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PRESS RELEASE

(For immediate release)

AU Special Representative relocates to Mogadishu meets with visiting Burundi delegation

Mogadishu – February 10th, 2013; The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Mahamat Saleh Annadif has today officially relocated to Mogadishu, Somalia. Ambassador Annadif who took over the position of SRCC for Somalia in November last year has been operating in Nairobi, Kenya.

Meanwhile, the AU Special Representative for Somalia, Ambassador Mahamat Saleh Annadif has met with the visiting Burundi delegation comprising mainly Members of Parliament which paid a courtesy call on him in his office in Mogadishu.

Ambassador Annadif expressed his appreciation to members of the delegation for taking time off their busy schedule to travel to Mogadishu to witness for themselves the good work that Burundi soldiers in conjunction with their colleagues from other African countries are doing to help Somalia achieve peace and stability. “Somalia is in the process of rebuilding its infrastructure as peace is returning to the country after more than two decades of civil war. This is therefore a very important time for you to visit your Somali counterparts to share ideas that can benefit the two countries”. He said.

The delegation which arrived today and expected to leave on Thursday, will hold meetings with representatives of the Federal Government of Somalia, Members of Parliament, troops from the Burundi Contingent serving under AMISOM. Leader of the delegation, Mr. Emilien Hakizimana said he is impressed with the improving political and security situation in Somalia especially the role played by the Burundi troops in conjunction with their colleagues from other African countries.

He said; “We have been following the actions of our troops in helping the people of Somalia to achieve peace and stability. We are satisfied with the progress of our troops especially in getting rid of Al-Shabaab terrorists from strategic areas of the country.”

The delegation expressed its confidence and pride in the conduct and discipline of not only Burundi troops but also in all the peacekeepers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

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