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## Press Release

### Press Release: The African Union congratulates the Member countries of INTERPOL for a successful 86<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – 29 September 2017:** The Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, congratulates the Member Countries of INTERPOL upon the successful conclusion of the 86<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly that was held in Beijing, China, from 26-29 September 2017.

The Chairperson of the Commission wishes to thank the INTERPOL General Assembly for deciding to grant the Secretariat of the recently established Africa Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) access to the INTERPOL Information System. He notes that this will strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two organizations through sharing of information and data on transnational organized crime and other areas of common interest.

The Chairperson of the Commission also applauds the admission of the State of Palestine to INTERPOL, noting that this move strengthens the fight against transnational organized crime, which knows no borders. He also recalls the decision of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Union held in Addis Ababa in July 2017, all previous resolutions and decisions of the OAU/AU on the situation in Palestine for the maintenance of a lasting peace and security in the Middle East.

The Chairperson of the Commission further notes the need for a stronger voice by Africa as the largest single block in INTERPOL and pledges enhanced engagement of AU Member States in this regard, especially through AFRIPOL. He welcomes the election, during this INTERPOL General Assembly, of Mr. Benyamina Abbad, of Algeria, as the Vice President for Africa, and Mr. Olushola Kamar Subair, of Nigeria, as delegate for Africa.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the need for enhanced cooperation among the police at regional and global levels, noting the increasing transnational nature of crime. He assures of the AU's commitment to prevent combat all forms of organized crime and terrorism, including through the full implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and INTERPOL.

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Peace and Security

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