



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES

Addis Ababa, 3 September 2013: The Commission of the African Union (AU) and the General Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) held consultations in Addis Ababa on 2 and 3 September 2013 on the transition process from the ECCAS Peace Consolidation Mission in the Central African Republic-CAR (MICOPAX) to the African-led International Support Mission in the CAR (AFISM-CAR). The AU delegation was led by Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security, and the ECCAS one by its Secretary-General, Ahmad Allam-Mi.

These consultations were part of the follow-up to the decision of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) of 19 July 2013 on the deployment of AFISM-CAR and the meeting between experts from both organizations held in Libreville, from 21 to 22 August 2013. The two delegations discussed the modalities and timelines of the transition from MICOPAX to AFISM-CAR, whose core elements will be constituted by the MICOPAX contingents, in accordance with the PSC communiqué of 19 July 2013. The AU Commission and the ECCAS General Secretariat will endeavor to complete the following tasks: the establishment of the AFISM-CAR Mission Headquarters and its various components; the generation of additional forces, it being understood that the ECCAS member States shall expedite the build-up of existing capabilities to reach the 2,000 uniformed personnel as agreed to by the Extraordinary Summit of the ECCAS Heads of State and Government held in N'Djamena on 18 April 2013, to constitute the core elements of AFISM-CAR; the operational planning for the deployment of AFISM-CAR; as well as the legal framework for the deployment of AFISM-CAR, including the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and ECCAS. The discussions also covered issues relating to the follow up of the conclusions of the meetings of the International Contact Group on CAR (ICG-CAR), held in Brazzaville and Addis Ababa, on 3 May and 8 July 2013, respectively, particularly with respect to the mobilization of resources commensurate with CAR's needs.

The AU Commission and the ECCAS Secretariat reiterate their concern about the situation in the CAR and the need for international support to facilitate the completion of the transition in that country. The two organizations appeal to the UN Security Council to authorize financial and logistical support for AFISM-CAR, as well as to the other international partners to fully support their joint efforts.

On 3 September 2013, the ECCAS Secretary-General was received by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. The meeting provided an opportunity for exchange of views on the situation in the CAR and on other peace and security challenges in the central African region. It also provided the opportunity to exchange on issues relating to economic integration and the Economic Partnership Agreements, as well as to underscore

the key role of the Regional Economic Communities, such as ECCAS. The Chairperson of the Commission took the opportunity to congratulate the new ECCAS Secretary-General for the confidence bestowed upon him by the leaders of the region, and assured him of her support and that of the Commission as a whole in the pursuit of the common objectives of the two organizations. She reiterated AU's deep appreciation to regional leaders for their continued commitment to peace, security and stability in the CAR, in particular, and in the continent, in general.