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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
317<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA  
12 APRIL 2012

PSC/PR/BR/1.(CCCXVII)

**PRESS STATEMENT**

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 317<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 12 April 2012, was briefed by the Department of Political Affairs of the Commission on its activities related to election observation on the continent, in implementation of the recommendations of the Panel of the Wise, as contained in its report on election-related conflicts and violence, adopted by the Assembly of the Union at its 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in Sirte, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009.

Council congratulated the people and the political leaders of Senegal on the successful organisation of the presidential election on 26 February and 25 March 2012.

Council noted the peaceful conclusion of the parliamentary elections in Egypt, on 12 February 2012, as well as the holding of the first round of the presidential election in Guinea Bissau, on 10 March 2012. Council called on all stakeholders in Guinea Bissau to refrain from any action that may derail the process towards the holding of the second round, in a peaceful and transparent manner. Council took note of the parliamentary elections held in The Gambia, on 29 March 2012.

Council took note of the steps by the Commission to dispatch election observer missions to Algeria and to Lesotho, on the occasions of their parliamentary elections scheduled to take place on 10 May and 26 May 2012, respectively.

Council reiterated the need for Member States that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which entered into force on 15 February 2012, and to comply scrupulously with all relevant AU instruments governing the holding of free, fair and transparent elections.