COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE MEETING BETWEEN THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
COMMISSION AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Beijing, 3 September 2018: The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AU), Moussa Faki Mahamat, met President Alassane Ouattara of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire this morning in Beijing, on the sidelines of the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Discussions focused on preparations for the negotiations with the European Union (EU) on the successor arrangements to the Cotonou Partnership Agreement which is due to expire in 2020. The discussions took place within the framework of AU decisions adopted by the policy organs, including during the Nouakchott July 2018 Summit which mandated the holding of a ministerial meeting to consolidate the consensus on the African Common Position. In this context, the importance of the Declaration issued by the 5th AU-EU Summit, held in Abidjan in November 2017, was recalled. This Declaration underscored the mutual interest of both parties in a paradigm shift towards an even closer and mutually-beneficial partnership. The AU High Representative in charge of this file, Carlos Lopes, took part in the discussions.

The Chairperson of the Commission and President Ouattara also addressed issues related to regional peace and stability, as well as the AU institutional reform process, in the run-up to the Extraordinary Summit scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa in November 2018. President Ouattara took the opportunity to reaffirm his support for the reform process.