PRESS RELEASE:

The African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security receives the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 11th July 2019: Amb. Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the AU Commission, received today H.E. Dr. Kang Kyung-wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, at the Julius Nyerere Building in the African Union Headquarters, to deepen the strategic partnership between the African Union (AU) Commission and the Republic of Korea (RoK) in the areas of peace and security.

Both sides exchanged views on ways to strengthen collaboration between the AU and the RoK and discussed key projects for conflict prevention, institutional capacity building and post-conflict stabilization initiatives.

The two high officials signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance consultations and exchange of information on peace and security activities and projects through the contribution of Korea to the AU.

Both officials reaffirmed the African Union’s and Korea’s unwavering commitment to advance women’s participation in peace-building in Africa.

In this context, the Commissioner briefed the Korean Delegation on ongoing AUC-led initiatives such as Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa), which continues to deploy high-profile African women to address conflict situations on the continent, and has offered mediation training to over 150 young women in Africa. He also mentioned the AU Youth for Peace Network which has conducted sub-regional consultations with youth organizations and is currently carrying out a study on youth contributions to peace-building in Africa.
Amb. Smail Chergui gave a brief on the activities undertaken by the Commission with regard to post conflict stabilization strategy in the Lake Chad Basin, as well as peacemaking endeavours in Somalia, South Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR) and the Sahel. He further highlighted the issue of climate change and its impact on peace and stability efforts in Africa.

The AU Commissioner expressed appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its continuous support to peace and security activities in the continent, in particular the deployment of a level 2 hospital in Mali which is now functional, noting that the facility will provide medical services to the Malian Defense Forces and to the civilian populations in the region.

During the meeting, Dr. Kang Kyung-wha said that her visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties between the AU and Korea. She also commended the opening of the hospital in Mali. She emphasized the importance of identifying similar concrete projects and ways to collaborate and to move the joint partnership forward.

Finally, Minister Kang briefed Amb. Smail Chergui on Seoul's goals of achieving peace on the Korean Peninsula and North Korea's denuclearization and the latest development. In this regard, Commissioner Chergui welcomed and expressed the AU’s strong support to the positive developments in the peninsula. He particularly commended the leadership and the wisdom of the President of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae-in, for making this rapprochement happen. He finally reiterated the AU’s long standing commitment to a nuclear weapon-free world.

Both sides agreed to have regular policy consultations on peace and security to move forward the Memorandum of Understanding. The 1st meeting will take place in Seoul during the 4th quarter of 2019.

For further information, please contact:

Paschal Chem-Langhee, Peace and Security Department, E-mail: Chem-LangheeP@africa-union.org

Gamal Ahmed A. Karrar, Directorate of Information and Communication; E-mail: GamalK@africa-union.org

SITUATION ROOM, Peace and Security Department, E-mail: SituationRoom@africa-union.org;

Tel: 251-11-5517700 ext 3012
Tel. Direct: 251-11- 5515143/5516329