Addis Ababa, 10 August 2018: The high-level sensitization and training workshop on the National Security Sector Reform (SSR) process in Madagascar was held from 16 to 18 July 2018, at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The Malagasy delegation was led by Honourable Rivo Rakotovao, President of the Malagasy Senate, and General Béni Xavier Rasolofonirina, the Minister of the National Defence. The delegation comprised senior officials from the Senate, the National
Assembly, the Ministry of National Defence, the Permanent Secretariat of National Defence and Security (SPDSN) in the High Council of National Defence (HCDN), as well as representatives of the former SSR National Coordination Committee. The Malagasy high-level delegation was accompanied by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission in Madagascar, Mrs Hawa Ahmed Youssouf.

The workshop was supported by experts and resource persons drawn from the United Nations Office to the AU, African Security Sector Network (ASSN), International Security Sector Advisory Team of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF/ ISSAT), as well as those from Burundi and Cote d’Ivoire.

The workshop provided a platform to assess the progress made in the national SSR process, launched in 2014, and deliberated on measures required to overcome the challenges and maintain momentum. The workshop also provided an opportunity to sensitize officials on the AU SSR Policy Framework and international principles guiding security sector reform and governance, as well as shared with them experiences and lessons learned from SSR and defence review processes in other African countries.

It was noted that, in spite of political and operational challenges, the Republic of Madagascar is making considerable effort in implementing SSR initiatives in line with the national SSR Policy Paper and the principles enshrined in the AU Policy Framework on SSR. The participants discussed the need to enhance co-ordination and fundraising mechanisms for effective and inclusive implementation of the national policy and other related national strategies in order to sustain peace, security and stability, as prerequisites for development and human security. The workshop concluded with agreement on short, medium and long term actions to consolidate national effort and strengthen collaboration with the AU and other national stakeholders and international partners.

The AU’s assistance to Madagascar in the area of SSR over the past years falls within its wider efforts to strengthen and consolidate peace, security, stability and national reconciliation in the country.