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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
158th MEETING
19 NOVEMBER 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/Comm.2(CLVIII)

PRESS STATEMENT

**PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 158TH MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 158th meeting, held on 19 November 2008, was briefed by the Institute for Security Studies on Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, as well as on the Problem of the Dumping of Toxic Wastes on the African Continent.

Council recalled its decision PSC/PR/Comm(LIII) of its 53rd meeting held on 31 May 2006, under the chairmanship of Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in his capacity as Chair of the PSC for the month of May 2006, in which it requested the Member States that have not yet signed and ratified the Pelindaba Treaty to do so urgently so that it could rapidly enter into force.

Council expressed satisfaction at the fact that a number of countries have, since the 53rd meeting, ratified the Treaty bringing the number of required ratifications for the entry into force of the Treaty to two (2). In this regard, Council requested the Chairperson of the Commission to redouble his efforts to enable the entry into force of the Treaty as soon as possible.

Council underscored the need to take necessary measures, within the framework of relevant AU and international instruments and conventions, to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, as well as the dumping of toxic wastes in Africa.

Addis Ababa, 19 November 2008