



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PRESS RELEASE

COMMISSIONER CHERGUI UNDERTAKES AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO MOSCOW

Moscow, 4 December 2018: The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Ambassador Smaïl Chergui met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov. Ambassador Chergui and Mr Lavrov discussed plans to advance cooperation between the AUC and the Russian Federation and a range of security developments in the African continent.

The two agreed on the need for continued cooperation on AU-led initiatives, including Russia's strong support to the AU's position on Central African Republic, peacekeeping efforts and the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime. On Libya, the two dignitaries agreed on the convening of a Joint AU-UN Inclusive Reconciliation Conference in Addis Ababa of all stakeholders in the Libya situation. They stressed the need to preserve and uphold the principles of multilateralism.

Ambassador Chergui and his delegation also held discussions with Mr. Mikhail Bogdanov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for the Middle East and African countries; Mr. Vershinin Vasilyevich, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, In-Charge of UN; and Mr. Ilya Rogachev, Director of the Department of New Challenges and Threats.

At the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ambassador Chergui and his delegation held consultations with Mr. Igor Zubov, State Secretary and Deputy Minister on enhancing cooperation between the AU and Russia in the areas of counter terrorism and law enforcement.

The two-day visit of Ambassador Chergui to Moscow comes within the framework on strengthening of the partnership between the AUC and the Russian Federation. It is a follow-up of the high-level visit led by the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs to the AUC last March, and in preparation for a High-Level AUC-Russia Strategic Dialogue to take place in early 2019 in Moscow.

Ambassador Chergui also had the opportunity to brief the local media on the strong and strategic partnership between the AUC and the Russia Federation in areas of mutual interests.