



**UNOAU Statement  
at a meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council  
on the report of the AU Chairperson on Madagascar and Comoros  
21 September 2015,  
Addis Ababa**

Your Excellency the Chair of the AU Peace and Security Council, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for inviting us to this meeting on the situations in Comoros and Madagascar, which we have been monitoring closely.

In Comoros, where the AU has played a critical role in the past, the National Electoral Commission recently unveiled a new electoral calendar for the 2016 presidential elections. As you are aware, however, there are strong diverging views as to the eligibility of former President Sambi, as the government claims his candidacy violates the rotating principle designed in 2001 as part of the Fomboni Accords. This dispute has further deepened tensions between the ruling party and Sambi's Juwa party following the parliamentary elections in February and annulment of the election of three Juwa MPs, which led to an opposition boycott.

In this polarized context, combined with high levels of poverty and unemployment, there is a possibility that we will see an escalation of political tensions over the coming months. We cannot discount the possibility of a social uprising, particularly among the youth, which could reduce the credibility of the upcoming electoral process. We therefore urge all stakeholders to work together to find solutions grounded in the framework of the law.

In Madagascar, we are concerned by the deteriorating relationship between the presidential and parliamentary institutions, which has the potential to undermine political stability. In May, following repeated threats and months of tensions over the national reconciliation process, the National Assembly passed a motion to impeach the president, which was rejected by the High Constitutional Court. The court requested the Malagasy institutions to work towards a Pact of Responsibility to support the Government until the end of its mandate in 2018, but progress in this regard has been mired in divisions between supporters and opponents of the president. A delay in the proclamation of results from the local elections in July also led to an increase in tensions, while organized crime and large-scale banditry continue to affect major cities of the southern regions and the capital. Due to fiscal challenges, the Government still has not been able to implement a comprehensive strategy for addressing the lingering insecurity nationwide.

Excellences, in both countries, the UN is working with national authorities to provide technical and peacebuilding support. In Comoros, the UN system is assisting in the promotion of dialogue and will likely provide technical support to the 2016 elections in the promotion of political dialogue and broad participation, in response to a government request. The UN system is also supporting initiatives related to social cohesion and peace consolidation and has provided a second allocation from the Peacebuilding Fund, of \$2.5 million. In Madagascar, as provided by the SADC Roadmap, the UN has continued to provide technical assistance to the Electoral Commission and is also developing a peacebuilding priority plan. The UN also joined the AU and other partners in a joint SSR needs assessment mission last October, which led to the deployment of AU SSR support.

Excellences, in the months ahead, it will be important for all of us to monitor these situations closely. We welcome the attention SADC continues to devote to Madagascar, including during the 35<sup>th</sup> Heads of States Summit in August, and look forward to the ongoing coordination of efforts through the International Contact Group, chaired by the AU. We are also encouraged by the holding of this session of the PSC and the Commission's plan to deploy the Panel of the Wise to both Comoros and Madagascar. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that the gains made with respect to national reconciliation are consolidated and not reversed.