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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
206TH MEETING
15 OCTOBER 2009
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/BR.2(CCVI)

PRESS STATEMENT

**PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 206th MEETING OF
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 206th meeting held on 15 October 2009, had an exchange of views on the funding of AU-led peace support operations and cooperation between the AU and the United Nations in light of the report of the UN Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations, dated 18 September 2009.

Council recalled its communiqué PSC/PR/Comm(CLXXVIII) of 13 March 2009, as well as earlier AU decisions and statements regarding the funding of AU-led peace support operations and the cooperation between the AU and the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Council stressed, once again, that the United Nations Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security; that regional arrangements, in particular the African Union, have an important role to play in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations; and that support by the United Nations to the regional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security are an integral part of collective security as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. In this respect, Council underlined that, in undertaking peace support operations, the African Union is acting on behalf of the United Nations Security Council and the larger international community, while fulfilling its own mandate and promoting the goals and principles of its Constitutive Act.

Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General and expressed the readiness of the AU to continue working with the United Nations towards ensuring predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for AU-led peace support operations, through assessed contributions. In this respect, Council reiterated that the report of the African Union - United Nations Panel marked an important step in the overall efforts to enhance the capacity of the AU to meet the peace and security challenges facing the continent and to mobilize greater support within the larger international community and every effort should be made to build on the recommendations contained therein and subsequent initiatives, including UN support package to AMIS and the provisions of Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) of 16 January 2009, regarding the logistical support package to the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Council noted the recommendations contained in the report with respect to the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, which provide a good basis for the strengthening of the cooperation between the AU and the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security. Council stressed the need for an effective follow-up. Council also noted with appreciation the recommendations regarding capacity building for peacekeeping operations and requested the AU Commission and the UN Secretariat to work closely together for their effective implementation. Council further requested the Commission to brief the African Group in New York on this matter.

Addis Ababa, 15 October 2009