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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA AND THE JUBBA DELEGATION

Addis Ababa, 29 August 2013: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, welcomes the signing yesterday in Addis Ababa, under the auspices of Ethiopia, Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Chair of the AU, of an Agreement between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Jubba delegation regarding the current political, governance and security situation of the Jubbas.

The Chairperson of the Commission commends the Somali parties for reaching this historic Agreement, which is a further illustration of the capacity of the Somalis to triumph over their differences.

The Chairperson of the Commission thanks Ethiopia for its untiring efforts, the resources committed and for its dedication in facilitating the negotiations between the parties. She expresses the AU's gratitude to the IGAD member states and Secretariat for their continued commitment to peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia, and their determination to sustain the current momentum in Somalia.

The Chairperson of the Commission calls on Somalia's partners to extend increased support to the FGS and the Somali people in their efforts. In this respect, she looks forward to the successful holding of the High-Level Conference on a New Deal for Somalia, scheduled to take place in Brussels on 16 September 2013. She assures the Somali authorities and other stakeholders of the AU's continued commitment, notably through AMISOM, to assist them in consolidating the tremendous progress they have made.