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PRESS STATEMENT

**THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE AU, IDRIS DEBY ITNO,
EXPRESSES HIS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE
IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND CALLS FOR A MORE
INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE IN THE DRC**

Addis Ababa, 22 September 2016: The Current Chairman of the African Union (AU), H.E. Mr. Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, continues to follow, with particular attention, the evolution of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), within the framework of the National Political Dialogue.

The Current Chairman of the Union expresses his deep concern about the acts of violence that occurred in recent days in the DRC, which caused the loss of many human lives and the destruction of public and private property. He strongly condemns the use of violence and any statement that fuels them and calls upon all the Congolese stakeholders to exercise maximum restraint and to foster a climate conducive to peace, observance of human rights and maintenance of public order for stability in the DRC and the region.

The Current Chairman of the Union stresses the need for all the Congolese stakeholders to work together, with the support of the African Union and the regional and international actors concerned, to deepen the National Policy Dialogue by ensuring greater inclusiveness in order to reach the broadest possible consensus on the key issues, particularly the organisation of the various elections, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Constitution and Resolution 2277 (2016) of the UN Security Council.