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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**

### **THE COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY AND THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION DISCUSS FUTURE COOPERATION**

**Moscow, 20 December 2017:** The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), H.E. Ambassador Smail Chergui, leading an inter-departmental delegation of the Commission, met today in Moscow with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov. Ambassador Chergui and Mr Lavrov discussed a range of security and political developments in the region and agreed on the need to support AU-led initiatives to resolve conflicts and address the threat of terrorism and transnational crime. The two also stressed the need preserve and uphold the principles of multilateralism in dealing with regional and global affairs.

Ambassador Chergui and Mr Lavrov highlighted the need to enhance Africa-Russia cooperation in the areas of trade, agriculture and investment. Mr. Lavrov also underlined his country's commitment to strengthen its support to developing the African educational sector with a focus on the fields of applied mathematics to advance the continent's socio-economic development. They thus agreed to establish joint technical committees on the different thematic issues to give effect to the actions identified.

During his visit, Ambassador Chergui also held consultations with Mr. Mikhail L. Bogdanov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for the Middle East and African countries; and Mr. Igor N. Zubov, State Secretary and Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs.

The two-day visit of Ambassador Chergui to Moscow comes within the framework of the growing partnership between the AU and the Russian Federation, and in preparation for a high-level strategic dialogue to take place in early 2018 in Addis Ababa.

2017-12-20

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