

AFRICAN UNION

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The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union confirms the suspension of Togo and expresses AU's support for the measures taken by ECOWAS against the de facto authorities in Togo

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, stresses the commitment of the AU to find a solution to the crisis in Togo, in particular through the efforts of President Olusegun Obasanjo, current Chairman of the AU. He reiterates the condemnation by the AU of the decision of Mr. Faure Gnassingbe to remain in power, in violation of the Togolese Constitution and in defiance of the relevant decisions of the AU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). He also reaffirms the rejection by the AU of any election organized under the conditions indicated by the authorities who came to power following the military coup d'Etat of 5 February 2005, in Togo.

The Chairperson of the Commission recalls that, in conformity with the Constitutive Act of the AU, the rules of procedures of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Lome Solemn Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government, the participation of Togo in the activities of AU is suspended until such a time when constitutional legality is restored in that country.

The Chairperson of the Commission welcomes the position of ECOWAS and the measures adopted by ECOWAS against the *de facto* authorities in Togo. In this respect, he invites AU Member States to support these measures and to extend full cooperation for their effective implementation. He appeals to the international community, in particular the United Nations, the European Union (EU), the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF) and the bilateral partners, to support the position of ECOWAS and the AU, as well as the efforts aimed at restoring constitutional legality in Togo.

The Chairperson of the Commission announces that the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU is scheduled to meet on 24 February 2005, to review the situation in Togo, support the measures and sanctions taken by ECOWAS and adopt, if necessary, other measures, including sanctions, against de facto authorities in Togo.

Addis Ababa, 20 February 2005
