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PRESS RELEASE

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE DISCUSSES IVORIAN POST-ELECTORAL CRISIS WITH KINGS AND TRADITIONAL CHIEFS

Abidjan, 24 January 2011.... The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y. J. Choi, held discussions on Monday, with a delegation of the High Council of Traditional Chiefs of Côte d'Ivoire on the electoral process, the post-electoral crisis and the results of the presidential poll.

Speaking at the end of the encounter at the headquarters of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the head of the delegation, Nanan N'Dépo Didas, said he was satisfied with the discussions which he said had given them the opportunity to better understand the ins and outs of the post-electoral crisis.

During the meeting, Mr. Choi explained, step by step, the three methods used to carry out the certification of the second round of the presidential election on 28 November 2010. He explained his role as certifier, entrusted to him by the United Nations Security Council on the request of the Ivorian parties.

The Special Representative further explained that the certification of the election was carried out after the announcement of the results by the Constitutional Council. "Contrary to what has been said, the certification was only carried out after the announcement of the final results, as was the case during the first round of the election," he added. He said that the crisis should be resolved through dialogue, while stressing that the will of the Ivorian people should first and foremost be respected.

The chiefs and traditional leaders, representing the different regions in Côte d'Ivoire, inquired about the situation with regard to the violence against the population and the UN organization. In response to these questions, the head of UNOCI explained the position of the Mission which, he said, was to accompany Ivorians and contribute to their protection. "The people understand our role and many of them encourage us to continue with it," said Mr. Choi, who recalled that the protection of the population was first and foremost the responsibility of the Ivorian military forces.

Nanan N'Dépo Didas welcomed the considerable support from the regional and international community, including UNOCI, which « has never failed Côte d'Ivoire ». "We want tranquility in our country. We are not here to judge and we are going to meet very soon to try to find a solution to this crisis," he concluded, adding that the meeting with the Special Representative was the last stage in a series of consultations

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they had undertaken with the actors involved in the electoral process and the election.

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