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PRESS RELEASE

Commissioner Chergui welcomes the South Korean Vice Foreign Minister

Addis Ababa, 11 July 2014 : The Commissioner for Peace and Security, Amb Smail Chergui, today received the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Korea, Mr Lee Kyung Soo to exchange views on AU-South Korea cooperation and other related matters.

Welcoming his interlocutor, the Commissioner expressed satisfaction with the growing relations between the African Union and South Korea, adding that there was room to further enhance the cooperative relationship. In this regard, he encouraged South Korea to join other AU partners in contributing to the AU's Peace Fund, the development of agriculture, industry and skills revolution.

On his part the Vice Minister informed that the burden of his message was to deliver President Park's strong desire to increase South Korea's interaction with Africa in all fields and in this regard was very keen to be availed with the opportunity to address the African Union's Assembly and express her solidarity at the earliest opportunity. He noted that already, and as recognition of the role of the African Union in peace and security processes throughout the continent, South Korea was sending a contingent to South Sudan on peacekeeping operation as well as naval vessels on anti-piracy missions off the coast of Somalia.

Thanking the South Korean Vice Minister for his visit and assurances of solidarity and cooperation in-line with the spirit of the Korea/Africa Forum, the Commissioner looked forward to further engagement and interaction.

Vice Minister Lee Kyung Soo was accompanied by the South Korean Ambassador to the African Union Mr Kim Jonj Geun.