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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

162nd MEETING

18 December 2008

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR (CLXII)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 162nd meeting held on 18 December 2008, was briefed by a Delegation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) , within the context of the establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

Council welcomed the briefing made by the Deputy Assistant Secretary-General, Ambassador Maurits Jochems. Council expressed appreciation to NATO for providing support towards the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, in particular its contribution to the various AU peace support operations. Council also expressed its gratitude for NATO's support to the implementation of APSA, particularly with respect to the establishment of the African Standby Force and capacity for undertaking peace support operations.

Council stressed that the briefing was to be situated within the framework of the provisions of article 17 of the PSC Protocol concerning its relationships with the United Nations and other international organizations. In this context, Council recalled its Press Statement [PSC/PR/BR (CVIII)] of 21 January 2008, regarding the articulation of the scope of application of article 17 and the ways and means for strengthening the partnership for peace between the AU and its partners within the international community.

Council encouraged NATO to pursue and intensify its efforts in order to effectively contribute to AU's efforts towards the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa.

Addis Ababa, 18 December 2008