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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
319TH MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
April 24, 2012

PSC/MIN/COMM./2. (CCCXIX)

COMMUNIQUÉ

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COMMUNIQUÉ

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 319th meeting held at ministerial level, on 24 April 2012, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Republic of Mali:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the paragraphs on the situation in Mali, as contained in the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Guinea Bissau, Mali and the situation between Sudan and South Sudan [PSC/MIN/3 (CCCXIX)], and the statements made by representatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the core countries, as well as by the UN and other bilateral and multilateral partners;

2. **Recalls** its previous communiqués on the situation in Mali, particularly communiqués PSC/MIN/ COMM (CCCXIV), PSC/PR/COMM (CCCXV) and PSC/PR/COMM. (CCCXVI) adopted on the occasion of its 314th, 315th and 316th meetings held on 20 and 23 March, and 3 April 2012, respectively. Council **reaffirms** the contents of these communiqués;

3. **Welcomes** the encouraging developments in Mali regarding the restoration of constitutional order, including the signing, on 6 April 2012, of the Framework Agreement for the Implementation of the Solemn Commitment of 1 April 2012, the appointment of the Interim President, Mr. Dioncounda Traore, and that of the Prime Minister of the Transition, Cheick Modibo Diarra. Council **stresses** the need for all parties in Mali to work in good faith towards the implementation of the commitments made. Council, concerned about the recent arrests of political and military personalities, **recalls** the imperative for the scrupulous respect for civil liberties and **strongly condemns** all attempts to intimidate and harass political and other personalities;

4. **Commends** ECOWAS for its tireless efforts to find a solution to the crisis in Mali. In particular, Council **expresses its appreciation** to President Alassane Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire, current Chairman of ECOWAS, and President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, Mediator in the crisis in Mali, for their efforts, and **welcomes** the action of the representative of the Mediator, Djibrill Bassole Yipènè, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, and the representative of the current Chairman of ECOWAS, Mr. Bictogo Adama, Minister for African Integration of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;

5. **Encourages** the Mediator, in close consultation with the AU, to continue and intensify his efforts to ensure the completion of the restoration of constitutional order, in accordance with the relevant AU and ECOWAS instruments. In this context, Council **demands** that the "National Council for the Recovery of Democracy and the Restoration of the State" (CNRDRE) to refrain from any interference and any role in the political life of the country, given the need for strict compliance with the prerogatives of civil institutions inherent in the constitutional order.

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Council **underscores** the urgent need for the Malian stakeholders, working with ECOWAS and the Mediator, to resolve the outstanding issues, especially the management of the transition, its duration, and the prerogatives of the various organs of the Transition, after the expiry of the 40 days deadline provided for in Article 36 of the Constitution of February 1992, to avoid a constitutional vacuum in Mali, it being understood that the civilian institutions should have full responsibility for managing the Transition, with all the necessary prerogatives in this regard. In this context, Council **stresses the opportunity** to extend the mandate of the parliamentarians so that the National Assembly could continue to assume its powers during the transitional period;

6. **Reiterates its deep concern** about the developments in northern Mali and **the strong condemnation** by the AU of the attacks perpetrated by the armed and terrorist groups against the Malian State, including exactions against the Malian military and their families in Aguelhok, in the north of Mali;

7. **Rejects** the "declaration of independence made by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad", which is null and void. Council **stresses** that the occupation of any part of the Malian territory by armed criminal and terrorist groups is a threat to international peace and security. Council **strongly condemns** the taking of hostages by terrorist groups, in particular the abduction of diplomats of the Consulate of Algeria in Gao, Mali;

8. **Recalls** the provisions of paragraph 7 of the communiqué PSC/MIN/Comm (CCCXIV) by which Council affirmed its determination to actively support the efforts of the neighboring countries of Mali, particularly the core countries, and ECOWAS mediation, in scrupulous respect of the national unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali;

9. **Welcomes** the efforts being made by the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up on the relevant decisions of Council. Council **requested** him to speed up his consultations with all the stakeholders, with the view to finalizing the modalities for the implementation of the process referred to in paragraph 7 above, and facilitating the preparation and implementation of an overall political and security strategy, to address the situation, including modalities for applying the sanctions already imposed against terrorists and armed groups active in northern Mali, in accordance with paragraphs 10 and 12 of communiqué PSC/PR/COMM (CCCXVI), as well as the measures envisaged by ECOWAS on the basis of the relevant provisions of the communiqués issued at the end of its Extraordinary Summits of 27 and 29 March 2012, and the outcomes of the meeting of the Mediation and Security Council of ECOWAS, held in Abidjan, on 12 April 2012;

10. **Looks forward** to the decisions of the Extraordinary Summit of ECOWAS, scheduled in Abidjan on 26 April 2012, and the outcomes of the inaugural meeting of the Support and Follow-up Group, which will take place in Abidjan, on 4 May 2012, whose establishment was decided at its 314th meeting, held on 20 March 2012, in Bamako, and whose mandate was extended to the issue of the restoration of constitutional order by the communiqué of its 315th meeting, held on 23 March 2012;

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11. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit, within a period of one month, a report on the evolution of the situation and the implementation of this decision, in particular its paragraphs 5 and 8, to enable it to take necessary measures as appropriate;

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