the expansion of the activities of the UNPBC; the timeliness of its intervention which should occur as early as possible, to complement national and regional efforts; the development of the mandate of the UNPBC to include the system wide coordination of policies and programmes and the promotion of coherence, to ensure that actors and activities respond to the needs and priorities of the affected states and people; as well as capacity building in order to ensure sustainability.

Council requested the Commission to closely follow-up the review process and update it regularly on the progress made.

Council also agreed, as part of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa, to devote a Special Session to PCRD and the challenges involved.

Addis Ababa, 19 April 2010