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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
127TH MEETING
14 MAY 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR(CXXVII)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) was briefed today, 14 May 2008, by Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, the Commissioner for Peace and Security, on the attack on Khartoum on 10 May 2008, as well as on subsequent developments. Council was also briefed by the Representative of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan.

Council strongly condemned this armed attack perpetrated by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) as an unacceptable act by itself, and which can further complicate the efforts aimed at finding a political solution, in the context of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), to the crisis in Darfur and at promoting regional peace, security and stability. Council called on the Sudanese parties to recommit themselves to dialogue as the only means for ending the conflict in Darfur and the suffering of the civilian population.

Council also expressed concern at the escalating tension in the relations between the Sudan and Chad, which resulted in the breaking of diplomatic relations between the two countries and the closing of the common border. In this regard, Council urged the two countries to exercise utmost restraint, resort to dialogue to resolve their differences, and rededicate themselves to the scrupulous and faithful implementation of their commitments under the Dakar Agreement and other previous Agreements.

Council expressed its support to the decision of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Commissioner for Peace and Security to travel immediately to Chad and the Sudan, as part of the efforts aimed at diffusing the tension and furthering peace, stability and good neighborliness in the region as a whole.

Council agreed to reconvene in due course to review the situation and take appropriate action on the matter.

Addis Ababa, 14 May 2008