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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE ELECTION OF A NEW HEAD OF STATE FOR THE TRANSITION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Addis Ababa, 20 January 2014: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkozasana Dlamini -Zuma, welcomes the election, today, by the National Transitional Council (CNT), of Madame Catherine Samba-Panza as the new Head of State of the Transition in the Central African Republic (CAR). She hails the sense of responsibility, maturity and commitment shown by all the CAR stakeholders. She urges them to persevere in this path, and extend to the new Head of State all the necessary support so that, together, they can contribute to defusing the current political and social tension and to creating conditions that are conducive for the restoration of lasting peace and social cohesion in their country. The rapid establishment of a transitional Government should also be done with the same commitment in order to successfully conclude the current transition.

The Chairperson of the Commission notes with satisfaction that this election is part of the new momentum generated by the decisions of the Extraordinary Summit of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), held on 10 January 2014, which aimed at boosting the transition and facilitating its early completion through the holding of free, fair and transparent elections.

The Chairperson of the Commission calls on the international community to provide all necessary support for the successful completion of the transition process and the socio-economic recovery of the CAR. She reaffirms the AU's commitment, including through the African-led International Support Mission in the CAR (MISCA), to continue to support the ongoing efforts.