



## PRESS RELEASE

### **AUC holds 1st Consultative and Coordination Meeting of AMISOM Police Contributing Countries**

**Addis Ababa, 20 April 2017:** As part of ongoing concerted efforts to facilitate the growth and development of African Union police and policing for Peace Support Operations (PSOs), the Commission of the African Union (AU), in partnership with the GIZ African Union Office (GIZAUO), held the First Consultative and Coordination Meeting of Police Contributing Countries (PCCs), to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), on 11 April 2017, at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The objective of the meeting was to exchange information, discuss and suggest solutions on strategic, operational and administrative matters concerning police and policing in Somalia, within the framework of institutional and human capacity building support to the Somali Police Force, the rule of law, public safety and access to justice.

Opening the meeting, the Acting Director for the Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the Commission, Dr Admore Kambudzi, on behalf of Ambassador Smail Chergui, the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, highlighted the strategic approach that the AU Commission has adopted to support AMISOM to achieve its policing objectives in Somalia. He also reiterated AMISOM's readiness to facilitate the work of humanitarian actors in delivering the much-needed assistance to alleviate the debilitating effects of drought and famine in Somalia and further appealed to all AU Member States to assist Somalia.

The meeting brought together police experts from AUC, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the United Nations Office to the African Union, European Union, and GIZAUO.

Presentations were made on the technical, logistics and financial support requirements of the Somali Police Force. AMISOM representatives provided an overview on AMISOM Police and its operational and capacity building support to the Somali Police Force. The meeting agreed on the need for all AU Member States and the wider international community to increase their support to the Federal Government of Somalia in its efforts to defeat Al Shabaab and terrorism, extend its services to citizens and its authority to all parts of the country.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> consultative and coordination meeting of AMISOM PCCs will be held in October 2017 and will be hosted by any of the AMISOM PCCs after consultations with their respective Governments.