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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

73RD MEETING

19 MARCH 2007

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm.2(LXXIII)

COMMUNIQUE ON THE SITUATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 73RD MEETING OF THE PEACE
AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SITUATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 73rd meeting held on 16 and 19 March 2007, adopted the following decision on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire [PSC/PR/2(LXXIII)];
2. **Recalls** decision Assembly/AU/Dec.145(VIII) adopted by the 8th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa, on 29 and 30 January 2007, urging the Ivorian parties, with the support of ECOWAS, the African Union, the United Nations and the international community, to redouble efforts to bring the peace process to its logical conclusion on the basis of resolution 1721(2006) of the United Nations Security Council, through direct dialogue as proposed by President Laurent Gbagbo and supported by ECOWAS and the African Union;
3. **Welcomes** the signing, on 4 March 2007, of the Ouagadougou Political Accord, between President Laurent Gbagbo and Mr. Guillaume Kigbafori Soro, Secretary-General of the *Forces Nouvelles*, under the facilitation of President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, in his capacity as the current Chairperson of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS. In this respect, Council **pays tribute** to President Compaoré for his tireless efforts which made it possible to successfully conclude the direct dialogue;
4. **Commends** the Ivorian parties signatory to the Ouagadougou Political Accord for the spirit of compromise and the sense of responsibility they have displayed. Council **urges** all the Ivorian political forces to support the Accord with a view to promoting reconciliation, as well as facilitating the return of lasting peace in Cote d'Ivoire;
5. **Requests** the signatory parties to implement, in good faith and in accordance with the timetable annexed to the Accord, the commitments entered into, in order, with the support of the international community, including the United Nations and its Security Council, to speed up the reconciliation and peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, which should lead to the organisation of free, open, transparent and democratic elections;
6. **Takes note** of the recommendations made by the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council at its meeting held in Ouagadougou on 16 March 2007. In this respect, Council:
 - **decides** to fully endorse the Ouagadougou Political Accord and **recommends** to the United Nations Security Council to endorse the said Accord,

- **recommends** to the United Nations Security Council the gradual drawdown of the impartial forces deployed in Cote d'Ivoire in line with the provisions for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Accord and for the restoration of peace and normalcy in the country,
- **encourages** the United Nations Security Council to visit West Africa, in particular, Côte d'Ivoire, with a view to giving added momentum to the peace processes in the region;

7. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary measures to provide the support of the AU to the current Chairperson of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS and to the Ivorian parties for the scrupulous implementation of the Ouagadougou Accord, within the timeframe provided for, including in the follow up and consultation mechanisms as provided for in Chapter VII of the Accord, namely the Permanent Framework for Consultation and the Evaluation and Accompaniment Committee;

8. **Invites** the United Nations Security Council to lend its support to the present decision and **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take all the necessary measures to that effect;

9. **Takes note** of the communiqué adopted by the International Working Group (IWG) at its 13th meeting held on 2 March 2007;

10. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.