PRESS RELEASE

AFRICAN UNION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEDIATORS AND PEACEMAKERS ASSESS PROGRESS IN AFRICA OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS AND THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Cairo, 4 November 2012: The Commission of the African Union (AU) is convening its Annual High-Level Retreat of Mediators and other Peacemakers in Cairo, Egypt, from 5 to 6 November 2012. This year’s theme is “Transforming the African Peace and Security Landscape in the Next Decade: Appraisal and Opportunities”.

Launched in September 2010, as part of the 2010 Year of Peace and Security in Africa, the Retreat is the largest gathering of Mediators and other Peacemakers working on African issues. It will bring together the Chairperson of the Commission, the AU Commissioners for Peace and Security and Political Affairs, Senior Officials and Mediators from the Regional Economic Communities, the European Union, the League of Arab States, La Francophonie and the United Nations, special guests from Member States and bilateral partners, as well as academics, experts and civil society representatives. The objective is to exchange views on current developments and emerging challenges and threats to peace and security in the continent, and to foster coordination and harmonization of initiatives in promoting lasting peace on the continent.

This year’s Retreat coincides with the 10th anniversary of the AU. As such, it offers an opportunity to review the achievements made in the area of peace and security during the first decade of AU’s existence, and to reflect upon emerging challenges. In this context, the Retreat will enable the AU and its partners to agree on the steps to be taken to hasten the transformation of the continent peace and security landscape towards the objective of a conflict-free Africa.

The Chairperson of the Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, will preside over the opening session in the presence of the Commissioners for Peace and Security and Political Affairs, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, the representative of The Gambia, as Chair of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) for the month of November 2012, and other African and international dignitaries.

Follow the live broadcast of the opening session on the AU Peace and Security website www.peaceau.org at 09:00 – 10:00 UTC/GMT +2hrs on Monday, 5 November 2012.

For further information on the Retreat and Interview requests, please contact Marsden Momanyi, Mobile: +201-1274 188 661, email: momanyim@africa-union.org.