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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
265TH MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
10 MARCH 2011

PSC/AHG/COMM.1(CCLXV)

COMMUNIQUE

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 265th MEETING OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 265th meeting, held on 10 March 2011, at the level of Heads of State and Government, adopted the following decision on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the High-Level Panel for the Resolution of the Crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, established pursuant to paragraph 6 of communiqué PSC/AHG/Comm(CCLIX) adopted at its 259th meeting held on 28 January 2011 [Document PSC/AHG/2 (CCLXV)]. Council **also takes note** of the statements made by President Alassane Dramane Ouattara and by the representative of His Excellency Laurent Gbagbo;
2. **Reaffirms** all its previous decisions on the post-electoral crisis facing Côte d'Ivoire since the second round of the presidential election, on 28 November 2010, recognizing the election of Mr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara as the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
3. **Commends** the High-Level Panel for its commitment and the sustained efforts it has made in search for a peaceful resolution of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. In this regard, Council **pays tribute** to Presidents Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz of Mauritania, Jacob Zuma of South Africa, Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania and Idriss Déby Itno of Chad, as well as to the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mr. James Victor Gbeho, for their contribution to the search for a solution to the current crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. Council **also commends** all those who have extended cooperation to the High-Level Panel in the discharge of its mandate. Council **expresses its appreciation** to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for the support extended to the Panel, through his Special Representative for West Africa, Saïd Djinnit;
4. **Expresses its grave concern** at the rapidly deteriorating security and humanitarian situation since the announcement of the results of the second round of the presidential election. Council **notes** that, in the absence of a speedy solution to the crisis, Côte d'Ivoire is likely to sink into widespread violence, with incalculable consequences for the country, as well as for the region and the continent as a whole;
5. **Reiterates its firm condemnation** of all atrocities and other violations of human rights, threats and acts of intimidation, as well as acts of obstruction directed at the operations of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), and **deeply regrets** the loss of life and destruction of property that occurred in parts of Côte d'Ivoire;
6. **Reaffirms its conviction** that the post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire requires an overall political solution that preserves democracy and peace, and promotes lasting reconciliation among all Ivorians;

7. **Endorses** the recommendations of the High-Level Panel as contained in its report, as well as the proposals made for an overall political solution to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, which offer a viable basis for a way out of the crisis that reconciles respect for democracy and the quest for peace. In this regard, Council **recalls** the provisions of paragraph 6 (c) of the communiqué of its 259th meeting stating that the Panel's conclusions, as endorsed by Council, will be binding on all Ivorian parties;

8. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a High Representative for the implementation of the overall political solution, as endorsed by Council, and to complete the process for a way out of the crisis as follows:

- (i) convening, under the auspices of the AU and ECOWAS, within the next two weeks, of negotiations between the Ivorian parties to develop modalities for the implementation of the proposals submitted by the High-Level Panel as endorsed by Council, with all the necessary guarantees for all concerned actors, in particular for the outgoing President, H.E. Laurent Gbagbo,
- (ii) mobilization of the support of AU partners for the early conclusion of the Agreement for a way out of the crisis, and
- (iii) submission, to a meeting of Council, of a comprehensive report on the results of its efforts;

9. **Calls upon** the Ivorian parties to extend full cooperation for the effective implementation, within the agreed timeframe, of the Panel's proposals, and to refrain from any action likely to complicate the situation and the process for a way out of the crisis;

10. **Underlines its determination** to take, in light of the results of the negotiations referred to in paragraph 8 (i) hereof, and on the basis of the relevant instruments of the AU, all measures that the situation would require;

11. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit this decision to the United Nations Security Council, ECOWAS and other AU partners;

12. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.