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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

105th MEETING

18 JANUARY 2008

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm(CV)

COMMUNIQUE

**-COMMUNIQUE OF THE 105TH MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 105th meeting held on 18 January 2008, adopted the following decision on the situation in Somalia:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Situation in Somalia [PSC/PR/2(CV)];
2. **Recalls** all its previous decisions and press statements on the situation in Somalia;
3. **Reiterates** its attachment to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Somalia;
4. **Welcomes** the convening of the National Reconciliation Congress (NRC) as a significant step towards an all-inclusive and genuine reconciliation process, within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC). Council **further welcomes** the appointment of a new Somali Prime Minister, Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein, and the subsequent formation of a new Cabinet, as well as the assurances given by the Prime Minister regarding his commitment to an all-inclusive and genuine reconciliation;
5. **Expresses appreciation** for the work accomplished thus far by the Ugandan contingent of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), in spite of the very limited personnel deployed so far, the numerous logistical constraints facing the Mission and the challenging conditions in which it is working. Council **further expresses** appreciation to the Ugandan Government for its continued commitment to the promotion of lasting peace and reconciliation in Somalia, and to the Government of Burundi for providing troops to AMISOM;
6. **Welcomes** the support, both financial and logistical, provided so far by AU partners and member States, which made the current AMISOM deployment possible;
7. **Strongly condemns**, once again, the threats and/or acts of violence and terrorism perpetrated by those elements seeking to undermine the political process, hinder the operations of AMISOM and undermine regional peace and stability;
8. **Further condemns** all acts of violence perpetrated against humanitarian workers, as well as attacks against civilians, in violation of international humanitarian law. Council **pays tribute** to all humanitarian agencies and workers involved in relief work in Somalia under very difficult circumstances and **expresses gratitude** to the countries providing support for humanitarian activities in Somalia, including measures taken to combat piracy off the Somali coast and escort ships carrying World Food Programme (WFP) humanitarian aid to Somalia;

9. **Expresses concern** at the repeated clashes and continued tension in the Sool and Sanaag regions, in north central Somalia, and its consequences on the ongoing efforts to promote lasting peace and reconciliation in Somalia;

10. **Further expresses** concern at the persistence of the phenomenon of piracy off the coast of Somalia and its serious implications for security and delivery of humanitarian assistance to Somalia and **calls on** all countries in a position to do so to take appropriate steps to prevent and combat acts of piracy off the coast of Somalia, in line with the relevant provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1772(2007) of 20 August 2007;

11. **Expresses deep concern** that, in spite of all the efforts deployed, progress towards the restoration of lasting peace and reconciliation in Somalia remains extremely limited, as manifested by, among others, the persistent violence and its attendant consequences on the political environment and the humanitarian situation, the shortcomings of the ongoing reconciliation process in terms of inclusiveness, as well as the delays encountered in the deployment of AMISOM, as a result of insufficient troop pledges by member States and inadequate financial and logistical support, and the lack of progress in the efforts towards the deployment of a United Nations operation that would take over AMISOM and support the long-term stabilization and reconstruction of Somalia;

12. **Affirms** its conviction that, despite the daunting challenges confronting the peace and reconciliation process, the opportunity that arose in December 2006, when the TFG regained control of Mogadishu and other parts of the country, still exists and should be seized by the Somali stakeholders and the international community as a whole to decisively address the conflict in Somalia. Council **urges** all stakeholders, both within and outside Somalia, to take all steps required to this end. Council, accordingly:

On the reconciliation process:

- (i) **emphasizes** the need for the TFG to urgently devise concrete ways to fully implement the outcome of the NRC, and adopt a broader inclusive approach to reach out to all Somali stakeholders who reject violence, both within and outside Somalia, in line with the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC);
- (ii) **demands** that all parties in Somalia reject violence, uphold the principles and spirit enshrined in the TFC and commit themselves to seek peaceful solutions and work towards genuine national reconciliation within that framework;
- (iii) **stresses** the need for the international community, in general, and the countries of the region, in particular, to fully back the ongoing reconciliation process in Somalia. Council **further stresses** the need to avoid a proliferation of initiatives and for all efforts by the international community to be concerted and coordinated with those of the AU and geared towards consolidating the TFIs and the initiatives of the TFG in pursuit of the reconciliation process in Somalia;

