The AU Convenes the 3rd Joint Committee Meeting of the Ethiopian Peace Process

Addis Ababa, 1 December 2023: The African Union (AU) today convened the 3rd Joint Committee Meeting of the Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mechanism (MVCM) of the Ethiopian peace process to reflect on progress, challenges, and opportunities in the implementation of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA), signed on 02 November 2022.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), and the AU High-Level Panel. Present at the meeting were the three panel members, namely H.E Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa, and member of the AU High-Level Panel; H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of the Republic of Kenya, member of the AU High-Level Panel; and H.E Madam Dr Pumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and member of the AU High-Level Panel and the Panel of the Wise; and the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, H.E Ambassador Bankole Adeoye.

The Joint Committee concluded with both parties reaffirming their commitment to the full implementation of the Agreement, the need to expedite the DDR and the resettlement of IDPs, the imperative to launch political dialogue to address outstanding issues from the Permanent COHA and agreed to convene a strategic reflection session involving the AU High-Level Panel in Ethiopia at the earliest possible time but not later than two months. The meeting proposed the extension of the mandate of the MVCM from 1 January to 31 December 2024.

The Joint Committee welcomed the AU announcement of the approval by the AUC Chairperson of the sum of one million United States Dollars ($1,000,000) from the Crisis Reserve Facility of the AU Peace Fund as a direct contribution towards the implementation of the DDR program under the Permanent COHA.

The AU expressed its appreciation to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) for their commitment to the spirit of African Solutions to African problems. The AU further expressed its gratitude to the Governments of the Republic of Kenya, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Republic of South Africa for their continued support of the AU-led process.

The AU Commission reiterated its continued commitment to accompany the Government and the people of Ethiopia in their quest for lasting peace. In this regard, it appreciates the bilateral and multi-lateral partners, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Kingdom of Norway, the United Kingdom, the Republic of
Ireland, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Japan for their continued support.

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