



## **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA**

**Addis Ababa, 4 January 2018:** The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, welcomes the announcement made by the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Desalegn, pardoning or suspending ongoing judicial cases of members of political parties and other individuals. He commends the Ethiopian authorities for this important and farsighted decision, and for their commitment to foster national consensus and widen the democratic space.

The Chairperson of the Commission underscores that the steps initiated by the Prime Minister will help create a conducive environment for the pursuit and consolidation of the impressive socio-economic gains Ethiopia has made over the past decade. These steps will also enhance the country's stability, which is of paramount importance for the region and Africa as a whole.

The Chairperson of the Commission calls on all Ethiopians, irrespective of their political affiliations, to embrace and sustain the spirit of forgiveness and unity in the interest of their country.

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Peace and Security

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