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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
52ND MEETING
29 MAY 2006
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm(LII)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 52ND MEETING OF
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 52nd meeting held on 29 May 2006, adopted the following decision on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire:

The Council,

1. **Welcomes** the Report of Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire [PSC/PR/2(LII)];
2. **Recalls** Communiqué PSC/AHG/Comm(XL) adopted at its 40th meeting held on 6 October 2005, which decided that the arrangements agreed upon in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement of January 2003 should continue from 31 October 2005 for a period not exceeding twelve (12) months, as well as resolution 1633 (2005) adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 21 October 2005;
3. **Commends** the continued collaboration between the Head of State and the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire and **encourages** them to pursue their efforts in order to create conditions necessary for the holding of free, open and transparent elections, not later than 31 October 2006, as provided for in the communiqué and the resolution mentioned in paragraph 2 of this decision. Council **urges** the Ivorian parties to fully implement the roadmap proposed by the International Working Group (IWG) and which the Ivorian Government adopted during the Yamoussoukro seminar held from 9 to 11 February 2006;
4. **Expresses its deep concern** at the considerable delay in the implementation of the roadmap, as was noted by the IWG during its 6th and 7th meetings held respectively on 20 April and 19 May 2006. In this connection, Council **endorses** the agreement reached by the main Ivorian Political leaders, at their 8 April meeting under the auspices of President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Current Chairperson of the AU, on the simultaneous and immediate implementation of the DDR and identification processes, and **urges** all the Ivorian parties to scrupulously comply with this agreement;
5. **Welcomes** the launch of the pilot project of public hearings in seven locations, as well as the arrangements currently being made by the Chiefs of Staff of the *Forces Armées Nationales de Côte d'Ivoire* (FANCI) and the *Forces Armées des Forces Nouvelles* (FAFN) to promptly initiate the programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). Council **demand**s that all Ivorian parties continue to cooperate closely with the Government and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), with a view to ensuring that the identification and DDR processes are conducted with determination and extended to the entire territory, immediately on completion of the pilot project of public hearings and pre-cantonment of combatants, and that the rehabilitation of the cantonment sites for DDR as well as the redeployment of the administration and the restoration of the authority of the State are successfully carried out;

6. **Expresses its deep concern** over the incitement to hatred and violence by certain media and political personalities, the violations of human rights and the persistence of the culture of impunity. In this regard, Council **urges** the Ivorian authorities to promptly take all the necessary measures to identify and punish perpetrators of violence, and see to it that the independence and neutrality of the Ivorian Radio-Television (RTI) is guaranteed and that RTI can broadcast throughout the entire national territory;
7. **Requests** the Security Council Committee established by paragraph 14 of resolution 1572 (2004) of 15 November 2004 to take appropriate measures against persons who obstruct or intend to obstruct the peace process, including by attacking or hindering the actions of UNOCI, of the forces of Operation Licorne supporting it, of the High Representative for the Elections or of the IWG, or who incite publicly hatred and violence. In this respect, Council **commends** the targeted measures imposed by the Security Council Committee on 7 February 2006;
8. **Recalls** paragraph 13 of its communiqué of 6 October 2005 requesting the Security Council to provide UNOCI with all necessary means to enable it effectively discharge its mandate and to further consider authorizing a substantial increase of its strength, as well as paragraph 22 of resolution 1633 (2005) in which the Security Council took note of the request and expressed its intention to review the troop level of UNOCI, in light of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. Council **welcomes** the proposals made by the Secretary General of the United Nations to reinforce UNOCI, as contained in his Seventh Progress Report on UNOCI dated 3 January 2006, and **urges** the Security Council to give rapid and favourable consideration to these proposals, so that the modest progress achieved so far is not jeopardized and the chances of successfully concluding the peace process are enhanced;
9. **Reaffirms its support** to the IWG and the Mediation Group, and **encourages** them to pursue their efforts in support of the Government and of all the institutions involved in the peace process. Council **requests** the IWG to submit to it an overall assessment of the situation and the state of progress, including recommendations on how to speed up the implementation of the roadmap, with a view to holding free, fair and transparent elections not later than 31 October 2006;
10. **Appeals** to Côte d'Ivoire's international partners to provide all the necessary assistance, particularly financial assistance, to the Government for the implementation of the roadmap, especially the DDR programme;
11. **Pays tribute** to Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, outgoing Chairperson of the AU, Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo, Current Chairperson of the AU, Mamadou Tandja of the Republic of Niger, Current Chairperson of the ECOWAS, and Thabo Mbeki of the Republic of South Africa, AU Mediator, for the able role they have played in promoting peace in Côte d'Ivoire;

12. **Expresses** its full support to the Current Chairperson of the AU and the Mediator of the AU and **encourages them** to continue supporting the peace process and to assist in overcoming any obstacle in the implementation of the roadmap, in order to facilitate the organization of free, fair and transparent elections not later than 31 October 2006;
13. **Reiterates** the need for continued cooperation between the AU, the leaders of the region, ECOWAS and the United Nations, in order to ensure the successful conclusion of the peace process and the organization of elections within the agreed time frame;
14. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.