



STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON THE SITUATION IN SUDAN

Addis Ababa, 11 April 2019: The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, is closely monitoring the ongoing developments in Sudan, in particular the announcement of the First Vice President and Minister of Defence, Lt General Awad Ibn Auf, on the suspension of the Constitution, the dissolution of the National Assembly, the formation of a military led transitional government which will rule for two years, and the arrest of President Omar Al Bashir as well as the imposition of a state of emergency for three months.

The Chairperson expresses the African Union conviction that the military takeover is not the appropriate response to the challenges facing Sudan and the aspirations of its people.

The Chairperson recalls the 2000 Lomé Declaration on the unconstitutional change of Government and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance, which strongly condemn any unconstitutional change of Government and commit member states to the respect of the rule of law, democratic principles and human rights. In view of the ongoing developments, the Chairperson reiterates these provisions, and looks forward to the Peace and Security Council meeting swiftly to consider the situation and take the appropriate decisions.

In the meantime, the Chairperson urges all concerned to exercise calm and utmost restraint and to respect the rights of citizens, foreign nationals and private property in the interest of the country and its people.

The Chairperson further appeals to all stakeholders to engage in an inclusive dialogue to create the conditions that will make it possible to meet the aspirations of the Sudanese people to democracy, good governance and wellbeing and restore constitutional order as soon as possible.

The Chairperson expresses the African Union solidarity with the people of Sudan, and pledges its commitment and readiness to support Sudan during this period, in line with its relevant instruments and principles.