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P.O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.: (251-11) 551 38 22 Fax: (251-11) 551 93 21
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org, oau-ews@ethionet.et

**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
169TH MEETING
10 FEBRUARY 2009
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/BR/1(CLXIX)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 169TH MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 169th meeting held today, 10 February 2009, received a briefing from the Commission on the situation in the Republic of Guinea.

Council welcomed the Communiqué issued by the Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Abuja on 10 January 2009, and expressed its full support for the decisions taken on that occasion, as well as for the efforts being made by ECOWAS for the speedy return to constitutional order in Guinea.

Council recalls all its previous communiqués on the situation in Guinea, in particular as they relate to the unflinching commitment to the Lome Declaration, the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act and the PSC Protocol, its condemnation of the coup d'état which took place in Guinea, and its demand for a speedy return to constitutional order.

Council noted with satisfaction the visit by the Envoy of the Chairperson of the AU Commission to Guinea, Mr. Ibrahima Fall, as well as his consultations with the Chairperson of the ECOWAS Commission and the authorities of Nigeria, the current chair of ECOWAS.

Council also noted the convening, in Addis Ababa on 30 January 2009, of the Consultative Meeting on the situation in Guinea. In this regard, Council welcomed the establishment of the International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G), whose objective is to monitor the situation very closely and to coordinate and harmonize efforts towards the rapid restoration of constitutional order. Council looks forward to the inaugural meeting of the ICG-G scheduled to take place in Conakry on 16 and 17 February 2009 as an important step that will reinforce the efforts aimed at ensuring the speedy return to constitutional order in Guinea and mobilizing the full support of the international community to this end.

Council took note of the signing, on 6 February 2009, of an ordinance providing for the holding of elections in the last quarter of 2009, and urged the authorities born out of the coup d'état, to take the necessary measures to ensure a smooth transition, in accordance with the ECOWAS Communiqué of 10 January 2009.

Council also took note of the meeting held on 9 February 2009, between the authorities born out of the coup d'état, and political parties, trade unions and civil society organizations and urged all Guineans to work together in a spirit of consensus in order to ensure the successful completion of the transition, on the basis of the ECOWAS communiqué of 10 January 2009.

Addis Ababa, 10 February 2009