COMMUNIQUE

THE AFRICAN UNION CALLS FOR THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KAMPALA SUMMIT DECISIONS ON THE SITUATION IN THE EAST OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Addis Ababa, 24 November 2012: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, wishes to stress the importance of the decisions on the situation in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), reached by the Extraordinary Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), held today, 24 November 2012, in Kampala. The Summit, in which the Chairperson of the Commission and the Commissioner for Peace and Security participated, outlined a 10-point plan that provides for the immediate withdrawal of the M23 elements from all the locations they recently occupied, as well as the establishment of security arrangements to monitor the situation on the ground.

The Chairperson of the Commission welcomes the commitment of the Government of the DRC to listen, evaluate and resolve any legitimate grievances of the M23. She urges the M23 immediately to take the steps expected of it, in line with the Kampala decisions.

The Chairperson of the Commission requests all concerned to fully cooperate with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and the envisaged neutral regional arrangements, to facilitate the effective implementation of their mandates. In this respect, she stresses the obligation of all concerned parties to refrain from any action that could put at risk the security and safety of MONUSCO personnel, as well as any other neutral elements.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates AU's deep concern at the worsening humanitarian situation on the ground and the abuses committed against the civilian populations. She urges that all stakeholders ensure unhindered humanitarian access and guarantee the security and safety of the staff of the humanitarian agencies and organizations, who are operating under very challenging conditions.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates AU's appreciation to the ICGLR, in particular to its current Chairman, President Yoweri K. Museveni, for its commitment to the promotion of lasting peace, security and development in the region. She calls on all the countries of the region to lend their full support to the ongoing efforts and to contribute to the early resolution of the current
crisis. She also appeals to all the AU member states to extend political and material support to the regional efforts. Furthermore, the Chairperson of the Commission calls on the United Nations to provide all the necessary support for the successful implementation of the decisions reached in Kampala.

The AU Peace and Security Council is due to meet shortly to consider the Kampala decisions and to take the necessary action in this respect.