PRESS RELEASE

AU Peace and Security Commissioner meets UK Minister for Africa

Addis Ababa, 25 January 2013- The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, received, today, the UK delegation headed by the Minister for Africa, Mr. Mark Simmonds.

The Commissioner and the Minister discussed the situation in Mali and the importance of limiting civilian casualties, expediting the deployment of regional forces, and the importance of coordinating international efforts effectively for lasting peace in Mali in support of the Malian efforts.

Ambassador Lamamra stressed the need for an inclusive political settlement that would bring on board all the Malian stakeholders. “It should be the Malians who should own the peace process. By including the civil society, who can play a critical role in mediation and conflict resolution, thorough negotiation within the Malians would be ensured”, he said.

The two sides further discussed the importance of training the Malian troops on human rights issues.

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