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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
295TH MEETING
27 SEPTEMBER 2011
ADDIS ABABA

PSC/PR/PS(CCXCV)

PRESS STATEMENT

**PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 295th MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 295th meeting, held on 27 September 2011, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the activities relating to the AU regional cooperation initiative for the elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Council recalled the relevant provisions of the Tripoli Plan of Action [SP/ASSEMBLY/PS/MAP(I)] and decision Assembly/AU/Dec.294 (XV).2, adopted by the Assembly of the Union, in Tripoli, in August 2009, and in Kampala, in July 2010, respectively.

Council also recalled decision Assembly/AU/Dec.369(XVII) of the 17th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Malabo, in July 2011, in which the Assembly welcomed the initiatives taken by the Commission on the issue of the LRA; expressed its full support to the conclusions of the regional ministerial meeting held in Addis Ababa on 8 June 2011; and requested Council to give early authorization for the envisaged operation against the LRA, in all its components, including the Regional Intervention Force (IRF), the Joint Operation Centre (JOC) and the Joint Coordination Mechanism (JCM).

Council congratulated the affected Member States for the cooperation they have developed amongst themselves and for their efforts against the LRA, as well as for their collaboration with the Commission, in implementing the relevant AU decisions on the LRA. Council also commended the Commission for the steps already taken in pursuance of the AU decisions, including the first regional ministerial meeting on the LRA, held in Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR), on 13 and 14 October 2010, the joint technical assessment mission involving experts from the Commission and the member states affected by LRA activities, conducted from 16 March to 5 April 2011, and the second regional ministerial meeting on the LRA.

Council expressed its deep concern at the continuing criminal activities of the LRA and its devastating effects on local populations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of South Sudan and CAR, as well as on regional security and stability. Council stressed the need for the affected Member States to persevere in their efforts for the efficient implementation of the AU regional cooperation initiative aimed at bringing to an end the criminal activities of the LRA.

Council requested the Commission to submit to it a report on the implementation modalities of the main mechanisms provided for in the AU regional cooperation initiative for the elimination of the LRA, to enable it to authorize the envisaged operation, in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.369(XVII).

Council welcomed the adoption by the United Nations Security Council, on 21 July 2011, of a press statement in which the members of this organ, *inter alia*, strongly condemned the ongoing attacks carried out by the LRA; commended the important efforts that are being undertaken by the militaries of CAR, DRC, the Republic of South Sudan and

Uganda, to address the threat posed by the LRA, and emphasized the importance of sustained coordinated action by these Governments; encouraged the UN Secretary-General to provide support to the AU Commission, through the planning process for the implementation of the relevant AU decisions on the LRA; and requested the UN Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), in collaboration with the UN Office to the AU (UNOAU), to engage with the AU to facilitate cooperation between the UN and the African Union on issues related to countering the threat posed by the LRA.

Council reiterated the call by the Malabo session of the Assembly of the Union to the United Nations and other AU partners, to support the regional cooperation initiative for the elimination of the LRA, in particular through the timely provision of financial and logistical support.