PRESS RELEASE

The Second Africa Forum on Security Sector Reform
commences at the AU Headquarters

Ababa, 22 October 2018: The 2nd Africa Forum on Security Sector Reform (SSR), commenced at the African Union (AU), Headquarters under the theme: “Promoting the Continental Agenda of Security Justice and Development”.

The Forum, which will be held over the course of three days, aims to take stock of SSR developments on the African Continent and to map a way forward for the AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), and International Partners. It will offer a platform for inclusive dialogue to consider opportunities and success stories in moving forward SSR initiatives in Africa, particularly in light of the contemporary security challenges. Through panel discussions and review of experiences, the Forum will touch upon several pertinent issues including streamlining SSR in conflict prevention and political transitions, strengthening democratic oversight, development of national security strategies, gender mainstreaming, criminal justice reform, SSR in Peace Support Operations, and oversight of private security providers.

The Forum is expected to impact positively on the SSR engagement of the AU, RECs/RMs and partners, and to contribute to addressing emerging challenges and articulating approaches to address the gaps identified. The Forum will also enhance AU Member States engagements in national, regional, continental and global SSR activities, and challenge the often negative perspectives about SSR, thereby ensuring full ownership of SSR processes in Africa.

Representatives of Member States, AU organs and Peace Support Operations, RECs/RMs, the United Nations, African Centres of Excellence, civil society organizations and international donors attend today’s Forum.

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