PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
251ST MEETING
4 DECEMBER 2010
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR (CCLI)

PRESS STATEMENT
PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 251ST MEETING OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 251st meeting held in Addis Ababa on 4 December 2010, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the situation in Côte d’Ivoire and the efforts of the African Union and other international actors to resolve the crisis that arose over the outcome of the second round of the presidential election held on 28 November 2010. Council also followed statements by the representatives of the Facilitator of the Direct Inter-Ivorian Dialogue, President Blaise Compaoré, of the Chairperson of ECOWAS, President Goodluck Jonathan, and the Chairman of the Union, President Bingu wa Mutharika, as well as by the representative of Côte d’Ivoire.

Council reiterated the terms of the communiqué of its 250th meeting held at the level of Heads of State and the Government in Tripoli, Libya, on 30 November 2010, and endorsed the press release of the Chairperson of the Commission of 3 December 2010. Council welcomed and supported the efforts of ECOWAS, including its Summit planned for 7 December 2010 in Abuja, as well as the speedy mobilization of the international community, including the United Nations Secretary-General and Security Council, towards an early resolution of the crisis.

Council expressed AU’s total rejection of any attempt to create a fait accompli to undermine the electoral process and the will of the people as expressed on 28 November 2010, further complicating an already serious situation, and plunge Côte d’Ivoire into a crisis of incalculable consequences.

Council expressed its full support to the initiative of the Chairperson of the Commission to entrust former President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa with an emergency mission to Côte d’Ivoire in order to find a legitimate and peaceful solution to the crisis, on the basis of relevant AU instruments and decisions. In this respect, Council called on the parties to show the necessary restraint and to refrain from taking actions which will exacerbate an already fragile situation.

Council agreed to meet again to review the situation and take all appropriate measures against the authors of acts likely to undermine the integrity of the electoral process, including respect for the outcome of the presidential election as proclaimed by the Independent Electoral Commission. Council agreed to take those measures in light of the outcome of the mission entrusted to former President Thabo Mbeki, the position of ECOWAS, as it will be determined by its upcoming Summit, relevant AU instruments and UN Security Council resolutions and statements on the matter.