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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
285th MEETING
13 July 2011
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/PS/2.(CCLXXXV)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 285th MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 285th meeting held on 13 July 2011, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the situation in Libya and follow-up to the decision of the 17th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 30 June to 1st July 2011.

Council reiterated AU's conviction that only a political solution will make it possible to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people to democracy, good governance and respect for human rights, achieve sustainable peace and preserve the unity and territorial integrity of the country. In this respect, Council stressed that the Proposals for a Framework Agreement on a Political Solution to the Crisis in Libya, as endorsed by the Assembly in Malabo within the context of the AU Roadmap and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, provides a viable basis for a way out of the crisis.

Council welcomed the steps taken by the Commission in follow-up on the Assembly decision, including the various communications to, and interaction with, different international stakeholders, notably the United Nations (UN), the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the European Union (EU), as well as bilateral partners.

Council expressed support for the technical interaction between the Commission and the representatives of the High-Level *ad hoc* Committee and the Libyan parties, namely the Government of Libya and the Transitional National Council (TNC), scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa on 19 July 2011. Council looks forward to the participation of the United Nations in this interaction, within the framework of paragraph 2 of UN Security Council resolution 1973(2011).

Council expressed the hope that this interaction will provide an opportunity for a constructive exchange of views on the AU efforts to find a lasting solution to the conflict in Libya, within the context of its Proposals for a Framework Agreement on a Political Solution, as well as to provide any clarification that may be needed on these Proposals. Council also expressed the hope that the interaction will make it possible to determine the next steps in the efforts to find a political solution to the conflict, in particular the planned convening of negotiations between the parties, under the auspices of the AU and the UN, with the support of the League of Arab States, the OIC and the EU.

Council reiterated AU's appeal to the Libyan parties to demonstrate the required political will, place the supreme interest of their country and people above any other consideration, and extend the necessary cooperation to the AU.

Council, stressing once again, AU's commitment to the letter and spirit of UN Security Council resolutions 1970 and 1973(2011), reiterated the Assembly's appeal international partners to support the African initiative and the search for a political solution, as the best way of achieving the mutually-reinforcing objectives of peace, democracy, the rule of law and national reconciliation in Libya. In this respect, Council looks forward to the outcome of the 4th meeting of the Libya Contact Group due to take place in Istanbul, Turkey, on 15 July 2011, with the hope that it will significantly strengthen the ongoing efforts towards a political solution to the Libyan conflict.

Council encouraged the *ad hoc* Committee to pursue and intensify its efforts, as mandated by the Assembly in Malabo, and consistent with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, as well as paragraph 2 of UN Security Council resolution 1973(2011).