PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PARTIES

Addis Ababa, 12 January 2013: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, welcomes the political agreement to end the crisis, the cease-fire and the Declaration of Principles signed in Libreville, on Friday, 11 January 2013, by the Central African Republic (CAR) Government, the democratic opposition, the politico-military movements and the Seleka group, in order to put an end to the serious political and security crisis affecting the CAR since December 2012.

The Chairperson of the Commission commends all the CAR parties for their sense of compromise, and stresses the need for them to scrupulously and in good faith implement the commitments they have entered into.

The Chairperson of the Commission expresses AU’s gratitude to the leaders of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for the prompt and sustained efforts they have deployed to stabilize the situation in the CAR and ensure successful negotiations. In particular, she thanks Presidents Idriss Deby Itno of the Republic of Chad, Current Chairman of ECCAS, Ali Bongo Ondimba of the Gabonese Republic, and Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo, for their role in the resolution of the crisis in CAR.

The Chairperson of the Commission, while expressing AU’s gratitude to the United Nations for the logistical support provided to facilitate the convening of the negotiations, urges all CAR partners to extend full support to the implementation of the political agreement and cease-fire. She reiterates the AU’s readiness to provide support to the implementation and follow-up of the agreements reached by the CAR parties.