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P.O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.:(251-11) 551 38 22 Fax: (251-11) 551 93 21
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org, oau-ews@ethionet.et

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
137TH MEETING
20 JUNE 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR(CXXXVII)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 137th meeting, held on 20 June 2008, was briefed by a delegation of the Republic of Zambia on continental and international efforts to curb the use of cluster munitions.

Council expressed appreciation for the initiatives deployed by the Zambian Government to coordinate efforts to address the scourge of cluster munitions in Africa, and encouraged it to continue with these efforts. Council further commended the African Group for the efforts deployed towards curbing the production, transfer and use of cluster munitions.

Recognizing the grave threat posed to populations and their environment by cluster munitions, which have humanitarian, social and economic consequences, including in post-conflict situations, Council recalled the provisions of the Common African Defense and Security Policy and the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy, particularly the provisions relating to unexploded ordnance, including cluster munitions.

Council called on all Members States to support the forthcoming second African Conference on Cluster Munitions, scheduled to take place in Kampala, Uganda, in September 2008. Council also requested the Commission to work closely with the Ugandan authorities in preparing for this Conference and to elaborate a report for its consideration.

Addis Ababa, 20 June 2008