PEACE AND SECURITY
238TH MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
11 AUGUST 2010

PSC/PR/BR(CCXXXVIII)

PRESS STATEMENT
PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 238TH MEETING OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security of the African Union (AU) at its 238th meeting held on 11 August 2010, was briefed on the recent developments in the situation in Côte d'Ivoire by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Côte d'Ivoire, as well as by the Representatives of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Facilitator of the Inter-Ivorian Dialogue, Nigeria, in its capacity as the country currently holding the chairmanship of ECOWAS and the United Nations.

Council paid tribute to the President, the Prime Minister and all the Ivorian stakeholders, including the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) for living up to their commitment to hold elections in 2010 and particularly noted the progress made in the process of exit from the crisis, in particular, the arrangements made, on a consensual basis, for fixing the date of the presidential election to 31 October 2010, and requested the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to publish, as soon as possible, the calendar of all activities leading to the presidential election.

Council urged the Government, the political class and all concerned Ivorian parties to make every effort to ensure compliance with the deadlines. Council stressed the need for the Ivorian parties to make every effort to maintain a calm political climate and to place the interest of Côte d'Ivoire and its people above all other considerations in order to complete the process of exit from the crisis.

Council encouraged them to intensify their efforts to expedite and finalize the settlement of outstanding issues, as provided for in the 4th Supplementary Agreement to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, to enable the organization and the holding of the presidential election in conducive conditions.

Council urged all members of the international community, in particular ECOWAS, the UN and the EU to remain engaged, including in providing financial support, in the process of exit from the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. Council urged the Ivorian parties to give them their full cooperation.

Council recalled, in conformity with the decision of its 234th meeting held on 28 June 2010, its intention to visit Côte d’Ivoire at the end of September 2010 to assess the process of exit from the crisis and ascertain measures for its effective participation in the activity leading to the presidential election on 31st October 2010.