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COMMUNIQUE

THE AFRICAN UNION DISPATCHES A MULTIDISCIPLINARY MISSION TO ASSESS THE NEEDS OF COTE D'IVOIRE IN THE FIELD OF POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Addis 4 November 2011: The AU dispatches a multidisciplinary mission to Cote d'Ivoire from 5 to 12 November 2011, to assess the needs of the country in the field of post-conflict reconstruction and development and identify the contribution that the AU and its Member States can make in this respect.

This initiative, which is part of the AU support for peace building efforts in Cote d'Ivoire, will be undertaken, in cooperation with AU partners, particularly the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) and the European Union (EU). The NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, which is a structure of the African Union, as well as different Departments of the AU Commission, will also participate in the mission. The mission is led by Mr. Anicet Georges Dologuélé, former Prime Minister of the Central African Republic, former Director General of the Central Development Bank of the Central African States (BDEAC), former Minister of Finance, Planning and International Cooperation and former Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central African States Bank (BEAC). In addition to the representatives of the above-mentioned organisations, the delegation comprises a number of other experts, including Mr. Samuel Nyambi, former UNDP official, who served as Resident Representative in several African countries.

It should be recalled that, at its 288th meeting, held on 10 August 2011, the PSC noted with satisfaction the significant progress made in the return to normalcy in Cote d'Ivoire since President Alassane Dramane Ouattara took up office and the establishment of the Government. The PSC reiterated the commitment of the AU to do everything to support the ongoing peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. Within this framework, the AU has taken a number of initiatives, including a visit by the Sub-Committee on Refugees of the Permanent Representatives Committee, as well as the grant of a token financial support for the reintegration of displaced persons and the organisation of legislative elections.

During its stay, the mission will meet with the Ivorian authorities, international and regional organisations and institutions, the bilateral and multilateral development partners based in Abidjan, the Ivorian political and social actors and the civil society.

NOTE TO THE EDITORS

DECISIONS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN COTE D'IVOIRE

At its 273rd meeting on the situation in Cote d'Ivoire, held on 21 April 2011, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU adopted Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.1 (CCLXXIII). In that Communiqué, the PSC stressed the imperative need for all the Ivorian actors concerned to make sustained efforts for the promotion of national reconciliation, peacebuilding and socio-economic recovery in Cote d'Ivoire. The PSC reaffirmed the determination of the AU to work in close cooperation with all the Ivorian actors concerned and ECOWAS and with the support of the United Nations and other partners for peacebuilding.

Within the framework of the follow-up of this decision, a PSC delegation undertook a field mission to Cote d'Ivoire, from 25 to 30 July 2011, aimed at gathering the views of the Ivorian authorities and other stakeholders on the challenges faced by Cote d'Ivoire, with the purpose of helping the AU to better direct its support to Cote d'Ivoire, within the overall framework of a post-conflict reconstruction programme, covering socio-economic, security and other sectors. The Ivorian parties and other stakeholders, consulted by the PSC delegation, conveyed the same message, according to which Cote d'Ivoire had irreversibly embarked upon a post-crisis and post-conflict phase. They underscored that Cote d'Ivoire needed urgent and concrete support from the AU and the international community as a whole to rebuild its political and socio-economic institutions and structures.

At its 288th meeting, devoted to the consideration of the mission report to Cote d'Ivoire, held on 10 August 2011, the PSC noted with satisfaction the significant progress made in the process of return to normalcy in Côte d'Ivoire since the assumption of power by President Alassane Dramane Ouattara and the establishment of the Government. The PSC reiterated the commitment of the AU to do its utmost to support the ongoing efforts at peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. In this regard, the PSC requested the Commission, working closely with AU partners, including ECOWAS, the United Nations, the European Union and bilateral partners concerned, to:

- immediately dispatch a mission to assess the situation of the Ivorian refugees in Côte d'Ivoire's neighbours and the requirements for their early return;
- provide support for post-conflict reconstruction and development, including national reconciliation, the reform of the defense and security sector, advocacy to assist Côte d'Ivoire to obtain debt cancellation, mobilisation of resources to facilitate the implementation of quick impact projects and support for the successful holding of the round table planned by the Ivorian Government to mobilise resources for post-conflict reconstruction; and
- facilitate and support cooperation and joint action among the countries of the region to address security related issues, including those posed by the presence of mercenaries and other armed elements.

AU POLICY FRAMEWORK ON POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

The mission to Cote d'Ivoire also falls in line with the AU Policy Framework on Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development, adopted by the AU Executive Council in June 2006. The objective of this document is to build peace and avoid relapse into a cycle of violence, deal with root causes of conflicts, encourage and fast track the planning and implementation of post-conflict reconstruction and development activities and enhance the complementarity and coordination between the different actors concerned.

The Policy Framework is underpinned by five fundamental principles: African leadership, national and local ownership, inclusiveness, equity and non-discrimination, cooperation and coherence and capacity building to guarantee the sustainability of the efforts made. It covers six indicative elements relating to security, humanitarian assistance, transition and political governance, reconstruction and socio-economic development, human rights, justice and reconciliation and gender related issues.

Pursuant to this Policy Framework, the AU dispatches assessment missions to countries emerging from conflict, to assess their needs and make recommendations on the contributions that the AU and its Member States can make to supplement the action of the international partners. In concrete terms, the assessment missions lead to the launching of an African solidarity initiative which begins with a solidarity conference involving both the Member States and the African private sector and translating into financial contributions, expertise and sharing of experience.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

In the light of the foregoing, the objectives of the mission will particularly be to:

- i) take stock of the efforts made within the framework of post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, including assistance given by the African actors and international partners;
- ii) identify the challenges and the needs in terms of assistance in the short, medium and long terms;
- iii) identify the areas in which the AU and its Member States can make useful contributions to post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding in Cote d'Ivoire;
- iv) make recommendation on the modalities for close cooperation and coordination between the AU and the other international partners to support post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding in Cote d'Ivoire;
- v) determine modalities through which the AU and its partners could maximize the contribution of Africa and facilitate a greater mobilisation of the international community to support the efforts of the Ivorian Government; and
- vi) initiate the preparatory process for the launching of an African solidarity initiative which will begin with a solidarity conference so as to mobilise the continent in support to Cote d'Ivoire to enable it consolidate the progress already made.