PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION ATTENDS THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF THE NEW PRESIDENT OF BURKINA FASO

Addis Ababa, 31 December 2015: On behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui, attended the swearing-in ceremony of the new President of Burkina Faso, Roch Marc Christian Kabore, who won the 29 November 2015 presidential election.

The swearing-in of President Kabore marks the completion of the transition launched in Burkina Faso in November 2014, following the popular demonstrations that led to the resignation of President Blaise Compaoré.

Commissioner Chergui conveyed to the new President the congratulations of the Chairperson of the Commission. He also wished him success in his efforts towards the socio-economic development of Burkina Faso, as well as towards the deepening and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, in order to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Burkina Faso, whose determination made it possible to successfully complete the transition.

Commissioner Chergui reaffirmed the AU’s readiness, in close cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States, the United Nations and other international partners, to continue to accompany Burkina Faso in its efforts to deepen and consolidate democracy and to improve the socio-economic conditions of its people. He, once again, paid tribute to the transitional authorities, in particular President Michel Kafando, Prime Minister Yakouba Isaac Zida and to the President of the Transitional National Council, Chérif Sy, for the commitment they have shown in the discharge of their respective responsibilities.

It should be recalled that the AU, both through the Peace and Security Council and the Commission, actively supported the transition in Burkina Faso. The AU contributed to the mobilization of international support, including through the establishment of the International Support Group for the Transition in Burkina Faso (GISAT-BF), and assisted the Burkinabe stakeholders to reverse the coup d’état of 17 September 2015.