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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

631ST MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

6 OCTOBER 2016

PSC/PR/COMM.(DCXXXI)

COMMUNIQUE

COMMUNIQUE

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 631th meeting, held on 6 October 2016, adopted the following decision on the situation in Burundi:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing made by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for the Great Lakes region, Professor Ibrahima Fall, as well as the statements by the representatives of the Republic of Angola, as member of the African Member in the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations (UN), the European Union and the permanent members of the Security Council namely France, United Kingdom and the United States of America;
2. **Recalls** its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in Burundi, in particular, Communiqué *PSC/PR/COMM.(DLXXXI)* adopted at its 581st meeting held on 9 March 2016;
3. **Acknowledges** that the security situation in the country has improved, especially in the capital city Bujumbura and its surrounding areas. In this respect, Council **urges** the Government of Burundi to continue enhance security and safety, ensuring fundamental freedoms and civil liberties for all Burundians, including through reopening the space for the media;
4. **Strongly condemns** all incidents of violations of human rights, arbitrary arrests and targeted killings by whomsoever in the country and **urges** the Government to take further stern and urgent measures to put these actions to a definite end;
5. **Reiterates** the imperative of urgent resumption of the Inter-Burundian Dialogue under the aegis of the East African Community (EAC) as the only practical way forward to resolve the crisis in the country. In this regard, Council **reaffirms** the need for a consensual approach among all the Burundian stakeholders to address and resolve contentious issues relating to the situation in the country, and in so doing, to uphold the Constitution and the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement of August 2000;
6. **Underscores** the need for the deployment of additional the AU human rights observers and military experts in line with the relevant decisions of Council, to monitor and report on the human rights and security situation in Burundi. In this respect, Council **calls** for full cooperation of the Burundian authorities and other concerned stakeholders in the country;
7. **Urges** the Government of Burundi to speed up the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the AU Commission for the smooth deployment of the AU human rights observers and military experts in Burundi, as well as to start discussion with the UN on the

modalities to deploy 228 UN police officers as adopted by the UN Security Council resolution 2303 (2016) of 29 July 2016;

8. **Further urges** the Government of Burundi, in consultation with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the countries hosting Burundian refugees, to promote and ensure safe conditions for the return of refugees into the country and their resumption of normal life;

9. **Requests** the AU Commission to continue to closely monitoring the situation in Burundi and to brief Council on a regular basis, in order for it to take appropriate decisions;

10. **Requests** the Commission to take the necessary measures to invite the EAC Facilitator of the Inter-Burundian Dialogue, former President Benjamin Mkapa to brief Council on the status of the Dialogue;

11. **Further requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit this communique to the United Nations Secretary-General, for it to be circulated as an official working document to members of the UN Security Council in time for their meeting on Burundi scheduled for 13 October 2016;

12. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.