PRESS RELEASE

THE AU-REGIONS STEERING COMMITTEE ON SALW AND DDR
CONCLUDES ITS 8TH MEETING

Addis Ababa, 1st June 2017: The African Union (AU) and Regions Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), concluded its eighth meeting held from 30 to 31 May 2017, at the AU Headquarters.

The Steering Committee brings together RECs, Regional Bodies with a SALW mandate, and implementing partners and donors to enhance information sharing, coordination, joint prioritization and action review. The 8th meeting was attended by CEN-SAD, COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, UMA, UNREC and the EU.

The meeting of the Steering Committee is reviewed progress achieved during 2016 and 2017 in the implementation of the relevant aspects of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Roadmap for the phase 2016-2020 and discussed the gaps and encountered challenges.

The meeting also discussed the implementation of the related aspects of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silencing the Guns in Africa by Year 2020, particularly as they pertain to supporting Member States’ efforts in curbing the illicit inflows of weapons into the continent, as well as their illicit trafficking and circulation, within the continent. In this regard, the meeting developed the scope, priorities and implementation modalities for the Continental Plan of Action on SALW, which will support the Roadmap’s implementation. The Continental Plan of Action is expected to be launched later in the year, following consultations to be undertaken with implementing partners.