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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
298th MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
17 NOVEMBER 2011

PSC/PR/BR.1(CCXCVIII)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 298th MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 298th meeting, held on 17 November 2011, was briefed on the situation in Somalia by the Commissioner for Peace and Security. Council was also briefed by the representatives of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia and Ethiopia, as the Chair of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), as well as by the League of Arab States and the United Nations.

Council noted that recent developments in Somalia, in particular the forced withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from Mogadishu and the operation being undertaken by Kenya, on the basis of IGAD decisions, as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions [1851 (2008) and 1950 (2010)] on Somalia, offer a unique opportunity to consolidate security across the country and to sustain efforts at enhancing the implementation of the Political Roadmap, agreed to by the Somali stakeholders in Mogadishu, in early September, as a follow-up to the Kampala Accord of June 2011.

Council commended the TFG forces and the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for their courage and dedication, and paid a well deserved tribute to all the peacekeepers who lost their lives and those wounded in accomplishing their duty. Council reiterated its appreciation to the Governments and people of Burundi and Uganda for their commitment to the cause of peace and reconciliation in Somalia and the sacrifices made to that end. Council welcomed the impending deployment of a Djiboutian battalion. Council also reiterated its appreciation to all the Member States contributing personnel to the AMISOM police component.

Council welcomed the initiative taken by the Commission to convene a ministerial level meeting of the AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) and other interested countries and institutions, held in Addis Ababa, on 14 November 2011. In this respect, Council encouraged the Commission to actively follow up on the outcome of the meeting, with a view to facilitating the ongoing efforts to fully secure Mogadishu, further weaken Al-Shabaab and deprive it of human and financial resources, expand the TFG administrative presence throughout the liberated areas in Somalia and facilitate the implementation of the Political Roadmap, as well as make it possible to provide the much-needed humanitarian assistance to the affected populations.

Council stressed the need for the Somali stakeholders to fully and timely honour their commitments under the Kampala Accord and the Political Roadmap, so that the political and military aspects of the ongoing efforts progress in tandem. In this respect, Council urged for continued and closer collaboration among the AU Special Representative for Somalia, the IGAD Facilitator and the UN Special Representative.

Council reiterated its call on the United Nations, to enhance its support to AMISOM, especially through the provision of the much-needed force enablers and multipliers, reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment, payment of allowances and other aspects, as

contained in the communiqués of its 245th meeting of 15 October 2010 [PSC/MIN/(CCXXXV)] and 293rd meeting of 13 September 2011 [PSC/PR/COMM.(CCXCIII)], in order to enable the Mission to more effectively discharge its mandate and extend its area of operation. Council equally stressed the importance of adequate international support to the TFG forces to enable them to assume primary responsibility for the security of the country, as well as of the mobilization of the required financial resources, for the implementation of the Political Roadmap.

Council looks forward to a more comprehensive report on the way forward, so as to launch Phase II of AMISOM mandate and anticipate its potential horizon beyond the end of the current transitional period in Somalia