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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE SIGNING BY THE SPLA/SPLM-IO OF THE MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE PERMANENT CEASEFIRE AND TRANSITIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN SOUTH SUDAN

Addis Ababa, 26 October 2015: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, welcomes the signing, on 26 October 2015, by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army In Opposition (SPLM/SPLA-IO), of the Minutes of the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements (PCTSA) Workshop held in Addis Ababa between 13 and 18 September 2015. The Minutes had been signed by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and SPLM Leaders, on 18 September 2015.

The Chairperson of the Commission underscores the need for all the parties to fully implement the steps agreed upon in the Minutes. She urges the Parties to speedily conclude the ongoing discussions on the Unified Command of the National Defense Forces of South Sudan (NDFSS). The Chairperson of the Commission looks forward to the early transition of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) into the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM), to monitor compliance and report on violations of the Agreement.

The Chairperson of the Commission wishes to recall that, in the communiqué adopted at its 547th meeting held in New York, on 26 September 2015, at the level of Heads of State and Government, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) demanded that the SPLM-A/IO sign these Minutes without precondition and without further delay, to enable the implementation process of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan to start in earnest.