PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOME THE SCHEDULING OF THE DATE OF THE ELECTIONS IN MADAGASCAR

Addis Ababa, 22 August 2013: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, welcomes the decision taken today by the Malagasy Independent National Electoral Commission of the Transition (CENI-T), in consultation with the United Nations, to schedule the first round of the presidential election for 25 October 2013, and the holding of a possible second round, coupled with legislative elections, on 20 December 2013. The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the obligation and responsibility of all Malagasy stakeholders to strengthen the positive momentum arising from the decisions made in recent days by the Special Electoral Court (CES), in order to further enhance the prospects for the resolution of the crisis facing Madagascar.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the commitment of the AU, in conjunction with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to support the efforts of the Malagasy stakeholders. She urges Madagascar’s international partners to support both the organization of the elections in the required conditions of transparency, fairness and credibility, and the socio-economic recovery of the country. In this regard, the AU Commission intends to convene the 8th meeting of the International Contact Group on Madagascar (ICG-M) and to mobilize substantial and effective support by the international community to the process aimed at completing the restoration of constitutional order.