PRESS RELEASE


Addis Ababa, 21 December 2012: The first Financial Agreement between the Commission of the African Union (AU) and the Russian Federation was signed, today, at the African Union Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Under the Agreement, the Russian Federation will provide the AU with a grant of US$ 2,000,000 in support of AU’s mandate regarding continental peace and security efforts.

Key aspects of the Agreement include support to AU’s ongoing efforts in settlement of regional conflicts and mediation activities, countering terrorism and transnational organized crime, as well as conflict management and resolution.

The Agreement was signed on behalf of the AU Commission by Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security, and on behalf of the Russian Federation by Ambassador Valery Utkin, Representative of the Russian Federation to the AU.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Commissioner Lamamra thanked the Russian Government for the generous support to the AU’s programmes and expressed his hope for further cooperation between the AU and the Russian Government. "We acknowledge this initiative by the Russian Government that will allow us to accelerate our efforts towards supporting peace and stability within the Continent," he said.

The Commissioner and the Ambassador lauded the quality of the political dialogue and consultations between the two parties and anticipated closer relations in the year to come.

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