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**AU mourns with Saharawi People following the death of President Mohamed
Abdelaziz**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – 31 May 2016: The Chairperson of African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, has learnt with great sadness the passing away of the President of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and Secretary General of the Polisario Front, H.E. Mohamed Abdelaziz. The Saharawi leadership officially announced the death on 31 May 2016. He was in his sixties.

On behalf of the African Union, the Chairperson expresses deep condolences to the family of the late President Mohamed Abdelaziz, as well as to the entire people and Government of the Saharawi Republic.

The AU Commission Chairperson has ordered the flags of the African Union and that of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic at the AU Headquarters and all its Representational Offices to fly at half-mast, for three days, beginning on Wednesday, 1 June 2016.

“Our hearts and prayers are with you as you mourn the death of your leader and beloved President. Your loss is our loss.” Dr. Dlamini Zuma grieved with the people of Saharawi Republic, urging them to let the memories of President Abdelaziz spur them on as they continue the struggle for liberation he has been at the forefront for over 40 years.

The AU Commission Chairperson encourages the Saharawi people, as well as its allies to forge on with the struggle to attain their right to self-determination, until they are liberated and independence is attained to fulfill one of the dearest dreams and goals the late African leader died for.

| The African Union, once again, reiterates its continued support and unwavering solidarity with the Government and people of Saharawi Republic.

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AU mourns with Saharawi People following the death of President Mohamed Abdelaziz Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – 31 May 2016

Peace and Security

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