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PRESS RELEASE

THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF AFRIPOL CONCLUDES ITS 4TH MEETING

Addis Ababa, 2 June 2015: The *ad hoc* Committee on the establishment of the African Union Police Cooperation Mechanism – AFRIPOL concluded its fourth meeting on 2nd June 2015 in Addis Ababa. The meeting was attended by the Members of the *ad hoc* Committee, including the Co-Chairs, Algeria and Uganda, and the Chairpersons of the Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organizations, including the National Commissioner of the South African Police Services as the Chairperson of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) and the representative of the Chairpersons of the Eastern African Police Chiefs Committee (EAPCCO). The meeting was also attended by representative of International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and staff of the AU Commission.

The meeting was opened by the Peace and Security Commissioner Smaïl Chergui. In his statement, Commissioner Chergui emphasized on the importance of the speedy operationalization of AFRIPOL as an important mechanism to counter all forms of organized crime on the continent. He highlighted the importance of AFRIPOL to enhance cooperation between the police and other law enforcement agencies in the Member States.

Statements were also made by the co-chairs of the *ad hoc* Committee, Major General Abelghani HAMEL, General Director of National Security of Algeria, and Mr. Asan KASINGYE, Assistant Inspector General of Police, and representative of Uganda as Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee. In their statements, they recognized the efforts by the Commission in support of the work of the *ad hoc* Committee and emphasized the importance of AFRIPOL as a mechanism to combat organized crime and terrorism. They reiterated the call for the operationalization of AFRIPOL without further delay.

The meeting reviewed and adopted the draft guidelines for the program of work; a draft 3-year action plan; the draft structure, funding options, and the draft statute of AFRIPOL. The meeting agreed that the documents should then be submitted to the meeting of African Police Chiefs, and called upon the commission to make the necessary arrangements to convene the meeting.

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