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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
132ND MEETING
29 MAY 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR(CXXXII)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 132nd meeting held on 29 May 2008, was briefed by Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security, on the 1st round of the technical inter Somali talks held in Djibouti from 10 to 16 May 2008.

Council welcomed the convening and outcome of these talks, and encouraged the parties to pursue their efforts in a spirit of compromise and mutual accommodation in order to promote national reconciliation and lasting peace in Somalia, as well as to successfully complete the transitional period within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC). Council urged Somali non-participating parties to positively consider joining the process and thus contribute to its success.

Council calls on the members of the international community and on the countries of the region, in particular, to fully support the talks and do everything in their power to facilitate the on-going efforts by the UN Secretary-General Special Representative, backed by the AU and other relevant international actors.

Council looks forward to the outcome of the second round of the technical talks scheduled to take place in Djibouti starting from 31st May 2008, and expressed its deep appreciation to the Djiboutian authorities, whose country hosted the 1st round and will host the 2nd round of the talks, for their commitment to the cause of peace and reconciliation in Somalia.

Council strongly condemned the attacks against AMISOM carried out by groups and elements bent on undermining the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, and encouraged all Somali stakeholders to intensify their efforts towards promoting an all-inclusive political process and achieving genuine reconciliation and lasting peace in their country.

Addis Ababa, 29 May 2008