PRESS RELEASE

THE MILITARY OPERATIONS COORDINATION COMMITTEE (MOCC) HOLD ITS 20th MEETING IN DJIBOUTI

COMMISSIONER CHERGUI AWARDED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

Addis Ababa, 17 September 2016: The Military Operations Coordination Committee (MOCC) for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) held its 20th meeting on 15 September 2016 in Djibouti.

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Smail Chergui, the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, and attended by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Somalia (SRCC) and Chiefs of Defence Forces (CDFs) and their representatives of the Republic of Djibouti, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Uganda, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Burundi, and the Republic of Kenya. Representatives from the United Nations Support Office for Somalia (UNSOS), the European Union, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation also participated in the meeting.

The discussions of the 20th MOCC centred around four key issues namely, (i) review of the preparations for the security support to the upcoming electoral process in Somalia, (ii) plans for joint and coordinated offensive operations involving AMISOM and Somali National Security Forces (SNSF) to defeat Al Shabaab terrorists, (iii) Reorganization and training of the Somali National Army (SNA), and, (iv) Payment of Troop Allowances for AMISOM Forces and Police.

On elections security operations and logistics, the MOCC requested AMISOM and Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to ensure effective deployment to cover all electoral areas. The MOCC urged AMISOM and UNSOS to put in place the required communications infrastructure and a robust communication strategy to support the elections security operations and to bring the generality of the Somalis on board in supporting the elections. UNSOS was also requested to extend logistics support to all identified SNSF for elections security operations.

On offensive operations against Al Shabaab, the CDFs expressed their full commitment and support, including the full commitment and support of their contingent commanders to the realization of the operations. The MOCC also requested UNSOS to provide the required logistics support, including food, fuel, medical evacuation and airlift and other partners to provide additional logistics support and Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) capabilities.

The MOCC commended AMISOM and the SNSF for conducting a successful security operation, which resulted in an incident-free and highly successful IGAD Summit, held in Mogadishu on
At the end of the meeting of the MOCC, the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui, and the Chiefs of Defense Staff of the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), paid a courtesy call to President Ismail Omar Guelleh of the Republic of Djibouti, to brief him about the outcomes of the MOCC as well as peace and security in Africa. In appreciation of the sterling work that Ambassador Smail Chergui is doing to promote lasting peace and security in Africa, in particular to the Horn of Africa, President Ismail Omar Guelleh awarded and conferred him with the Grand Commander of the Star of June 27, which is the highest honour of the Republic of Djibouti.