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PRESS RELEASE

COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY MEETS THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION OF MOZAMBIQUE

Addis Ababa, 21 April 2015: The African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smaïl Chergui, on 20 April 2015, received at the AU Headquarters, Mr. Oldemiro F.M. Baloi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique, whose country is chairing the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for the month of April 2015. The meeting provided an opportunity for the two to exchange views on matters of common interest concerning peace, security, development and cooperation in Africa.

Commissioner Chergui and Minister Baloi reiterated, in particular, the AU's rejection of terrorism and violent extremism. In this context, they condemned in the strongest terms the recent attacks at the Garissa University College in Kenya, the continued targeting of civilians by Al Shabaab and Boko Haram and the killing, by the Islamic State terrorist group in Libya, of 30 Ethiopians. They underlined the determination of AU Member States to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism within the framework of the relevant AU and international instruments. In this respect, they highlighted the relevance of the communiqué adopted by the AUPSC Summit meeting, held in Nairobi, on 2 September 2014, as well as the need for strengthened international cooperation and joint action in order to more effectively to combat terrorism and violent extremism.

Commissioner Chergui and Minister Baloi also exchanged views on the prevailing situation in Libya, which is marked by the total collapse of State structures and increasing presence of terrorist groups, some of which affiliated to the Islamic State. They noted that this situation poses serious challenges for regional security and stability. They further noted that the breakdown of law and order in Libya has created space for criminal networks involved in human trafficking and increasing flows of migrants from the Libyan coast to Europe, with catastrophic consequences, as shown by the recent drowning of a boat killing about 800 people.

Finally, Commissioner Chergui and Minister Baloi discussed the xenophobic and criminal attacks against foreigners and the looting of their properties in some towns in South Africa. In this regard, Commissioner Chergui recalled the position taken by the AU Commission, through the publication, on 15 April 2015, of a Press Release by the Chairperson of the Commission who described the attacks as unacceptable. The Commissioner and the Minister welcomed the measures being taken by the South African authorities in addressing the situation.

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