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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321  
Email: [situationroom@africa-union.org](mailto:situationroom@africa-union.org)

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON CONCLUDES A 2 DAY VISIT TO MAURITANIA AS PART OF AU SUPPORT TO REGIONAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT TERRORISM AND PROMOTE LASTING SECURITY AND STABILITY**

**Nouakchott 7 June 2017:** The Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, visited Nouakchott, on 6 and 7 June 2017, as part of his five-nation tour in the Sahel region, which will conclude on 10 June 2017. The objective was to reaffirm the AU's solidarity with, and support to, the regional efforts aimed at addressing the intertwined challenges of terrorism and transnational organized crime, in order to create an environment conducive to long-term stability and sustainable development in the Sahelo-Saharan region.

While in Nouakchott, the AUC Chairperson met with President Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz and thanked him for the country's bold contribution to peace and security and for hosting the G5 Sahel States permanent secretariat in Nouakchott as a sign of the country's commitment to the ongoing efforts to operationalize the regional military and civilian accord between Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. The AUC chairperson also lauded Mauritania's membership of and commitment to the AU High Level Committee of Heads of State on Libya, highlighting the recent ministerial level delegation that travelled to Tripoli, Baida and Benghazi for talks with the various parties and renewed support of the African Union to the Government of National Accord in its efforts to expand the base of reconciliation.

"The initiative taken by the G5 Sahel states to operationalize a regional military accord to respond to common threats is a blueprint of unique solutions to the growing transnational terror challenges across borders in the Region and beyond," said the Chairperson of the Commission.

He provided an update on the steps being taken by the AU Commission in support of the Sahel G5 Force, most notably in mobilizing adequate international support and securing the endorsement of the United Nations (UN) Security Council.

The Nouakchott meeting also took place in the context of the ongoing AU Reform Agenda, as decided by the Heads of State and Government at their January 2017 Summit in Addis Ababa. The goal is to transform the AU, with the view to reinforce its efficiency and financing, as well as better aligning its activities to the needs of the AU member states and aspirations of African citizens and to consolidate the international standing of the AUC. President Ould Abdulaziz reaffirmed his country's firm commitment to the implementation of this important decision to provide the necessary means to the African Union Commission to implement all its programmes

in order to silence the guns by 2020 and to promote the social and economic development on the Continent.

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# The African Union Commission Chairperson Concludes a 2 day visit to Mauritania as part of AU Support to Regional Efforts to Combat Terrorism and Promote Lasting Security and Stability Nouakchott 7 June 2017

Peace and Security

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