PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION LOOKS FORWARD TO THE SUCCESSFUL HOLDING OF THE 1ST ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Addis Ababa, 30 December 2015: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, looks forward to the holding of the 1st round of the presidential and legislative elections, scheduled today 30 December 2015, in the Central African Republic (CAR), in the required conditions of security, freedom, transparency and fairness. These elections will mark the end of the transition launched in the CAR.

The Chairperson of the Commission urges the people of CAR, as they had demonstrated during the registration on the voters’ list and the constitutional referendum which took place on 13 and 14 December 2015, to seize the opportunity of the 1st round of the presidential and legislative elections to, once again, display their determination to open a new chapter in their country’s troubled history. She calls on all the CAR political stakeholders to do all they can to ensure the success of the electoral process and to lay the foundation for the restoration of lasting peace, security and reconciliation. She reiterates the AU’s appreciation to the transitional authorities, including Madame Catherine Samba-Panza, Head of State of the Transition, for the remarkable efforts they exerted towards the successful conclusion of the transition in their country.

The Chairperson of the Commission renews the AU’s support to the CAR in this critical stage of the transition. In this respect, the Commission has deployed a team of observers led by former Prime Minister of Senegal Souleymane Ndéné Ndiaye, while at the same time making a financial contribution to the funding of the elections. In addition, and at the request of the CAR authorities, the contingent of the Regional Task Force (RTF) of the AU-led Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord’s Resistance Army (RCI-LRA), is providing, within its area of deployment and capacity, logistical and security support for the organization of the election, in collaboration with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA).

The Chairperson of the Commission seizes this opportunity to express the AU’s gratitude to the leaders of the region and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the United Nations, including through MINUSCA, as well as to the larger international community, for the invaluable support extended to the CAR towards the conclusion of the transition. She notes with satisfaction the important role played on the ground by the Coordinating Group for the Preparation and Monitoring of the Meetings of the ICG-CAR (G8-CAR) chaired by her Special Representative and Head of the African Mission for the CAR and Central Africa (MISAC), General Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko.