PRESS RELEASE

THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE AFRICAN UNION FOR LIBYA CONCLUDES HIS FIRST VISIT TO LIBYA

The AU encouraged by the commitment of the Libyans stakeholders to successfully complete the on-going transition

Addis Ababa, 12 July 2014: The Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU) for Libya, Mr. Dileita Mohamed Dileita, concluded, on Friday, 11 July 2014, his first visit to this country since his appointment, on 11 June 2014.

The Special Envoy, who arrived in Tripoli on 10 July 2014, had discussions with the Libyan Prime Minister, Mr. Abdallah Al-Thenni; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mohammed Abdelaziz; the Chairman of the High National Electoral Committee, Mr. Imed Sayeh; and the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for National Dialogue, Mr. Fadeel Amine. Mr. Dileita also had discussions with representatives of political parties and community leaders, as well as with other stakeholders. Finally, he met with the Special Envoy of the League of Arab States, Mr. Naceur Al-Kodwa.

During his discussions, Mr. Dileita stressed the importance that the AU attaches to the successful completion of the on-going transition in Libya and reiterated the continent’s support to the efforts being exerted to this end. He encouraged the various stakeholders to place the interest of their country above any other consideration and to spare no efforts to overcome the challenges at hand, so as to consolidate the progress already made, including the recent holding of the parliamentary elections. Both the Libyan authorities and the other actors encountered expressed their commitment to bring the current transition to a successful end, in fulfillment of the aspirations of their people to democracy, good governance and socio-economic well-being. They expressed appreciation for the AU’s efforts, in particular through its Special Envoy and its Liaison Office in Tripoli. During their interaction, the Special Envoys of the AU and the League of Arab States agreed to closely work together and to coordinate their efforts, within the framework of the partnership between the two organizations in the area of peace and security.

After Tripoli, the Special Envoy will visit Tunisia, as well as the other neighboring countries (Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, Niger and Chad) for exchange of views with relevant officials on the situation in Libya and ways and means for an enhanced Africa’s support to the Libyan
transition. During his visit in Tunisia, he will also, alongside the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui, attend the inaugural meeting of the Ministerial Group on Libya, scheduled to take place in Hammamet, on 13 and 14 July 2014. The decision to establish this Group was reached during a meeting held in the margins of the AU Malabo Summit, at the end of June 2014, and which was attended by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Libya and the neighboring countries, as well as by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security. The Malabo Summit welcomed the establishment of the Group.

It should be recalled that the appointment of Mr. Dileita as Special Envoy for Libya is a follow-up to the press statement adopted by the 436th meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), held on 23 May 2014. In this statement, the PSC expressed deep concern at the prevailing situation in Libya and at its serious consequences for the country and its people, as well as for the entire region and the rest of the continent. Consequently, the PSC encouraged the Chairperson of the Commission to urgently appoint a Special Envoy who would undertake consultations with the Libyan authorities and other stakeholders, as well as with the countries of the region, for the purpose of submitting a comprehensive report on the situation, including concrete recommendations on ways and means of an enhanced AU’s support to the stabilization process in Libya and to the early conclusion of the on-going transition.