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PRESS RELEASE

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union meets a delegation from the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Addis Ababa, 21 November 2012: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, today received at the AU Headquarters a delegation comprising officials of the African Union-United Nations Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the Government of the Republic of Sudan. The meeting was attended by Mr. Al-Tigani Sessi, Chairman of Darfur Regional Authority (DRA), Dr. Amin Omer, Chairperson of the Darfur Peace Follow-up Office of the Government of Sudan, Ms. Aichatou Mindaoudou, Acting Joint Special Representative for UNAMID and Acting Joint Chief Mediator, and the Permanent Representative of Sudan to the AU.

The delegation briefed the Chairperson of the Commission on the status of implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and the overall Darfur peace process. In particular, the delegation highlighted the need for the AU and its Member States to support community police training by UNAMID in order to enhance security for local communities in Darfur; the reconstruction efforts in Darfur; and the steps taken towards the restoration of basic social services, such as health, education, water and sanitation, in areas where these services are lacking. In this regard, a Donor Conference is scheduled to take place in early 2013, under the auspices of UNAMID, to help raise resources in support of the reconstruction efforts in Darfur.

The Sudanese State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Salah Wansi, also seized the opportunity to provide an update on the steps being taken to reach out to the concerned armed and political groups in Darfur, to bring them into the Doha process as part of the efforts to ensure lasting peace.

The Chairperson of the Commission assured the delegation of the AU's continued support to the peace process in Darfur. In this respect, she reiterated the commitment of the Commission to contribute to mobilising support for the reconstruction of Darfur and the consolidation of peace in that region.