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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Commissioner Chergui Launches Strategic Dialogue with the United Kingdom**

**Addis Ababa, 16 October 2014:** The African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security, Amb. Smail Chergui is back from London after paying a two day official visit to the United Kingdom as guest of Mr James Duddridge, UK Minister for Africa, the Overseas Territories and the Caribbean.

During the visit, which took place from 14 to 15 October 2014, the Commissioner and the Minister launched a strategic dialogue between Addis Ababa and London, to facilitate a structured exchange of views on issues of common interest to enhance their management and deepen the cooperation which so happily obtains between the United Kingdom and the African Union.

The two interlocutors discussed conflict situations in Africa, and how to respond to them, combating terrorism and the scourge of the Ebola Virus Disease, among the myriad issues. They lauded the joint efforts of the Somali National Army and AMISOM in trying to bring about sustainable peace and stability in Somalia and called for more coordinated and effective international cooperation to end all emerging and on-going conflicts.

The Commissioner also held fruitful discussions with senior officials from the Foreign Office, Department of Defence, Department of International Development, and exchanged views with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Africa at the House of Commons and Chatham House.

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