Press Release: AU Special Representative has called on the Somali Diaspora in the UK to contribute towards their country’s reconstruction process

London – May 9th, 2013; The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Mahamat Saleh Annadif has asked members of the Somali community living in the United Kingdom to further contribute to the reconstruction of their country.

Ambassador Annadif while opening the two day meeting organized by AMISOM with the Somali Diaspora in London said there are lot of positive things taking place in the country that require increased contribution from Somalis living in the Diaspora. “This meeting is intended to find possible areas in which those living in the Diaspora can contribute to the improving political and security situation in Somalia. There are positive things taking place back home and your contribution is needed. We are therefore expecting a lot from you.” He said.

The AU Special Representative said he was hopeful that the two day event will also enhance appreciation by Somalis in the Diaspora of the mandate and activities of AMISOM in support of the peace process.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Jessica Phillips from the UK Foreign Office reaffirmed Her Majesty’s Government’s continued commitment to peace and stability in Somalia citing the hosting of the just ended conference on Somalia as an example. She said the UK has been supporting peace efforts in Somalia by providing material and financial support to both AMISOM and the Federal Government of Somalia. “The past four days have been very exciting. The President of the Federal Government of Somalia, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohammed co-chaired the Somali Conference here in London with Prime Minister David Cameron in which fifty to sixty countries and organizations attended.” She said.

Speaking on behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia, Mr. Ali Amer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs commended the role played by AMISOM in helping to bring peace to the country noting that the current period of relative of peace being enjoyed in the country is a
product of joint efforts by the Somali National Forces and AMISOM with support from international partners.

The meeting which ends tomorrow has brought together participants from Somalis in the Diaspora including their community leaders, professionals, academics, women and youth groups.

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