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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

**126<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**14 MAY 2008**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**PSC/PR/BR(CXXVI)**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 126<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PEACE AND  
SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC) ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE (ASF)**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 126<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 14 May 2008, was briefed by the Commission on the progress made in the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF), as provided for in Article 13 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council.

Council took note of the briefing, which was based on the outcomes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of African Chief of Defence Staff and Heads of Security, followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Ministers of Defence and Security held in Addis Ababa, from 24 to 28 March 2008.

Council welcomed the conclusions of the said meetings and other related recommendations made by the Commission with the view to accelerating the operationalization of the ASF.

Council requested the Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms and Member States, to undertake further work to implement the ASF policy documents adopted by the Ministers, as well as to develop and finalize the additional documents and to submit proposals on those areas to Ministers of Defence and Security by 2010.

Council called on its Members, those which have not yet done so, to urgently appoint Defence Attachés in their respective missions in Addis Ababa to serve in the Military Staff Committee (MSC), as provided for in the PSC Protocol and as called for in the Conclusions of the Retreat of the PSC on its Working Methods held in Dakar, to facilitate the work of the Commission on the operationalization of the ASF.

**Addis Ababa, 14 May 2008**