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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
268TH MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
23 MARCH 2011**

PSC/PR/BR.2(CCLXVIII)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 268TH MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 268th meeting held on 23 March 2011, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the evolution of the transition in Tunisia. Council also received a statement from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tunisia to the AU.

Council welcomed the encouraging evolution of the situation since its 257th meeting held on 15 January 2011, in particular the climate of freedom that now prevails in the country and the steps taken to promote democracy, good governance and the rule of law. Council welcomed the ongoing preparations for the election of a Constituent Assembly, on 24 July 2011.

Council encouraged the Tunisian authorities and parties to persevere in their efforts to complete the transition.

Council welcomed the visit undertaken by the Chairperson of the Commission to Tunisia, on 21 and 22 March 2011. Council looks forward to the planned visit of the AU Panel of the Wise to Tunisia, as part of the accompaniment of the transition in that country.

Council agreed to meet in due course to review the situation in Tunisia on the basis of a report of the Chairperson of the Commission and after its own planned visit to Tunisia.