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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

220TH MEETING

11 MARCH 2010

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR.2(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 recent developments regarding the situation in the Republic of Niger.

Council welcomed the joint visit to Niger on 21 February of a delegation comprising the President of the ECOWAS Commission, the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security and the United Nations Special Representative in West Africa.

Council welcomed also the appointment, by the Chairperson of the Commission, on 3 March 2010, of Professor Albert Tevoedjre, as his Special Envoy to Niger with the view to strengthening the joint effort being undertaken by the AU and ECOWAS towards the rapid restoration of constitutional order in Niger.

Council stressed the need for the early elaboration of a clear programme and time table for the restoration of constitutional order within a short period not exceeding six (6) months, and, in this respect, took note of the pledges made by the *de facto* authorities and of their commitment that none of the authors of the unconstitutional change of Government will be a candidate for the forthcoming elections.

Council called on the political parties and all involved actors in the transition process to put the supreme interest of Niger above partisan considerations likely to delay or compromise the transition.

Council deplored the threat of famine facing some communities in Niger and appealed to Member States and international partners to mobilize support for the regions under threat.

Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor the situation and report to it regularly, bearing in mind the relevant instruments of the AU.