PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
534TH MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
17 AUGUST 2015

PSC/BR/2.(DXXXIV)

PRESS STATEMENT
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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 534th meeting held on 17 August 2015, was briefed by the Commission on the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

Council recalled its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, including press statement PSC/PR/BR. (DXXI) adopted at its 521th meeting held on 25 June 2015.

Council reiterated its deep concern about the evolution of the situation in Guinea-Bissau, marked by increasing tension among the main political leaders of the country. Council, once again, stressed that this situation has the potential of seriously undermining the progress recorded with the completion of the Transition and the successful holding of the presidential and legislative elections of April and May 2014, as well as of complicating the mobilization of the international assistance which Guinea-Bissau needs for its socio-economic recovery and the implementation of the reforms necessary for the lasting stabilization of that country.

Council renewed its call to the Bissau-Guinean stakeholders to uphold the higher interests of their country and to seek, through dialogue, consensus and reconciliation an early solution to the current crisis. Council emphasized the imperative need for the respect of the Constitution and the rule of law, as well as the absolute need for the armed and security forces to remain out of the current crisis.

Council expressed its appreciation of the efforts of President Macky Sall of Senegal, current Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as of those of the neighboring countries. Council also welcomed the efforts undertaken by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission in Guinea-Bissau and Head of the AU Liaison Office in Bissau, Ambassador Ovidio Pequeno, in accordance with the mandate of the Office to contribute to the consolidation of peace and stability in the country and undertake other related tasks. Council commended the UN Special Representative in Guinea-Bissau, Miguel Trovoada, for his efforts and noted with satisfaction the statement to the press on the situation in Guinea-Bissau made by the UN Security Council on 14 August 2015. Council urged for the coordinated pursuit of the efforts being undertaken to expedite the settlement of the present crisis, and, to this effect, requested the Chairperson of the Commission to initiate consultations with ECOWAS and the neighboring countries, the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, the European Union and the UN, and to take the necessary initiatives.

Council requested the Commission to keep it informed of the evolution of the situation, to enable it take the necessary steps.