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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE HISTORIC AGREEMENT REACHED ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

***The Agreement represents a triumph of multilateral diplomacy and a vindication of
the principle of negotiated resolution of international disputes***

Addis Ababa, 15 July 2015: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, welcomes the Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the 'P5+1', comprising the Permanent Members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) and Germany, as well as the European Union (EU), on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) regarding Iran's nuclear programme, reached in Vienna, Austria, yesterday 14 July 2015.

The Chairperson of the Commission pays tribute to all those who participated in the negotiations for the leadership and wisdom they have demonstrated. In particular, she commends Presidents Barack Obama of the United States and Hassan Rouhani of Iran, for their statesmanship and commitment. She encourages all concerned to demonstrate an equal determination in the implementation phase.

Yesterday's Agreement represents a triumph for multilateral diplomacy and a vindication of the principle of peaceful and negotiated resolution of international disputes. It clearly will be a major contribution in making the world a safer place for present and future generations. Africa continues to suffer the effects of political strife and armed conflict across the Middle East, and unreservedly supports all efforts towards the peaceful resolution of these disputes and the resumption of regional cooperation. The continent therefore welcomes steps towards the normalization of Iran's diplomatic, political and economic relations with the rest of the world.

The Chairperson of the Commission recalls Africa's longstanding and well known commitment to a nuclear weapon-free world and to the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. Fifty-four African states have acceded to the 1970 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. An equal number of African States have signed the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty), which came into force in 2009.

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2015-07-15

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