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Addis Abeba, ETHIOPIE B. P. 3243 Tel. (251-1) 51 38 22 Fax: (251-1) 51 93 21
Email: ou-ews@telecom.net.et

PRESS STATEMENT OF
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE ELECTORAL
PROCESS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) received today, 24 July 2006, a briefing from the Commission on the preparation for the elections scheduled to take place on 30 July 2006, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The Council noted with appreciation the progress made by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in preparing for the elections. The Council expressed satisfaction with the prevailing election campaign conditions. The Council urged all political stakeholders and civil society groups to work together to ensure the completion of this process in a calm and serene atmosphere and to continue to display a high sense of responsibility in this delicate phase of the on-going process in the DRC.

The Council welcomed the deployment of election observers by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the AU Commission, as well as by South Africa, the Republic of Congo and Nigeria. In this regard, the Council took note of the conclusions of the meeting held by the coordinating teams from the AU, SADC, ECCAS and South Africa held at the AU Liaison Office in Kinshasa, on 18 July 2006, and encouraged continued and close coordination among all the observers concerned under the overall leadership of the AU.

Addis Ababa, 24 July 2006