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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

227TH MEETING

22 APRIL 2010

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR(CCXXVII)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 227th MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 227th meeting held on 22 April 2010, adopted the following press statement on the evolution of the situation in the Comoros:

Council recalled the decision Assembly/AU/Dec.268 (XIV) of the 14th Ordinary Session of the Union held in February 2010, calling on Comorian parties to work by consensus to implement institutional reforms planned under the new Constitution adopted by the referendum of 17 May 2009. In this regard, Council reiterated its commitment to the inter-Comorian consensus guaranteeing respect for the legitimate aspiration of the Island of Moheli to assume, upon its turn, the Presidency of the Union to preserve the gains made by the process of national reconciliation in the Comoros.

Council welcomed the mission to the Comoros undertaken from 8 to 10 April 2010, by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, together with the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission, following the tension emanating from the decision adopted by the Comoros Congress on 1 March 2010, on the harmonization of the mandates of the Union President and the Governors of the autonomous Islands from 27 November 2011. Council noted with satisfaction that the mission helped to revive the dialogue between the Union President and the Governors of the three autonomous Islands to set a timetable for elections and to achieve the harmonization of the electoral term of office of executive Heads of the Union and the Islands.

Council urged the Comorian parties to resume urgently the dialogue started on 15 April 2010, following the visit of the AU delegation, and discontinued on 17 April 2010 without the parties in the process of negotiations being able to reach a compromise on issues relating to the electoral calendar, as harmonized, leading to the organization, in a climate of peace and serenity, elections of the President of the Union and the Governors of the autonomous Islands.

Council requested the Commission to pursue its efforts aimed at facilitating the dialogue among Comorian parties with the view to finding a consensual solution to the current challenges.

Council agreed to meet shortly to consider the situation in the Comoros in light of a report of the Chairperson of the Commission and take appropriate decisions.