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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION CONCERNED BY THE UPSURGE OF VIOLENCE IN LIBYA

The International Contact Group for Libya will hold its inaugural meeting mid-November 2014

Addis Ababa, 22 October 2014: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana-Dlamini Zuma, continues to follow closely the evolution of the situation in Libya. She notes with deep concern the upsurge of violence in various parts of the country, including Benghazi, in the East, and Djebel Gharbi, in the West.

The Chairperson of the Commission reaffirms the AU's conviction that there is no military solution to the current crisis. She, once again, urgently appeals to the Libyan parties to put an end to the violence and engage, in good faith, in an inclusive national dialogue, in order to overcome their differences and promote lasting peace and reconciliation.

In this respect, the Chairperson of the Commission stresses the importance of the initiative taken by Algeria to facilitate the holding of an inter-Libyan dialogue, which offers a real opportunity to advance the search for a negotiated solution. She appeals to all the relevant international actors to provide all the necessary support to this initiative, with a view to ensuring its success. She takes this opportunity to express her appreciation of the laudable efforts of the United Nations, both through Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and through his Special Representative for Libya, Bernardino Leon.

The Chairperson of the Commission reaffirms the AU's commitment, within the framework of the relevant decisions of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), to continue to support the peace efforts in Libya. In this regard, and as a follow-up to the PSC Communiqué of 23 September 2014, the Commission is making the necessary arrangements for the holding, in Addis Ababa, mid-November 2014, of the inaugural ministerial level meeting of the International Contact Group for Libya (ICG-L) whose objective is to foster a coordinated international engagement in support of the search for peace and the promotion of reconciliation in Libya.

