

AFRICAN UNION

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PRESS STATEMENT

THE AFRICAN UNION CALLS FOR RESTRAINT AND DIALOGUE IN GUINEA

Addis Ababa, 10 May 2013: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, is closely following the developments in the Republic of Guinea. She is particularly concerned by the prevailing tension on the ground and the acts of violence that occurred during authorized political demonstrations.

The Chairperson of the Commission calls on the Guinean parties to exercise restraint and demonstrate a sense of responsibility, and requests them to abide by the Declaration on non-violence signed, on 23 April 2013, by the Government, the opposition political parties and those of the presidential camp. She urges them to work resolutely together towards the preservation of peace, security and stability.

The Chairperson of the Commission underlines the urgent need for the Guinean parties to engage dialogue without delay, with a view to reaching compromise in the best interests of their country. In so doing, the objective is to create conditions conducive for the holding of free, transparent and credible legislative elections, the results of which would be accepted by all the political stakeholders and contribute to the deepening of the democratic process in Guinea.

The Chairperson of the Commission expresses the AU's full support to the College of Facilitators, coordinated by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in West Africa, Said Djinnit, whose presence on the ground has already made it possible to register some progress likely to defuse the tension and facilitate dialogue, and reiterates AU's commitment to continue providing the necessary support for the successful conclusion of his efforts. She welcomes the continuous interaction between the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the AU Commission. She expresses AU's readiness to take further concerted action as may be required, to contribute to a speedy resolution of the outstanding issues, in order to enable the organization and conduct of the elections in the best possible political, technical and security conditions.