Communiqué on the Visit of the Chairperson of the Commission to Egypt

Addis Ababa, 19 March 2019: The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, undertook a visit to Egypt from 16 to 17 March 2019. The purpose of the visit was to meet with President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Union, to discuss key issues pertaining to the agenda of the African Union. The Chairperson also seized the opportunity to attend the Arab and Africa Youth Platform that took place in Aswan on 16 and 17 March 2019.

During their meeting in Aswan, on 17 March 2019, the Chairperson of the Union and the Chairperson of the Commission had a thorough exchange of views on a number of issues, particularly the implementation of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063, infrastructure development, youth empowerment, peace and security, including Libya and the Western Sahara conflict, as well as the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. On all these issues, they agreed on the steps to be taken to move the African Union agenda forward. President Al Sisi reaffirmed his full support to the efforts of the Commission in the pursuit of its mandate.

On Western Sahara, the Chairperson of the Union and the Chairperson of the Commission agreed on the urgent need to operationalise the African Mechanism established by the Nouakchott Summit in July 2018. To this end, steps will be taken for convening of the inaugural meeting of the Mechanism at the earliest opportunity. The Chairperson of the Union and the Chairperson of the Commission call on the parties to the conflict and all other Member States to extend their full cooperation to the Mechanism in the discharge of its mandate and the implementation of the Nouakchott decision of July 2018 which established it.

In his address to the Arab and Africa Youth Platform, the Chairperson of the Commission highlighted the common challenges facing the African and Arab youths, and reiterated the commitment of the African Union to youth empowerment. He appealed to the youths to play actively their role in the promotion of peace and security, including combatting extremism and terrorism, and the development of the continent.