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## <u>COMMUNIQUÉ ON RWANDA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE 65</u> SAHEL JOINT FORCE

*Addis Ababa, 22 March 2018:* The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, wishes to commend the President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Chairperson of the African Union, for his country's contribution of one million US dollars in support of the operationalization of the G5 Sahel joint force. He stresses that this contribution is a strong expression of solidarity with the G5 Sahel countries in their fight against terrorism and organized crime. Rwanda also pledged to provide in-kind support.

President Kagame made the announcement in Kigali today during a meeting, on sidelines of the Extraordinary Summit on the Continental Free Trade Area, with President Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger, the Chairperson of the Commission, and the Executive Secretary of the G5 Sahel, Maman Sidiko. The financial contribution will be immediately available.

The Chairperson of the Commission seizes this opportunity to appeal to member states to extend support to the G5 countries.

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