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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
595<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA  
28 APRIL 2016

PSC/PR/COMM/2.(DXCV)

COMMUNIQUE

## COMMUNIQUE

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 595<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 28 April 2016, adopted the following decision on the Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) on its fact-finding mission to Burundi:

### **Council,**

1. **Takes note** of the report of the ACHPR on its fact-finding mission to Burundi undertaken from 7 to 13 December 2015, pursuant to paragraph 12 (iv) of communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(DLVII), adopted at its 551<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 17 October 2015, in which Council agreed on the launching of an in-depth investigation on the violations of human rights and other abuses against civilian populations in Burundi, for the purposes of enabling Council to take additional measures. In this regard, Council **requested** the ACHPR to urgently take the required steps to carry out this investigation and to submit to it a report within a maximum period of forty five (45) days. Council **also takes note** of the presentation of the Report by the Representative of the ACHPR and the statement made by the Representative of Burundi;
2. **Recalls** its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in Burundi, in particular the Communiqué *PSC/PR/COMM.2(DXV)* adopted at its 515<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13 June 2015, Communiqué *PSC/PR/COMM.(DXXIII)* adopted at its 523<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 9 July 2015, Communiqué *PSC/BR/PR.(DXXXI)* adopted at its 531<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 6 August 2015, the Communiqué on the situation in Burundi adopted at its 551<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 17 October 2015, Communiqué *PSC/PR/COMM.(DLVII)* adopted at its 557<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13 November 2015, Communiqué *PSC/PR/COMM.(DLXV)* adopted at its 565<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 17 December 2015, Communiqué *PSC/AHG/COMM.3(DLXXI)* adopted at its 571<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 29 January 2016, by the Heads of State and Government, and Communiqué *PSC/PR/COMM.(DLXXXI)* adopted at its 581<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 9 March 2016;
3. **Reaffirms** that the August 2000 Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation and the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi remain the foundation and cornerstone of peace, security and stability in Burundi;
4. **Underscores** the imperative of a consensual approach among the Burundian stakeholders, if ever there would be need to address issues of contention relating to the Constitution of Burundi and the Arusha Agreement;
5. **Reiterates its deep concern** about the persistent instability in Burundi, characterized by continued assassinations of military officers and civilians. Council **reiterates** the AU's strong condemnation of all acts of violence, irrespective of the perpetrators, and human rights violations, as documented in the Report submitted by the ACHPR. However, Council **notes** that most of the contents of the Report have been overtaken by many national, regional,

continental and international efforts aimed at the promotion of peace, security and stability in Burundi;

6. **Notes** the recommendations in the report of the ACHPR's fact-finding mission to Burundi and **requests** the African Union Commission to regularly update Council on the evolution of the situation in the country, to enable Council to take appropriate decisions;

7. **Calls for the urgent resumption** of the Inter-Burundian Dialogue and **stresses the need** for the East African Community (EAC) mediation to take into account the recommendations in the ACHPR's Report within the context of the Dialogue. Council **urges** the Government of Burundi and all the concerned stakeholders to lend their full support to EAC Mediation;

8. **Underscores** the need for the full deployment of the AU human rights observers, military experts and police officers in line with the relevant decisions of Council, to monitor and report on the human rights and security situation in Burundi;

9. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.