PRESS RELEASE

African Union Envoys and Mediators assess progress and challenges over the last 10 years and chart the way forward in Cairo

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

It should be recalled that three years ago, in 2010, the AU established the High-Level Retreat of Envoys and Mediators, to enable AU peacemakers and strategic partners to focus on emerging challenges and threats to peace in the continent, assess coping mechanisms and develop the requisite strategies, in a concerted and holistic manner.

This year’s Retreat coincides with the 10th anniversary of the AU, and offers an opportunity for the organisation to review the achievements made in the area of peace and security during the first decade of its existence, and to reflect upon emerging challenges. The Retreat will also afford the AU and its strategic partners the opportunity to consider ways to transform the African peace and security landscape towards the objective of a conflict-free Africa.

The Chairperson of the AU Commission Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma will preside over the opening session in the presence of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Nabil El Arabi and the Chair of the AU Peace and Security Council for the Month of November, Sajo Jallo. Others who will be present during the opening include the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security.

Catch 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.