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

PSC/PR/BR.1(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, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security and the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission for Guinea on the situation in Guinea, in light of recent developments in the country and the results of the 8th session of the International Contact Group on Guinea held in Abuja on 12 October 2009.

Council strongly condemned the killings and the deliberate acts of violence against unarmed civilians and raping of women by armed units under the authority of the CNDD during a peaceful demonstration organized on 28 September 2009 à Conakry. Council demanded the de facto authorities to take all necessary steps to prevent the repetition of such violence and the deterioration of the situation. Council also supported the call for the release of all persons detained and the respect for the freedom of expression.

Council endorsed the statement by the Commission issued on 29 September 2009 and the communiqué of the 8th session of the International Contact Group, in particular the invitation to the Secretary-General of the UN, in conjunction with ECOWAS and the AU, with the support of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to establish an International Commission of Inquiry to shed light on the events of 28 September 2009, so that those responsible are brought to justice.

Council welcomed the forthcoming ECOWAS Extraordinary Summit on 17 October 2009, to discuss the situations in Guinea and Niger and looks forward to the conclusions of the meeting.

Council reiterated its decision of 17 September 2009, to impose appropriate sanctions against the President of the CNDD and other individuals, civilian and military, if by 17 October 2009, the authorities did not formally confirm the commitment of the President of the CNDD that neither he nor other members of the CNDD, nor the Prime Minister, will run for the presidential election and to observe the neutrality expected of the junta in the conduct of the electoral process. Council requested the Commission, in collaboration with ECOWAS and AU partners, to take the necessary steps with a view to finalizing the measures to be taken and the list of individuals to be targeted by the sanctions and to report to it thereon.

Council gave its full support to the mediation efforts by President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, in conformity with the mandate given to him for that purpose by the Chairman of ECOWAS, in response to the request made by the President of the Commission following the conclusions of the 7th session of the International Contact Group held in New York on 22 September 2009.

Council agreed to meet again to discuss the situations in Guinea and Niger, in light of the outcomes of the ECOWAS Extraordinary Summit.

Addis Ababa, 15 October 2009