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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY REPRESENTS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION AT THE U.S. MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRADE, SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA**

*Washington D.C., 18 November 2017:* The Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ismaïl Chergui, led the AU delegation to the ministerial meeting on trade, security and governance, convened by the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Rex Tillerson, on 17 November 2017, in Washington, D.C. The AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Ambassador Minata Samate Cessouma, and the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, H.E. Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, also took part of the Commission's delegation to the meeting.

During discussions on enhancing Africa-U.S. security cooperation to address transnational security threats, the Commissioner for Peace and Security stressed the need for a preventive approach focusing on addressing structural vulnerabilities conducive to the spread of terrorism. He underlined the need to provide meaningful and effective alternatives for livelihoods and political participation. In terms of response, he called for mutually reinforcing measures that focus on strengthening the criminal justice response to terrorism, the promotion of reconciliation, and the implementation of well-resourced stabilization and post-conflict development initiatives.

In this regard, the Commissioner for Peace and Security recalled the significant gains made through AU-led peace operation in Somalia, the successes of the Regional Cooperative Initiative for the elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA) and the efforts of the countries of the Lake Chad Basin in the fight against Boko Haram. He also highlighted other key preventive and response initiatives launched by the AU,

including the Continental Structural Conflict Prevention Framework, the Nouakchott and Djibouti Processes, the Model Law on Counter-Terrorism, and the Lake Chad Basin Stabilization initiative.

The AU Commissioners also held several meetings on the margins with delegations of Member States to discuss security and development issues on the AU agenda.

**END**

2017-11-18

The Commissioner for Peace and Security Represents the Chairperson of the Commission at the U.S. Ministerial Meeting on Trade, Security and Governance in Africa Washington D.C., 18 November 2017

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