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PRESS RELEASE

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY MEETS WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW

Moscow, 24 November 2016: The Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ismaïl Chergui, met today with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Special Presidential Representative for the Middle East and Africa of the Russian Federation, Mr. Mikhail Bogdanov. They discussed the situation in Libya, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and the Great lakes region, and agreed on the need for effective harmonization of positions and consultations with the AU in regard to management of African conflicts from within the UN Security Council. They further shared their respective positions concerning the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The Commissioner also met with Mr. Syromolotov Vladimirovich, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counter-Terrorism and had an in-depth exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East, particularly the threat posed by the Islamic State terrorist group to Africa and how the AU and the Russian Federation can cooperate in addressing issues of foreign terrorist fighters, transnational organized crime and the use of the internet for terrorist purposes.

The Commissioner and his interlocutors expressed their mutual appreciation for the growth and strengthening of the partnership between the AU and the Russian Federation, and reiterated the importance of maintaining close cooperation and consultation in addressing peace and security challenges on the continent. The Commissioner thanked the Russian Federation for its continued support to the AU's efforts in the areas of conflict prevention, management and resolution, and the close partnership in the UN Security Council.