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UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

For 13 July 2012

Launching of the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI) in support of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Africa

"An initiative to further unlock Africa's potentials by promoting a paradigm shift, which center-stages African self-reliance driven by the "Africa helping Africa" conviction, in complementing efforts by development partners"

The Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa invites journalists to the **launching of the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI)**, an initiative designed to encourage, motivate, and empower African countries to assist post-conflict countries to mobilize support for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) efforts, **on Friday, 13 July 2012, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Plenary Hall of the AU Conference Centre.

The meeting will be attended by all the AU Member States, members of the UN Agencies, AU Regional Offices, Specialized Institutions, and Liaison Offices, and *other invited guests*.

The meeting will serve as a forum for the concerned countries to present their post-conflict priority need areas and challenges as well as solidarity responses from other Member States. It will also provide an opportunity to generate additional ideas for addressing PCRD challenges, as well as promoting intra-African solutions. The ASI would prioritize various in-kind contributions by African countries, including the sharing of expertise, best practices, offering training facilities, exchange familiarization schemes, and capacity building.

Journalists are invited to attend the launching ceremony followed by a press conference at 4:00 p.m., to be addressed by the Chairperson and the Commissioner, Peace and Security.

