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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
289TH MEETING
16 AUGUST 2011
ADDIS ABABA**

PSC/PR/2(CCLXXXIX)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 289th meeting held on 16 August 2011, was briefed on the situation in Somalia by the Commissioner for Peace and Security and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Somalia. Council also followed communications by the Special Representative of the United Nations for Somalia and the IGAD Facilitator for Somalia Peace and National Reconciliation.

Council welcomed the recent developments in Somalia, in particular the extension of Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and AMISOM forces' control over areas formerly occupied by Al-Shabbab in Mogadishu. Council commended the TFG and AMISOM forces for their courage and commitment in dealing with Al-Shabbab, ultimately forcing it to pull out of Mogadishu. Council encouraged the TFG and AMISOM forces to pursue their efforts, and called on the TFG to take all necessary steps for the expeditious implementation of the pending transitional tasks, in pursuance of both the Djibouti Agreement of 19 August 2008 and the Kampala Accord of 9 June 2011, and the deepening of the national reconciliation process. Council called for continued support to the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) to enable them to effectively discharge their responsibilities.

Council called on AU member States and partners to provide the requisite support to AMISOM to enable it to reach its UN authorized strength of 12,000 troops and effectively implement its mandate with a view to consolidating the important gains made so far. In this respect, Council welcomed the initiative by the Commission to convene, in Addis Ababa, on 17 and 18 August 2011, a consultative workshop bringing together all stakeholders to identify the concrete steps that need to be taken in the coming months in order to avail AMISOM a support commensurate with the challenges at hand.

Council reiterated its concern at the prevailing drought and famine in Somalia and appealed to member States, partner countries and institutions alike, to contribute to the relief efforts in Somalia and to seize the opportunity of the Pledging Conference scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, on 25 August 2011, to provide further support for the humanitarian efforts in Somalia.

Council agreed to meet again early in September to review the situation in Somalia on the basis of the report that will be submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission, ahead of the Security Council meeting on Somalia in the context of resolution 1964 (2010), which authorized the AU to maintain the deployment of AMISOM until 30 September 2011.