



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE RESUMPTION OF THE INTER-BURUNDIAN DIALOGUE AND REITERATES ITS CALL TO THE PARTIES TO EXTEND FULL COOPERATION TO THE MEDIATION**

**Addis Ababa, 29 December 2015:** The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, welcomes the holding, yesterday in Entebbe, Uganda, of the ceremony marking the resumption of the inter-Burundian dialogue. She reiterates the AU's appreciation to President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda for the sustained efforts he has made to this end and for his commitment to do everything in his power to ensure the successful completion of the process for the search for a peaceful solution to the serious crisis facing Burundi. She congratulates the Burundian parties for having responded positively to the invitation of the Mediation, and emphasizes once again the AU's conviction that only an inclusive dialogue, based on the scrupulous respect of the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation and the Constitution of Burundi, will make it possible to find a lasting solution to the current situation.

The Chairperson of the Commission expresses the AU's full support to the continuation of the dialogue, in Arusha, Tanzania. She urges all the parties to rise to the challenges at hand and to extend unreserved cooperation to the Mediation, in order to put an end to the violence which is afflicting their country and find a lasting solution to the current crisis. In this regard, the Chairperson of the Commission recalls that, in its communiqué of 17 December 2015, the Peace and Security Council of the AU decided that all those whose action could jeopardize the inter-Burundian dialogue, including attacks by armed groups against governmental facilities and other targets, as well as refusal to respond to the invitation of the Mediator, shall be subjected to sanctions as provided for in the relevant decisions of Council and other measures to be agreed upon.

The Chairperson of the Commission avails herself of this opportunity to reiterate the AU's readiness to engage, without any delay, discussions with the Government of Burundi, to agree on the modalities for the deployment of the African Prevention and Protection Mission in Burundi (MAPROBU), as decided by the Peace and Security Council at its 565<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 17 December 2015. She stresses that the rapid deployment of MAPROBU will go a long way in contributing to the creation of conditions conducive to the successful completion of the inter-Burundian dialogue. She welcomes the fact that the members of the United Nations Security Council, in their press statement of 19 December 2015 on the situation in Burundi, took note with interest of the decision to authorize the deployment of MAPROBU and urged all Burundian stakeholders to fully cooperate with the Mission in support of the effective implementation of its mandate.