



PRESS RELEASE

African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security meets with the Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission

Addis Ababa, 5 February 2016: The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui, met, at the AU Headquarters, with the Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), former President Festus Mogae, and his deputy, former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Guinea, Mr. Francois Lounceny Fall, to discuss the outcomes of the 4th JMEC meeting and the current status of the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) signed in August 2015.

Ambassador Chergui was apprised of the recent decision by the Government of South Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army - In Opposition (SPLM/A –IO), the SPLM Leaders and other Stakeholders for agreeing to establish the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) as outlined in the ARCSS. The two Officials concurred that such a decision was an illustration of the importance the South Sudanese attach towards resolving their country's crisis.

Commissioner Chergui, on behalf of the AU Commission, expressed gratitude to the members of the JMEC, especially its Chairperson, for tirelessly working towards the full promotion of peace and security for the benefit of the South Sudanese citizens who have suffered immensely over the years. The Commissioner underscored that it was critical for Dr. Reik Machar to return to Juba, capital of South Sudan, to take up his position as First Vice President, given that this will give impetus to the implementation process of the ARCSS.

In conclusion, the Chairperson of JMEC was assured of the AU Commission's continued support, to ensure that the new spirit espoused by the South Sudanese leaders will rekindle an environment which is conducive for reconciliation, compromise and good will, as pillars for the successful implementation of the ARCSS. The JMEC Chair expressed his appreciation for the continued support by the AU Commission, especially through the AU High Representative, former President Alpha Oumar Konare. President Mogae looked forward to receiving further support from the AU High Level Ad Hoc Committee.