PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
334TH MEETING

ADDIS ABABA
17 SEPTEMBER 2012

PSC/PR/BR(CCCXXXIV)

PRESS STATEMENT
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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 334th meeting held in Addis Ababa, on 17 September 2012, was briefed by the Commission on the evolution of the situation in Somalia and post-transition arrangements. Council also listened to briefings by representatives of the Government of Somalia, the United Nations and Uganda.

Council welcomed the successful conclusion of the transition in Somalia, which culminated with the election, on 10 September 2012, of Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as the new President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and noted with satisfaction his inauguration in Mogadishu on 16 September 2012, in the presence of representatives of the countries of the region, in particular President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti, Acting Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia, Third Deputy Prime Minister Lieutenant General Moses Ali of Uganda, Assistant of the President Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie of the Republic of Sudan, and Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the AU Commission, as well as other foreign dignitaries. Council also commended the outgoing President, Sheikh Shariff Ahmed, for having gracefully conceded defeat and for his significant contribution to the peace and reconciliation process in his country.

Council paid tribute to the Somali stakeholders for the commitment they have demonstrated to ensure the successful completion of the transition, which is of historical significance and ushers in a new political dispensation in Somalia. In this respect, Council welcomed the adoption of a new interim Constitution, as well as the selection and establishment of a new Federal Parliament. Council urged the Somali stakeholders to stay the course, in order to consolidate the tremendous progress they have achieved, building on the continued positive evolution of the situation on the ground.

Council reiterated its deep appreciation to AMISOM and the Troop and Police Contributing Countries (TCCs/PCCs), as well as to the Somali national security forces for their courage and sacrifices, which created the enabling environment for the advancement of the political process. Council acknowledges with appreciation the critical role that the region, in particular the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC), and the rest of the international community, notably the United Nations, the European Union, the League of Arab States, as well as the United States and other bilateral partners, have played in the results achieved so far.

Council reiterated AU’s commitment to continue extending all possible support to help the Somali people and stakeholders consolidate the peace and reconciliation process, and successfully carry forward the reconstruction of their country. Council appealed to all AU Member States and partners to enhance their assistance to Somalia to enable it meet the even more demanding and complex tasks ahead, in line with the priorities set by the new Somali Government.