- (iv) **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, working closely with all stakeholders, including the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the League of Arab States, the United Nations and other AU partners, to continue and intensify his efforts in support of the reconciliation process in Somalia, including the early convening of the High-Level International Meeting planned by the Commission to refocus international attention on Somalia and mobilize the requisite support for the ongoing process in that country;

On the enhancement of the capacity of the TFIs:

- (v) **calls on** all member States and the larger international community to provide adequate support in order to enhance the capacity of the Somali institutions, including the TFG and its security and defence forces, to enable them fully play their role;
- (vi) **encourages** the Commission to speed up its planned consultations with the ECA and the ADB and other relevant African institutions, with a view to dispatching a needs assessment team to Somalia as soon as possible;

On the tension in the Sool and Sanaag regions of Somalia:

- (vii) **urges** all parties concerned to take urgent steps to address the tension in the Sool and Sanaag regions of Somalia, which, if allowed to continue, will spread violence and destabilize areas that were previously peaceful, with far-reaching implications;

On the cohesion within the region:

- (viii) **stresses** the need to enhance cohesion among countries of the region and create a more conducive environment for addressing the multifaceted security challenges in Somalia;
- (ix) **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, working closely with IGAD and other stakeholders, to support efforts aimed at enhancing regional cohesion;

On the action against spoilers and the UN arms embargo:

- (x) **calls on** all member States and partners to stand firm on the side of Somalia's legitimate institutions in their efforts to fight violence and other acts aimed at undermining the political process;
- (xi) **urges** the United Nations Security Council to review the arms embargo imposed by resolution 733 (1992) in order to enable the TFG to establish effective and all-inclusive security and defense forces, while at the same time maintaining and strengthening the embargo against elements who are bent on undermining peace and reconciliation in Somalia;

- (xii) **further urges** the United Nations Security Council to “take measures against those who seek to prevent or block the NRC or a peaceful political process, or those who threaten the TFIs or AMISOM by force, or take action that undermines stability in Somalia or the region”, in line with its intention as stated in resolution 1772(2007);

On the humanitarian situation

- (xiii) **appeals** to the international community, including member States, to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the needy population in Somalia and to contribute financial assistance to cover the outstanding requirements of the Somalia Consolidated Appeal for 2008 ;
- (xiv) **urges** that all necessary steps be taken to create conditions conducive for the provision of humanitarian assistance, including unhindered access to needy population and security for humanitarian workers and organizations. In this respect, Council **welcomes** the discussions between the humanitarian community and the Somali authorities in order to overcome the current difficulties and create the required climate of trust and cooperation;
- (xv) **encourages** member States that are in a position to do so to contribute to the escort and protection of ships delivering WFP humanitarian assistance to Somalia, in line with resolution 1772(2007) adopted by the Security Council on 20 August 2007;

On AMISOM:

- (xvi) **decides** to extend the mandate of AMISOM for six months, with effect from the date of this decision, to carry out the same tasks and responsibilities as stipulated under the current mandate of AMISOM;
- (xvii) **appeals**, once again, to member States to provide the required troops and personnel to reach the authorized strength of AMISOM, as well as financial and logistical support, to facilitate the deployment of the Mission and the sustenance of its operations;
- (xviii) **further appeals** to the AU partners to provide increased logistical and financial support for AMISOM, especially in view of the fact that the AU, in deploying an operation in Somalia, is also acting on behalf of the larger international community;

On the deployment of a United Nations operation:

- (xix) **stresses**, once again, the need for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia that will take over AMISOM and support the long-term stabilization and post-conflict reconstruction of Somalia;

- (xx) **reiterates its appeal** to the Security Council to urgently take steps for the early deployment of such an operation, bearing in mind that it has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In the meantime, Council **urges** that all steps required be taken for the UN to provide AMISOM with a support package, within the framework of the provisions of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter;
 - (xxi) **requests** the African Group in New York and the African members of the Security Council to spare no efforts to ensure that Somalia features highly on the agenda of the Security Council and that the decisions expected of this organ are urgently taken;
13. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this decision and to report to it regularly on the steps taken to this effect;
14. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.