

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
371ST MEETING
25 APRIL 2013
ADDIS ABEBA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR(CCCLXXI)

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 371st meeting held on 25 April 2013, followed a briefing by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the latest developments in the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Council also followed the statements made by the representatives of the DRC, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Secretariat, the European Union, the United Nations, France, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Council welcomed the initiatives taken as a follow-up to the Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation in the DRC and the region, signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013. In this regard, Council noted with satisfaction the decision of Presidents Jacob Zuma of South Africa, Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola and Joseph Kabila of the DRC, at their meeting held in Luanda, on 12 March 2013, to establish a "tripartite joint cooperation mechanism" to facilitate the implementation of the Framework Agreement. Council also welcomed the renewed commitment of Presidents Denis Sassou N'guesso of the Republic of Congo, Mediator, Joseph Kabila, Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, made at their meeting in Oyo, Republic of Congo, on 24 March 2013, to implement the Framework Agreement.

Council took note of the appointment, on 18 March 2013, of Mrs. Mary Robinson as Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region. Council looked forward to close cooperation between the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and the AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, Ambassador Boubacar Diarra, as well as with the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR and the SADC.

Council welcomed the appointment of the Force Commander, from Tanzania, for the Intervention Brigade provided for under the Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation in the DRC.

Council took note of the evolution of the direct dialogue between the DRC Government and the M23, notably the conclusion, on 15 March 2013, of an agreement between the two parties following the assessment of the implementation of the Agreement of 23 March 2009, and urged the parties to expedite the process towards the successful conclusion of the negotiations.

Council welcomed the adoption by the United Nations Security Council, on 28 March 2013, of resolution 2098 (2013) extending the mandate of MONUSCO and creating an Intervention Brigade within MONUSCO. Council stressed the need to accelerate the deployment of the brigade and the implementation of the Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation in the DRC and the region. Council welcomed the envisaged holding of the first meeting of the follow-up mechanism of this Agreement, at the level of Heads of State and Government, in Addis Ababa, on 26 May 2013.

Council urged the Government of the DRC to expedite implementation of its obligations under the Framework Agreement. Council further called on all parties to remain engaged in the peace talks in Kampala with a view to speedily concluding the negotiations.

Council decided to remain actively seized of the matter.