The Chairperson of the African Union Commission welcomes the UN Security Council Resolution on Western Sahara

Addis Ababa, 29 April 2017: The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, welcomed the unanimous adoption by the Members of the UN Security Council of the resolution 2351 (2017), which extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 April 2018.

The Chairperson particularly hailed the constructive spirit and the resolve that guided the deliberations of the UN Security Council to move forward the stalled peace process and to support in this respect the UN Secretary-General’s determination to relaunch the negotiating process with the aim of reaching a durable solution to the conflict, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

The Chairperson also underlined the necessity, as emphasized by the resolution, of an effective MINURSO in overseeing the cease-fire Agreement and the imperative for both parties to respect the Agreement and to fully cooperate with the Mission. In this regard, He welcomed the withdrawal of the elements of Morocco and of SADR from the Guerguerat Buffer Strip, which constitutes an important step towards easing tensions in the territory and thus creating the most needed environment for the international community and the two parties to focus efforts on the political process.

The Chairperson, within the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security signed in April 2017, reiterated his determination to work closely with the UN Secretary-General towards the resumption of the negotiations process and finding a durable solution to this conflict in compliance with the AU Decisions and UN Resolutions.