MEDIA ADVISORY:

The 10th African Union (AU) High Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa

Representatives of the media in Djibouti city, Djibouti, are invited to cover the opening and closing ceremonies of the 10th African Union (AU) High Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa, to be held in Djibouti City, Djibouti.

What: The 10th African Union (AU) High Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa will be held on the theme, “Security Sector Reform and Governance in Africa: Evolving Principles and Practices from Prevention, Peacemaking and Peacebuilding Interventions.” The retreat aims to review the AU’s existing Security Sector Reform/Governance instruments and partnerships, and their effectiveness in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts. It will also seek to address the challenges of incorporating security sector reform/governance (SSR/G) dimensions into conflict prevention, mediation and the effective implementation of peace agreements.

The AU High-Level Retreat will discuss the critical need to ensure the transformation of African defense and security forces into more professional national security institutions subject to civilian oversight, in order to prevent relapse into conflicts and to sustain stabilization and peace-building efforts.

The 2013 AU Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform (AU PF SSR) acknowledges that although the vast majority of security sector reform (SSR) processes have taken place in Africa, these have been mostly informed by externally driven considerations, which are sometimes in discord with African realities and sources of insecurity. As a response, the Policy Framework establishes principles that promote national and regional ownership of SSR initiatives. This platform will also seek to address issues such as limited political will from AU Member States and coordination gaps among international partners.

When: 09:00 am EAT, 29 October 2019 – opening ceremony;
05:30 pm EAT, 30 October 2019 – closing ceremony;

Where: Kempinski Hotel, Djibouti City, Djibouti;

Who: The Retreat which will be attended by H.E. Prime Minister Abdoulkader Kamil Mohamed of Djibouti and H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, AU Commission Chairperson, will bring together over 100 dignitaries and peace-makers, from the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), the United Nations system, Members of the AU Panel of the Wise, Members of the AU Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa),
renowned academics, experts and AU partners.

**Why:** Ensuring effective security sector reform and good governance remain key challenges at a time when Africa is increasingly witnessing political transitions following calls for more inclusive democratic spaces. The 10th AU High-Level Retreat will aim to:

i. Reflect on the current challenges to global and continental context of peace and security; with reference to transnational threats and SSR/G contributions to address them.

ii. Engage in constructive self-assessment of international and continental conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding efforts in Africa, with specific focus on the role of SSR/G in this regard.

iii. Take note of emerging AU policy and implementation approaches on peacemaking in Africa, in order to devise appropriate strategies for adequate follow up on SSR/G processes by Member States.

iv. Provide an opportunity to reflect on how to take the operationalization of the 2013 AU Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform forward and other field experiences.

v. Discuss SSR coordination issues and other political/technical challenges related to the implementation of nationally-led SSR processes and promotion of national ownership.

vi. And debate on the specific role of AU special envoys and other high representatives to advance SSR/G effectiveness in their field missions.

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