PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE DECISION OF THE SPECIAL ELECTORAL COURT OF MADAGASCAR REGARDING THE LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Addis Ababa, 17 August 2013: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, continues to follow closely the situation in Madagascar. In this regard, she welcomes the decision taken this Saturday, 17 August 2013, by the new Special Electoral Court (CES) regarding the list of candidates for the presidential election that would mark the conclusion of the crisis exit process and the restoration of constitutional order. The removal from the list, by CES, of the personalities whose candidacies do not meet the conditions laid down by the Malagasy Constitution and electoral law or contravene the relevant decisions of the AU and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as supported by the International Contact Group on Madagascar (ICG-M), is an important step towards the creation of the required conditions for the organization, with the support of the international community, of a free, transparent and credible presidential election.

The Chairperson of the Commission expresses the AU’s gratitude to the President of the Transition, Andry Rajoelina, for the crucial role he played in initiating the measures required to re-launch the electoral process on the basis of parameters consistent with the relevant Malagasy texts and the demands of Madagascar’s partners, as well as for the full cooperation he extended to the AU and SADC in their efforts. She praises the high sense of responsibility and patriotism of the President of the Transition.

The Chairperson of the Commission hopes that the personalities whose candidacies have been eliminated will accept the decision of the CES. The Malagasy people, who have suffered so much throughout all these years of crisis, and Madagascar’s partners look forward to the invaluable contribution of all the Malagasy stakeholders towards creating favorable conditions for the early holding of the presidential election, thus placing the higher interest of their country above any other consideration. The Chairperson of the Commission urges the personalities concerned to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the current
legislation to nominate new candidates to represent their respective political camps, so that political pluralism is ensured for the free choice of the Malagasy people.

It should be recalled that, as part of the follow-up to the Conclusions of the ICG-M meeting of 26 June 2013, a delegation led by the Chairperson of the Group, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ramtane Lamamra, and the SADC Mediator in the Malagasy crisis, former President Joachim Chissano of Mozambique, and comprising the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Dr. Aisha Abdullahi, as well as representatives of the international community, visited Antananarivo from 9 to 13 July 2013. Former President Chissano and Commissioner Lamamra visited Madagascar again on 1 and 2 August 2013, to engage the Malagasy parties on the legal and practical measures to be taken for the conduct of elections in accordance with the Roadmap for a way out of the crisis and the Malagasy Electoral Code.