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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
285th MEETING
13 JULY 2011
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/PS/3.(CCLXXXV)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 285th MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 285th meeting held on 13 July 2011, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the drought situation in Somalia and its humanitarian consequences.

Council noted with deep concern the prevailing situation in Somalia, with the worst ever drought in many decades, compounded by the ongoing conflict and violence against the civilian population.

Council, recalling its press statement of 21st April 2011, fully associated itself with the statement issued by the Chairperson of the Commission, on 12 July 2011, on the situation. Council welcomed the efforts being made by the Commission, in particular through the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Inter-African Bureau on Animal Resources (IBAR), as well as the impending visit of the AU High Representative for Somalia to Mogadishu and other related initiatives.

Council stressed the need for African Governments and peoples to fully mobilize themselves in support of, and solidarity with, the Somali people, in their critical hour of need. Council emphasized that as Africa demonstrated leadership with the deployment of AMISOM, so it has to do with emergency relief in Somalia. In this respect, Council urged all AU Member States to contribute, in whatever way they can, to the alleviation of the suffering of the Somali people. It also called on African humanitarian NGOs to contribute to the ongoing efforts. Council encouraged the Chairperson to take all steps required to mobilize support from within the Continent.

While expressing appreciation to the efforts on the ground being made by United Nations and other humanitarian agencies, Council called on the international community, as a whole, to fully assume its responsibility to the people of Somalia, by providing the necessary support for the much-needed relief efforts, in particular the provision of adequate funding.

Council further stressed that the current dire humanitarian situation calls for a determined and concerted action by the international community, including the naval operations conducted off the coast of Somalia to combat piracy, to effectively address the issue of illegal fishing and dumping of toxic wastes in the Somali waters, in order to protect the livelihoods of the Somali people.