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PRESS RELEASE

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission Welcomes The Outcomes of the African Union Joint Oversight (Abyei) Meetings

24 November 2017; The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat welcomes the outcomes of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) which took place in Addis Ababa, on 13 and 14 November 2017. The Chairperson welcomes the discussions that focused on the ongoing political, security and humanitarian situation in Abyei and the understanding reached on the need to develop ways and means of addressing these challenges.

The Chairperson notes with appreciation that both sides valued this meeting as it offered an unparalleled opportunity for direct engagement on ways to provide oversight on security and administrative matters in Abyei, working with the United Nations Interim Security Force Abyei (UNISFA) and local communities. While underlining that the Abyei joint institutions, as envisaged in the Agreement on the Security and Administration of Abyei, are essential to achieving peace in Abyei, he regrets that, seven years after these institutions are not yet established. The Chairperson urges the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan, to resolve this matter before the next meeting of the AJOC.

The Chairperson also welcomes the convening of the first meeting of the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya traditional leaders. He commends the Abyei Community Leaders for the conciliatory spirit with which they conducted their meeting, especially as they discussed the report of the killing of Chief Koul Deng Koul and other people in the Abyei area in May 2013. He further commends the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya traditional chiefs for reaffirming their commitment to pursuing good relations based on their long history of strong connections and peaceful co-existence. The Chairperson strongly encourages the two sides to continue these productive interactions with a view to further promoting and safeguarding the peaceful co-existence.

The Chairperson wishes to assure the Sudanese and South Sudanese parties that, through the African Union high Level Implementation Panel, the AU Commission will continue to provide the necessary support to ensure that they achieve peace, security and stability for their people.

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Peace and Security

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