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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION TRAINING EXERCISE FOR POLICE AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OF THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE KICKS OFF IN ADDIS ABABA

Addis Ababa, 31 October 2012: The African Union (AU) Training Exercise for police and civilian personnel of the African Standby Force (ASF), code-named “Exercise NJIWA”, which means “dove” in Kiswahili, a symbol of peace, was officially launched today at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa.

The Exercise, which will run until 9 November 2012, will take place at the Eastern African Standby Force Brigade Headquarters, in Addis Ababa. It aims to build the police and civilian capacities of the ASF, as well as to enhance its multi-dimensional character, as part of the efforts to attain full operational capability by 2015.

The Exercise is being conducted as a follow-up to the recommendations of the October 2010 Command Post Exercise (CPX), code-named “AMANI AFRICA I”, which took place in Addis Ababa, to evaluate the operational readiness of the ASF.

The Exercise was launched by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra. The launching ceremony was also addressed by an official from the Canadian Embassy in Addis Ababa, whose Government is supporting this initiative.