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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
340TH MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
2 NOVEMBER 2012

PSC/PR/BR.1(CCCXL)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), at its 340th meeting held on 2 November 2012, received a briefing from the Commission on the security and humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the efforts of countries in the region to find a lasting solution. Council also received statements from the representatives of the DRC and Mozambique, in its capacity as the Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The representatives of Uganda, in its capacity as the Chair of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and of the United Nations were in attendance.

Council recalled its previous communiqué and press statements on the security and humanitarian situation in eastern DRC, and reiterated its grave concern at the deteriorating situation in that region. Council further reiterated its strong condemnation of the rebellion of M23 and all other negative forces. Council called on all the relevant stakeholders in DRC and Parties in the region to collaborate and support the efforts aimed at bringing peace and stability to DRC.

Council reiterated its support to the current Chairman of the ICGLR for the efforts he has constantly deployed to find a lasting solution to the crisis in eastern DRC, and expressed its full support to him in carrying out the mandate entrusted to him by the 4th Extraordinary Summit of the ICGLR, held in Kampala on 8 October 2012, with his peers in the region, SADC and Africa.

Council welcomed the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission, on 1 November 2012, of Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra, as the AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, and underlined the need for AU's continued and vigorous engagement.

In this context, Council underlined the necessity of adequate mobilization of the entire continent and the international community, in particular the United Nations, to assist in addressing a situation which threatens international peace and security. Council reiterated its call to the UN and other international partners to provide the necessary support to the efforts of the ICGLR.

Council reiterated its serious concern with the situation of the civilian population, especially women and children. Council strongly condemned the continued violation and sexual abuses against women, and in this regard warned the perpetrators of these acts to refrain from their action. Council further stressed its determination to ensure that those who commit such acts are held accountable.