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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321

Email: [situationroom@africa-union.org](mailto:situationroom@africa-union.org)

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **APPOINTMENT OF MR. MOHAMED EL HACEN LEBATT OF MAURITANIA AS THE AU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

**Addis Ababa, 20 February 2016:** The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, today, appointed Mr. Mohamed El Hacen Lebatt, of Mauritania, as her new Special Representative for the Central African Republic (CAR) and Head of the AU Mission for the Central African Republic and Central Africa (MISAC), following the resignation of Major General Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko.

Mr. Lebatt has a wealth of experience both at national and international levels. As Professor in Law, since 1987, he held important academic functions, including that of President of the University of Nouakchott and Dean of the Faculty of Law and Economics, before assuming governmental responsibilities in his country as Minister of Foreign Affairs (1997-1998), then Ambassador in Ethiopia, Permanent representative to the AU (2003-2005) and Ambassador in South Africa (2005-2007). He also assumed public international functions, having successively been Special Envoy to Burundi (1998-2000) and to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad, (2008-2013), as well as Director of the Office of the Inter-Congolese national dialogue Facilitator (2000-2002).

The Chairperson of the Commission pays tribute to the outgoing Special Representative and would like to express her sincere gratitude to Major General Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko for his leadership and commitment as well as his outstanding work and contribution to the stabilization of the country. Under his tenure, the security situation has progressively improved which pave the way for advancing the political process and the holding of the elections in December 2015.

The Chairperson calls on all stakeholders to extend full cooperation to the new Special representative to enable him to successfully discharge its demanding duties in the best interest of the country.

2016-02-20

# Appointment of Mr Mohamed El Hacem Labett of Mauritania as the AU special Representative for the Central African Republic

Peace and Security

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