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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
241ST MEETING
23 SEPTEMBER 2010
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR(CCXXXXI)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 241st MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 241st meeting held on 23 September 2010, was briefed by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Amb. Boubacar Diarra.

Council expressed concern at the continued precariousness of the situation in Somalia and the pursuit of acts of violence, and strongly condemned, once again, the terrorist attacks being perpetrated by Al Shabab and other armed groups, with the support of foreign elements.

Council also expressed concern at the continued divisions within the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), which are seriously hampering the efforts being made with the support of the international community to stabilize the situation in Somalia and further peace and reconciliation. In this respect, Council took note of the resignation of the Prime Minister of the Somalia Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Omar Abdirashid Sharmarke, and encouraged the President of the TFG, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, to urgently appoint a new Prime Minister in order to allow for the speedy appointment of a new cabinet. Council further encouraged President Sheikh Ahmed and the Somali leadership to tirelessly work for the unity and cohesion within the TFIs in order for them to fulfil its tasks and obligations under the Djibouti peace process. Council also urged the President to intensify dialogue with a view to reaching out to all those peace embracing groups willing to join the peace process.

Council reiterated its appreciation to AMISOM for its continued efforts, in spite of the many challenges facing the Mission, and expressed gratitude to the Troop and Police Contributing Countries for their unflinching commitment as demonstrated in their partners support to TCCs continued and increased deployment of troops and other resources to AMISOM. Council requested the other AU Member States to urgently contribute troops and other personnel to AMISOM. Council further called on those countries that have pledged support to potential troops contributing countries to AMISOM to honour those pledges.

Council appealed for increased supports towards the rebuilding of professional, national and effective Somali Security Forces.

Council took note of the efforts being made by the Commission towards the implementation of the decisions of the IGAD and AU Summits of July 2010, including the convening of meetings of military and security experts, in August and September 2010, to work out a revised concept of operation for AMISOM. Council looks forward to the submission by the Chairperson of the Commission of a comprehensive report on the situation in Somalia, including an evaluation of the action thus far taken by the international community, in that country, to enable it take the required decisions, and seek in this regard the support of the UN Security Council and the larger international community.

Council further reiterated its appeal to the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite the appointment of the High Level Personality to mobilize its national attention and support to Somalia.

Council looks forward to the outcome of the Mini-Summit on Somalia scheduled to take place on the margins of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 23 September 2010, and reiterates, once again, its appeal to the Security Council, to fully assume its responsibilities and to play a role commensurate with the complexity of the challenges facing Somalia.