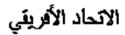
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PRESS STATEMENT

READOUT OF THE PHONE CALL BETWEEN THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION **COMMISSION AND THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE**

Addis Ababa, 18 May 2018: African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had a telephone conversation today. They took the opportunity to exchange views on ways and means to further enhance the partnership between the United States and the African Union. In this respect, the Chairperson of the Commission invited Secretary Pompeo to visit the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa on the occasion of the next African Union-United States Strategic Dialogue.

The Chairperson and the Secretary of State also exchanged views on a number of other issues, including the African Continental Free Trade Area and the promotion of peace and security. The Secretary of State reiterated the U.S. continued support to African Union efforts to advance integration and address conflict and crisis situations on the continent, as well as to the ongoing institutional reform process of the Union.

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READOUT OF THE PHONE CALL BETWEEN THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION AND THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE

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