

AFRICAN UNION
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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
124TH MEETING
30 APRIL 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm(CXXIV)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 124TH MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 124th meeting held on 30 April 2008, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Comoros:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Situation in the Comoros [PSC/PR/2(CXXIV)] and the additional information provided by the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission for the Comoros, as well as the statements made by the representatives of Libya, the Sudan and Senegal, in their capacity as countries that provided military, logistical and financial support to the operation “Democracy in the Comoros. Council **also takes note** of the statement made by the delegation of the Government of the Comoros;
2. **Recalls** decision *Assembly/Dec.186(X)* on the situation in the Comoros adopted by the 10th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa from 31 January to 2 February 2008, requesting all Member States capable of doing so to provide the necessary support to the Comorian Government in its efforts to restore, as quickly as possible, the authority of the Union in Anjouan and to put an end to the crisis born out of the persistent refusal by the illegal authorities of Anjouan to comply with the relevant texts governing the functioning of the Union of the Comoros;
3. **Expresses satisfaction** at the success of the operation “Democracy in the Comoros” launched in Anjouan on 25 March 2008, which enabled the Government of the Union of the Comoros to remove the illegal regime of Colonel Bacar and to restore its authority in the Island;
4. **Reiterates** its gratitude to the Governments of Tanzania, the Sudan, Libya and Senegal for having responded to the request for assistance made by the Comorian Government and for having provided military, logistical and financial support for the operation mentioned above. Council **further expresses** its gratitude to France and the United States of America for the assistance that they provided towards the re-establishment of the authority of the Union in Anjouan;
5. **Commends** the Government of the Comoros for having spared no efforts to try to resolve the crisis in Anjouan peacefully and for its full cooperation with the AU in addressing the crisis. Council **welcomes** the commitment of the Comorian authorities to take all necessary steps for the organization of new elections in Anjouan as soon as possible, as well as for their commitment to scrupulously conform to the provisions governing the functioning of the institutions of the Union of the Comoros and the autonomous Islands, and **appeals** to all the Comorian stakeholders to consolidate the national unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros and to take up the challenge of social and economic development facing the country;
6. **Decides** to extend the mandate of the AU Electoral and Security Assistance Mission (MAES) for another additional period of six (6) months to undertake the following:

- support the efforts being deployed by the Comorian authorities to collect the arms and ammunition in Anjouan,
- provide the necessary assistance for the organization of elections for the President of the autonomous Island of Anjouan, in conformity with the Constitution of the Comoros and the relevant legislative texts, and contribute to the creation of the requisite security conditions for the holding of free, fair and transparent elections,
- assist in the establishment of an internal security force in Anjouan, in conformity with the Constitution and relevant legislative texts,
- assist, within capacity, the re-organisation of the National Development Army,
- provide, within its capacities, assistance in the domain of governance and other related areas, and
- provide support to the activities of the Inter-Comorian Committee relating to the definition of constitutional competences between the Union and the autonomous Islands, as well as to the efforts aimed at rationalizing the current institutional arrangements in the Comoros;

7. **Appeals** to all AU member States and the international community as a whole to provide all necessary assistance for the organization of the forthcoming presidential election in Anjouan and for the consolidation of peace, stability and reconciliation in the Comoros;

8. **Expresses its gratitude** to all the countries that contributed to the follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the measures imposed against the illegal authorities of Anjouan by the 95th meeting of Council held on 10 October 2007;

9. **Expresses its gratitude**, once more, to the countries of the region which, under the leadership of Republic of South Africa, have left no stone unturned over the past years in providing assistance to the Comoros and in supporting the reconciliation efforts;

10. **Reiterates its gratitude** to the AU partners involved in the Comoros (United Nations, League of Arab States, European Union, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and Indian Ocean Community) and the international community as a whole, for their support to the various decisions of Council on the Comoros, and **requests** the Commission to continue to work closely with these institutions, with a view to consolidating reconciliation and stability in the Comoros;

11. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.