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## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **THE CHAIRPERSON CONDEMNS THE RECENT BLOODY ATTACK IN**

#### **CIBITOKÉ PROVINCE, BURUNDI**

**Addis Ababa, 15 May 2018:** The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, notes with serious concern the attack that took place on 11 May 2018 in Cibitoke Province, Burundi, which led to high loss of life and injuries.

The Chairperson condemns in the strongest terms this cowardly attack perpetrated against innocent and unarmed civilians, including women and children, and calls on the authorities of the Republic of Burundi to spare no efforts in identifying and bringing the perpetrators of this inhumane act to justice.

The Chairperson of the Commission calls on all national stakeholders to embrace the spirit of national unity and refrain from any acts that are likely to undermine efforts to resolve the current crisis in a peaceful manner.

He wishes to underscore the centrality of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement of August 2000 as the blueprint for a peaceful resolution of the political impasse in the country. He calls on all political actors to work together to restore peace, security and democracy in Burundi through inclusive and consensual dialogue. He stresses the need for respect of the fundamental rights of all citizens, as spelt out in the Constitution, in order to create a conducive environment for a Peaceful Political Settlement.

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