

AFRICAN UNION
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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
Second Ordinary Session
25 March 2004
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

PSC/PR/Communique (II)

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

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The Peace and Security Council meeting in its Second Session, on 25 March 2004, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to consider the situation in Burundi, with particular reference to the mandate of the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB);

1. **Recalls** decision *Central Organ/MEC/AMB/Comm. (XCI)*, adopted by the 91st Ordinary Session of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at Ambassadorial level held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 2 April 2003, which mandated the deployment of the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) for an initial period of one year subject to renewal and pending the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force to be mandated by the UN Security Council, as envisaged in the Ceasefire Agreements of 7 October and 2 December 2002;
2. **Welcomes** the significant progress made in the search for lasting peace and reconciliation in Burundi and **notes with satisfaction** the conclusion of the Pretoria Protocols of 8 October and 2 November 2003, as endorsed by the 20th Regional Summit on Burundi held in Dar-es-Salaam on 16 November 2003, as well as the marked improvement in the security situation in the country;
3. **Considers** that with these developments, a conducive environment has now been created for the deployment of a UN peacekeeping mission, as envisaged in the Ceasefire Agreements entered into by the Burundian parties;
4. **Pays tribute** to the Leaders of the Region including in particular, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and El-Hadj Omar Bongo Odimba, President of the Gabonese Republic, for promoting the regional peace initiative in Burundi. **Further pays tribute** to the Deputy President of South Africa, Mr. Jacob Zuma, for his tireless efforts to facilitate a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict in Burundi;
5. **Commends** the crucial role played by the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) in the consolidation of the peace and reconciliation process, inspite of the severe financial and logistics constraints facing the Mission;
6. **Expresses its profound gratitude** to the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) South Africa, Ethiopia and Mozambique – and to the countries providing military observers (Burkina Faso, Gabon, Mali, Togo and Tunisia), for their commitment and the sacrifices they have made to ensure the success of the Mission;
7. **Further expresses its appreciation** to Italy, Germany, the UK and Senegal for the financial contributions and support extended to AMIB, as well as to the EU, Belgium and Ireland that had made pledges of financial support to the Mission;

8. **Recalls** the appeal of the 4th ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa, from 15 to 16 March 2004, urging the United Nations Security Council to authorize, as early as possible, the deployment of a peacekeeping force in Burundi;
9. **Strongly**, urges the UN Security Council to authorize the early deployment of a UN Peacekeeping Mission on the basis of the recommendations made by the UN Secretary General in his report to the Security Council on 16 March 2004 and in conformity with the primary responsibility of the Council for the maintenance of international peace and security;
10. **Decides**, in the meantime, to renew the mandate of AMIB for a period of one (1) month, from 2 April to 2 May 2004, on the understanding that the UN Security Council will deploy a peace keeping Mission in Burundi before the end of this new mandate;
11. **Appeals** to all the Stakeholders in Burundi to continue to extend their fullest cooperation to AMIB to facilitate the implementation of its mandate;
12. **Decides** also to dispatch a mission of the Peace and Security Council to Burundi, with the view to expressing the appreciation of the Council and the African Union, to the Troops, Observers and other personnel serving with AMIB, as well as to assess the situation on the ground in Burundi;
13. **Reiterates** AU's appeal to the PALIPEHUTU-FNL of Agathon Rwasa to work towards the speedy conclusion of a ceasefire agreement with the Transitional Government of Burundi (TGoB) and to join the peace and reconciliation process;
14. **Appeals urgently** to AU Member States and the international community at large, to provide financial and logistics support to sustain the activities of the African Mission in Burundi, pending the deployment of a UN peacekeeping mission;
15. **Encourages** the Transitional Government of Burundi and the Burundian parties to make maximum efforts to ensure the successful conclusion of the transitional period as provided for in the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement of 28 August 2000, including taking all the necessary steps for the holding of elections as envisaged in the said Agreement.
