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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE IGAD MINISTERIAL MISSION TO SOUTH SUDAN

Addis Ababa, 19 December 2013: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, continues to closely follow the evolution of the situation in South Sudan.

The Chairperson of the Commission would like to commend Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia, in his capacity as Chair of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Chair of the Union, for his timely initiative to dispatch a ministerial delegation to Juba, comprising Ministers and high level officials from Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Somali, Sudan and Uganda, as well as the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security.

It is to be recalled that, at its 409th meeting held, yesterday, 18 December 2013, the Peace and Security Council of the AU, encouraged regional and international efforts to help diffuse the current tension and to support the South Sudanese parties to find a peaceful political settlement to the crisis.