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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE SIGNING BY NIGER OF THE AU CONVENTION ON CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION**

**Addis Ababa, 3 December 2014:** The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, welcomes the signing, by the Permanent Representative of Niger to the AU, of the AU Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention), on 1 December 2014. The Republic of Niger is the first Member State to sign the Convention.

The Chairperson commends Niger for taking this step and for the arrangements being made for the early ratification of the Niamey Convention. She reiterates her appeal to all AU Member States to speedily take the necessary steps to sign and ratify the Niamey Convention.

It should be recalled that the Niamey Convention was adopted by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 26 to 27 June 2014. The Convention is part of the AU Border Programme (AUBP) and seeks, in particular, to develop and strengthen good neighborly relations between border communities, territorial administration and other relevant bodies, including through the conclusion of specific agreements and arrangements to this end.

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