

AFRICAN UNION
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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
261ST MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
23 FEBRUARY 2011

PSC/PR/COMM(CCLXI)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 261ST MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 261st meeting held on 23 February 2011, considered the situation in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and adopted the following decision:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the statements made by the Commission and the Permanent Representative of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
2. **Expresses** deep concern with the situation in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and **strongly condemns** the indiscriminate and excessive use of force and lethal weapons against peaceful protestors, in violation of human rights and International Humanitarian Law, which continues to contribute to the loss of human life and the destruction of property. Council **stresses** the need for the people of Libya to spare no effort in avoiding any further loss of life. Council **conveys** its condolences to the families of the victims and **wishes** those that have been injured an early recovery;
3. **Calls** on the Libyan authorities to ensure the protection and security of the citizens and also **ensure** the delivery and provision of humanitarian assistance to the injured and other persons in need;
4. **Appeals** to the people of Libya to work together to find a lasting solution to the problems facing their country. Council **urges** the authorities and the people of Libya to exercise maximum restraint and to put an end forthwith to all acts of violence and the destruction of property;
5. **Underscores** that the aspirations of the people of Libya for democracy, political reform, justice and socio-economic development are legitimate and **urges** that they be respected. Council further **calls** on all parties, in particular, the Government, to desist from making statements that could escalate the situation. Furthermore, Council **stresses** the need to preserve the territorial integrity and unity of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
6. **Decides** to urgently dispatch a mission of Council to Libya to assess the situation on the ground;
7. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.