

PSC/PR/2(CLII)

AFRICAN UNION

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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

152ND MEETING

7 OCTOBER 2008

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/2(CLII)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 152nd meeting held on 7 October 2008, had an initial exchange of views with the members of the African Union /United Nations (UN) High-Level Panel on the Financing of AU-led peace support operations. The Panel, which has been established pursuant to resolution 1809 (2008) adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 16 April 2008, is chaired by Mr. Romano Prodi, former Prime Minister of Italy and former Chairperson of the European Union Commission.

Council welcomed this exchange of views, and underscored the valuable contribution expected from the Group, regarding the enhancement of AU capacity in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa. Council expressed its gratitude to Mr. Prodi for his personal commitment and efforts towards peace and security in Africa.

Council recalled the AU's earlier statements and decisions on the issue of funding for AU-led peace support operations, including decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 145 (VIII) adopted by the Assembly of the Union at its 8th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa from 29 to 30 January 2007, as well as its contribution to the Report of the UN Secretary-General on the relations between the United Nations and the regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security, which it adopted at its 98th meeting held on 23rd November 2007.

Council stressed that the UN Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. At the same time, Council stressed the commitment and efforts deployed by AU Member States towards the promotion of peace and stability in Africa.

In this regard, Council underscored the need and urgency for predictable, flexible and sustainable funding for AU-led peace support operations, as well as for mobilizing the required logistical support, bearing in mind the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and the fact that, in deploying peace support operations, the African Union is also acting on behalf of the entire international community, in particular the United Nations.

Council expressed the hope that the Panel would put forward specific and innovative recommendations that will provide the much-needed support to AU's efforts towards the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa.

Council reiterated the determination of the AU and its Commission to pursue and intensify efforts aimed at enhancing its capacity to manage the human and financial resources provided to it, in order to discharge its mandate on peace and security more effectively.

Addis Ababa, 7 October 2008