



## **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON THE AMERICAN DECISION TO RECOGNIZE JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

*Addis Ababa, 6 December 2017:* The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, notes with deep concern the decision of the United States Government, announced today, to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel. He regrets this decision, which will only increase tensions in the region and beyond and further complicate the search for a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the solidarity of the African Union with the Palestinian people and its support to their legitimate quest for an independent and sovereign State with East Jerusalem as its capital. In this context, he calls for renewed international efforts to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict, based on the existence of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security, within the framework of relevant African Union and United Nations pronouncements.