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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE AFRICAN UNION REITERATES ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THE TRANSITION IN BURKINA FASO AND TO ITS SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WITHIN THE AGREED TIMEFRAME**

#### ***The AU reaffirms the imperative need for the subordination of the Defence and Security Forces to the political authority***

**Addis Ababa, 12 July 2015:** The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, continues to follow closely the evolution of the situation in Burkina Faso. She expresses her concern about the tension prevailing in that country since 28 June 2015, particularly following incidents involving elements of the Presidential Security Regiment (RSP).

The Chairperson of the Commission recalls the relevant provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, to which Burkina Faso is party, and other related AU instruments. In this context, she stresses the AU's commitment to the imperative need for the subordination of the Defence and Security Forces to the political authority and respect for the rule of law. She urges the concerned Burkinabe stakeholders to comply with these principles, to exercise utmost restraint and to refrain from any action likely to undermine the smooth conduct of the Transition and to plunge the country onto the path of instability, with all the attendant consequences. The AU and the international community will hold all those who obstruct the smooth conduct of the Transition accountable for their actions.

The Chairperson of the Commission, referring to the address to the Nation made by President Michel Kafando on 10 July 2015, welcomes his determination to ensure the successful conclusion of the Transition and hails the sustained efforts he is making to defuse the current tension, including through the establishment of a Consultative Framework of the Wise. She expresses the hope that the Conclusions of this Consultative Framework will make it possible to overcome the current challenges, based on the scrupulous respect of the Transitional Charter and Institutions. She urgently appeals to all the Burkinabe stakeholders to show a high sense of responsibility and fulfill the hope that emerged from the peaceful change of October 2014.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the AU's deep appreciation to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for its sustained efforts in support of the Transition, as well as to the UN and other international partners for their assistance. She reaffirms the AU's commitment, in conformity with its relevant instruments and the decisions of its policy organs, to continue to support the Transition in Burkina Faso and to facilitate its successful completion within the agreed timeframe, with the organization of the presidential and legislative elections in October 2015. In this regard, the AU will continue to work in close cooperation with ECOWAS and the UN, as well as with all the relevant bilateral and multilateral partners, within the framework of the International Follow-up and Support Group of the Transition in Burkina Faso (GISAT- BF).

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Peace and Security

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