

AFRICAN UNION
(A/N JUWI

~~UNIAO AFRICANA~~

P.O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.:(251-H) 551 38 22 Fax: (251-11) 551 93 21
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org, oau-ews@ethionet.et

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL 246th MEETING
28 OCTOBER 2010
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm.I(CCXLVI)

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 246th MEETING OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 246th meeting held in Addis Ababa, on 28 October 2010, adopted the following decision on the situation in Cote d'Ivoire.

Council:

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Mission of Council undertaken to Cote d'Ivoire, led by Ambassador Ruben Maye Nzue Mangué, Chairperson of the PSC for September 2010 and Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea, from 27 September to 3 October 2010;
2. **Recalls** its previous decisions and press statements on the situation in Cote d'Ivoire;
3. **Notes with satisfaction** the significant progress accomplished in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and its Supplementary Agreements, in particular, the efforts deployed by the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, and all the Ivorian stakeholders, including the Independent Electoral Commission, towards the holding of the presidential election, severally postponed in the past, on 31 October 2010. In this regard, Council **welcomes** the consensual adoption of the final Electoral List and its certification by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Cote d'Ivoire, which paved the way for the production and distribution of national identity cards and voters' cards. Council **expresses** its appreciation, once more, to President Blaise Compaore, Facilitator of the Direct Inter-Ivorian Dialogue, for his tireless efforts in the pursuit of peace and reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire and to ECOWAS for its efforts towards resolving the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire;
4. **Re-affirms its conviction** that the holding of a peaceful, free, open and transparent presidential election on 31 October 2010, constitutes an important step in the crisis exit process and the resolution of outstanding issues in the Ouagadougou Political Agreement. Council **urges** the Ivorian stakeholders, including the candidates to the election, to scrupulously comply with the Code of Good Conduct, place the interest of the Ivorian people above any other consideration and abstain from any action likely to undermine the holding of the election in conditions of peace and security. In this regard, Council **calls** on the candidates to the presidential election to continue to comply with the provisions of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement;
5. **Welcomes** the steps taken by the Ivorian authorities, with the support of United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI) and Force Licorne, to provide security for the electoral process and allow the Ivorians to express their choice at the election. Council **encourages** the Ivorian Government to ensure the effective functioning of the Integrated Command Centre charged with the task of providing security for the electoral process. Council further **welcomes** the decision of the UN Security Council authorizing the deployment of an additional 500 personnel to ONUCI, in support for the electoral process;
6. **Calls** on all the Ivorian stakeholders, including the Ivorian people, to make every effort to ensure the success of the election, including through a massive participation in the election, and **urges** all parties to accept its outcome. **Further calls** on the candidates to the election to desist from any actions likely to undermine the electoral process and to refrain from claiming victory on a unilateral basis. In this regard, Council **stresses** that the Independent Electoral Commission is the only institution with the authority to announce the provisional results of the election;
7. **Notes that** the Chairperson of the Commission has taken all necessary measures for the

deployment of an AU Election Observation Mission for the presidential election;

8. **Expresses its gratitude** to the international community for providing multiform support to the crisis exit process in Cote d'Ivoire and **urges** it, at this critical phase of the process, to continue and increase its support;

9. **Commends** the contribution of non-governmental organisations to the electoral process and the search for peace and reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire, and **urges** them to remain engaged;

10. **Expresses its gratitude** to the authorities, institutions and all the Ivorian stakeholders for their availability and cooperation with the mission of Council during its stay in Cote d'Ivoire;

11. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.