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**REMARKS BY PEACE AND SECURITY COMMISSIONER RAMTANE LAMAMRA, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE AFRICAN SOLIDARITY INITIATIVE (ASI)**

ADDIS ABABA, 13 JULY 2012

The idea of an African Solidarity Initiative (ASI) emanates from the AU Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development adopted in 2006. The objective of the AU PCRDR Policy is to improve timeliness, effectiveness and coordination of activities in post-conflict countries and to lay the foundation for social justice and sustainable peace.

The Commission, through the Department of Peace and Security, has undertaken multidisciplinary assessment missions to the Central African Republic-CAR in 2006, Sierra Leone and Liberia in 2009, the Democratic Republic of Congo – DRC and Burundi in 2010, Sudan (now Sudan and South Sudan) in 2011, and Côte d'Ivoire in 2011. These missions were aimed at recommending what the AU Commission and Member States can do assisting the countries concerned in their post-conflict reconstruction efforts, in a manner complementary to the efforts of our partners.

The conceptual and planning approach of ASI reflects four important dimensions. First, the ASI is conceived as a process, involving a series of operational

activities, including an African Solidarity Conference (ASC), to mobilize both in-kind and funding support for post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts in the countries concerned. Whereas most donor processes and conferences concentrate primarily on financial pledges, the ASI will, in addition, prioritize various in-kind contributions by African countries. These include sharing of expertise, best practices, offering training facilities, exchange familiarization schemes, and capacity building.

The second is that the ASI is designed to encourage, motivate, and empower African countries to begin systematically to demonstrate greater solidarity and support towards countries emerging from conflicts. The third is to promote a paradigm shift which center-stages African self-reliance driven by the “Africa helping Africa” motto. The fourth is that the ASI would provide an opportunity for Africans to generate additional ‘out-of-the-box’ ideas for addressing PCRD challenges, as well as promoting intra-African solutions in this area.

Let me emphasize the fact that this Initiative does not seek to overlook the support from traditional and new partners in any way. Rather, it seeks to provide an opportunity for Africa to generate additional ‘out-of-the-box’ ideas for addressing post-conflict reconstruction and development challenges and contribute towards a renewed sense of promoting intra-African solutions to the complex challenges of post-conflict reconstruction and development.

The ASI will also promote and build upon existing or planned schemes by some Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that promote intra-African self-help. In this regard, multiple processes of broad sensitization,

awareness creation and commitment-building for the ASI, involving other stakeholder groups, including the private sector, women and youth networks, faith based organizations, civil society organizations, and the Diaspora.

The ASI will be coordinated by the AU in close collaboration with key African organizations. A follow-up plan of action will be elaborated in consultation with all stakeholders. After this launching, a major African Solidarity Conference to mobilize increased support for post-conflict reconstruction and development in the continent will be organized, to be followed by other relevant events, focusing on specific thematic areas.

I thank you.