PRESS RELEASE

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION MEETS WITH THE AU SPECIAL ENVOYS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Cairo, 4 November 2012: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, met today with all AU Special Envoys and Representatives working on peace and security issues across the continent.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review developments on the ground. The discussions focused on the situations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Great Lakes region, Somalia, Guinea Bissau and Western Sahara, as well as on the relations between Sudan and South Sudan, the efforts towards the elimination of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and the overall fight against terrorism.

The Chairperson of the Commission seized the occasion of the meeting to reiterate the need for renewed efforts to address, in a pragmatic and action-oriented manner, the crisis situations on the continent, as well as the challenges of post-conflict reconstruction and peace building, emphasizing in this respect the need to mobilize additional resources from within the continent. She also highlighted the critical importance of ensuring a close working relationship and coordination with the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, in the context of the African Peace and Security Architecture, as provided for in the Peace and Security Council Protocol, as well as with the United Nations, including the Security Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Chairperson further emphasized the need for effective communication and outreach to increase awareness of the efforts made by the AU and the challenges it faces.

The participants noted the progress achieved in the implementation of the AU peace and security agenda. At the same time, they stressed the need for increased efforts towards the strengthening of the actions aiming at the prevention of crises and conflicts, including addressing their root causes. They highlighted the potential of the African Solidarity Initiative in the context of the efforts towards post-conflict reconstruction and development.

This meeting took place on the eve of the AU Cairo Retreat of Mediators and Peacemakers, which will be held from 5 to 6 November 2012.