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PRESS RELEASE

The Commission of the African Union welcomes the decision of the Constitutional Council of Côte d'Ivoire proclaiming Alassane Dramane Ouattara as the President of the Republic and his swearing in

Addis Ababa, 7 May 2011: The Commission of the African Union (AU) welcomes the swearing in of President Alassane Dramane Ouattara, which took place yesterday, 6 May 2011, in Abidjan. The swearing in follows the decision dated 4 May 2011 of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire proclaiming Mr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara as the President of the Republic and recognizing, due to exceptional circumstances, the validity of the actions he has already taken.

The AU Commission welcomes the decision of the Constitutional Council, which is in line with the communiqué of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) of 10 March 2011, endorsing the proposals of the High-Level Panel for the Resolution of the Crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The decision of the Constitutional Council and the swearing in of President Alassane Ouattara constitute an important step in the process of normalizing the country's institutional life.

The Commission reaffirms AU's support to the Ivorian authorities' efforts aimed at promoting national reconciliation, including the planned establishment of a Commission for Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation, as provided for in the proposals made by the AU High-Level Panel and endorsed by the PSC on 10 March 2011.

The Commission reaffirms the readiness of the AU, in close cooperation with ECOWAS, to contribute actively to the overall process of consolidating peace in Côte d'Ivoire, including national reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction and development, within the framework of the relevant PSC decisions. In this regard, consultations are underway with ECOWAS to agree on the modalities of a joint action by both organizations aimed at supporting the Ivorian authorities' efforts.