



## PRESS RELEASE

### AFRIPOL concludes its First General Assembly held in Algiers, Algeria, 14-16 May 2017

**Algiers, Algeria, 16 May 2017:** The First General Assembly of the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) was held in Algiers, Algeria, from 14 to 16 May 2017. The General Assembly is the supreme technical and deliberative organ of AFRIPOL, with the responsibility to provide leadership and direction regarding police cooperation in Africa. It is composed of the Chiefs of Police from all AU Member States.

The opening ceremony featured statements by His Excellency Abdelmalek Sellal, Prime Minister of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria; His Excellency Mussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission; Mr. Tim Morris, Executive Director of Police Services, INTERPOL, and His Excellency Major General Abdelghani Hamel, Director General of National Security of Algeria. The statements recognized the First General Assembly of AFRIPOL as historic and called on the Chiefs of Police to seize the opportunity provided by AFRIPOL to send a clear message that there is no safe haven for criminals in Africa.

The first General Assembly, in which the Commissioner for Peace and Security, H.E. Amb. Smail Chergui took part, adopted the legal texts that govern its functioning and agreed on a 3-Year Work Plan (2017-2019).

The General Assembly also offered opportunity for Chiefs of Police and their representatives from 45 AU Member States to exchange views and share experiences in combating transnational organized crime and terrorism. The General Assembly, under its 2017-2019 Work Plan, adopted strategic outcomes to deal with the various crime areas. In this regard, the Chiefs of Police committed to enhanced cooperation, including in sharing information and intelligence, in order to defeat criminals and terrorists operating on the continent.

Furthermore, the Host Agreement on AFRIPOL Headquarters in Algiers was signed, on 14 May 2017, between the African Union Commission, represented by the Chairperson of the Commission, His Excellency Mussa Faki Mahamat, and the Government of Algeria, represented by the Minister d'Etat, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Ramtane Lamamra.