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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
169TH MEETING
10 FEBRUARY 2009
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/BR/2(CLXIX)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 169TH MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 169th meeting, held on 10 February 2009, was briefed on the situation in Madagascar.

Council expressed deep concern at the prevailing tension and the serious risk it poses to the stability of the country. Council condemned the eruption of violence, which resulted in the loss of lives and the destruction of property.

Council urged all stakeholders to exercise restraint, refrain from any action likely to aggravate the current situation, and work to resolve the current crisis through dialogue within the framework of the legitimate institutions of the country.

Council welcomed the initiatives taken by the Chairperson of the Commission, including the decision to dispatch an emissary to Antananarivo, in the person of Mr. Amara Essy, to assess the situation in consultation with all the parties concerned. Council encouraged the Chairperson of the Commission to continue with his efforts and to take any other initiative he may deem necessary to help the parties resolve the current crisis.

Council requested the Chairperson of the Commission to keep it regularly informed of the evolution of the situation and agreed to remain seized of the matter.

Addis Ababa, 10 February 2009