PRESS RELEASE

AU Peace and Security Commissioner meets Danish Minister for Development Cooperation

Addis Ababa, 21 December 2012- The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, received, on Thursday, 20 December 2012, a Danish delegation headed by the Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark, Mr. Christian Friis Bach, in his Office at the AU Headquarters.

The two parties discussed the longstanding partnership between the African Union and Denmark, including the Danish support to African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and other activities within the area of peace and security.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Bach lauded the important contribution of AMISOM in helping Somalia to achieve long lasting peace and stability. He reiterated that his Government remains committed to develop its cooperation with Somalia in the areas of social progress. On his part, Commissioner Lamamra emphasized the need to contribute to a more stable Somalia by focusing on the continuous development of public institutions, local and regional administrations as well as on the empowerment of the Somali Defense and Security Sector.

Mr. Bach further briefed the Commissioner on his recent visit to Juba, South Sudan. The two discussed the complex challenges facing the two neighboring countries and the ongoing efforts by the AU High-Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP),in assisting the Parties to promote cooperative and mutually supportive relations. Furthermore, the Commissioner and the Minister exchanged views on the current situation in Mali and discussed how to encourage inclusive and good governance, capable of carrying out the full restoration of State authority throughout the national territory. Both expressed their determination and commitment to support Mali and the Sahel region in overcoming the challenges they face.

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