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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
220TH MEETING
11 MARCH 2010
ADDIS ABABA

PSC/PR/BR.1(CCXX)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 220TH MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 220th meeting held on 11 March 2010, received a briefing from the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, on the recent developments in the situation in the Republic of Guinea.

Council commended President Blaise Compaoré, the ECOWAS Mediator in the Guinean crisis, for the productive exertion to ensure a successful transition and welcomed the signing, on 15 January 2010, of the Ouagadougou Joint Declaration, the reference document for the Transition, which marks a turning point in the process of ending the crisis and constitutes a significant contribution to achieving the goals of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa, declared by the Special Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Tripoli on 31 August 2009.

Council encouraged the Guinean parties to preserve the prevailing consensus between the political class, the National Council for Democracy and Development (CNDD) and all segments of the Guinean society, and urged all stakeholders in Guinea's transition process to work towards the expeditious and full implementation of the Ouagadougou Joint Declaration. In this regard, Council called on stakeholders in Guinea to own and consolidate this instrument by all possible means, including through a comprehensive and inclusive political agreement, without undermining the course and pace of the transition. Council also called on all the stakeholders, including individuals, the armed forces and political parties to put the supreme interest of the country above all other considerations and refrain from any act capable of sowing seeds of division in the polity and endanger the transition.

Council took note of the process of establishment of transitional institutions and the commitment of the President of the transition to restore the normal functioning of the political parties across the country, ensure their access to the public media and to address, in a decisive manner, the implementation of the defense and security sector reform.

Council noted with satisfaction the confirmation that the members of the CNDD, the CNT, the President of the Transition, the Prime Minister and members of the Government of National Unity, as well as the members of the Defense and Security Forces, cannot be candidates for the presidential election that will crown the transition, in accordance with paragraph 8 of the Ouagadougou Joint Declaration.

Council further noted the work accomplished by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) regarding voter registration. Council also noted the fixation by the President of the Transition, General Sékouba Konate, of the date of the first round of the presidential election on 27 June 2010. In this regard, Council urged the CNT to address, as soon as possible, the review of the Constitution and Electoral Code, prior to the elections.

Council commended the Federal Republic of Nigeria for its contribution to the electoral budget and appealed to the other AU Member States to also make their contribution to the financing of the electoral budget in order to enable the INEC to bridge the current funding gap. Council requested the Commission to take all measures necessary for the expeditious deployment of an adequately staffed observer mission to monitor the various elections scheduled in Guinea, in particular the presidential election, whose 1st round is scheduled to take

place on 27 June 2010, and to provide other necessary support for the proper conduct of the elections.

Council also called on Guinea bilateral and multilateral partners to provide support for economic recovery and institutional reforms aimed at consolidating democracy, national reconciliation and economic development, especially the de-militarization of Territorial Administration and reform of the justice sector, which have been identified as priority tasks.

Council welcomed the ongoing efforts to restore discipline within the defense and security forces, to ensure public security and strengthen the fight against impunity. In this regard, Council looks forward to the follow-up of the report of the International Commission of Inquiry into the events of 28 September 2009.