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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
239TH MEETING
24 AUGUST 2010
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR(CCXXXIX)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 239th MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 239th meeting held on 24 August 2010, was briefed by the Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union for Somalia, as well as by the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Somalia and the representative of IGAD on the situation in Somalia. Council was also briefed by the representative of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia.

Council took note of the efforts made by the TFG, under President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, towards the promotion of dialogue and reconciliation among the people of Somalia, including reaching out to groups outside the Djibouti Peace Process.

Council encouraged the TFG and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jamma (ASWJ) to implement the agreement that they reached in Addis Ababa on 15 March 2010. Council also encouraged the TFG and the Somali region of Puntland to implement the agreement that they signed on 12 April 2010. Council urged the TFG and ASWJ to enhance their internal cohesion and purposefully work towards national reconciliation and unity among all Somalis in good faith and transparency, in line with the principles and objectives of the Djibouti Agreement of August 2008.

Council reiterated its support to the TFG of Somalia and commended the contributions by some Member States to this effect. In this respect, Council welcomed the efforts made by AMISOM, in collaboration with the TFG, UNDP, EU and other partners, in training and rebuilding the Somali Police Force (SPF). Council appealed for increased support, including in military and capacity building aspects, to enable the TFG to neutralize the armed elements carrying out attacks against it and deliver basic services to the population.

Council further encouraged AMISOM to continue to play a coordinating role in the overall capacity building efforts in Somalia and called on the international community to ensure the sustenance and retention of the Somali security forces. In this regard, Council reiterated its appreciation to the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) namely Burundi and Uganda, for their unflinching commitment as demonstrated in their continued and increased deployment of troops and other resources to AMISOM.

Council reiterated its call to other AU Member States to contribute troops to AMISOM in order to enable the mission to reach its authorized strength. In this respect, Council also reiterated its call to the larger international community and the UN Security Council in particular, to play a role commensurate with the challenges facing Somalia, including the mobilisation of more resources and the transformation of AMISOM into a UN peace mission.

Council welcomed the decision of the 15th Extraordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of IGAD held on 5th July 2010, as endorsed by the 15th

ordinary session of the Heads of State and Government of the AU in Kampala. In this respect, Council called on the international community to seize the renewed momentum towards peace and national reconciliation in Somalia. Furthermore, Council looked forward to the early submission by the Chairperson of the Commission of a report on the revised concept of operations, in line with these decisions, and the overall situation in Somalia, to enable it take the required steps. Council encouraged the Chairperson of the Commission, in pursuit of the decision of the 15th AU Assembly held in Kampala, from 25 to 27 July 2010, to expedite the appointment of the High Level Personality to galvanize international support and attention to Somalia.

Council welcomed the appointment of Ambassador Augustine Mahiga, as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Somalia and expressed its support to his efforts and encouraged him to work in close collaboration with the AU Special Representative for Somalia and Regional actors towards national reconciliation and peace in this country.

Council strongly condemned the attacks and other acts of violence perpetrated by Al Shabaab and other terrorist groups against the TFG, the Somali people and AMISOM. Council further condemned the despicable terrorist attacks claimed by Al Shabaab perpetrated against innocent civilians in Kampala on 11 July 2010.

Addis Ababa, 24 August 2010