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## STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

**Addis Ababa, 9 July 2018:** The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Moussa Faki Mahamat, welcomes the Joint Declaration signed by President Isaias Afwerki and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed following the latter's visit to Asmara on 8 and 9 July 2018. He commends the two leaders for choosing the courageous path of reconciliation, in the interest of their people, the region and Africa as a whole.

The Chairperson of the Commission stresses that the ongoing normalization process between Eritrea and Ethiopia is a milestone in Africa's efforts to silence the guns by 2020. This example is worthy of emulation by all parties to conflicts and crises in other parts of the continent. Consequently, the Chairperson looks forward to renewed efforts by all concerned with the view to overcoming protracted conflicts and defusing existing tensions.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the readiness of the African Union to accompany Eritrea and Ethiopia in whatever way they deem appropriate, as they implement the process of normalizing their relations.

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