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DR. DLAMINI ZUMA CALLS FOR MORE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE CONTINENT

Addis Ababa, 8 March 2013 – “The emancipation of women is a responsibility for all humanity”, says Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). She was speaking during the commemoration of the International Women’s Day at the African Union Headquarters, while addressing representatives from the African Union Member States, the international community, the civil society, private sector, AU staff and invited guests gathered to exchange views on the theme selected by the AU for the occasion: “Vision of the African Women on Pan Africanism and Renaissance”.



The AUC Chairperson congratulated women for the vital role they have played in the liberation of the continent and “continue to play, in virtually all spheres of life, particularly in the enhancement of economic security for their families, communities and countries”. On this occasion, Dr. Dlamini-Zuma called on all the women to take stock and review past progress, while looking at the next 50 years to ensure that women are fully empowered to play their rightful role in the development of the continent. “Full development on the continent can not be achieved unless women are involved”, she underlined.

“The African Union (AU) remains resolute in promoting gender equality, women’s rights and women’s empowerment, in a rapidly globalizing and dynamic world. We are also

taking great strides to redress gender imbalance, and promote women's rights". The AUC Chairperson said, calling on the continent to take stock of Beijing +20.

Other key speakers during the commemoration include: Mrs. Florence Butegwa from UNWomen, Mrs. Christiane Aboua, Chair of the African Ambassadors Spouses Group (AASG), and Ambassador Febe Potgieter-Gqubule, Special Advisor on Strategy Planning and Monitoring in the office of the AUC Chairperson.

Ambassador Febe retraced the history of humanity where women played a critical role yet not recognized enough for their sacrifice in the promotion of Pan Africanism and African renaissance. (Complete presentation by Amb. Febe can be found on the AU website: www.au.int).

Organized by the Directorate of Women, Gender and Development of the AUC, one high moment of the celebration was a panel discussion on the theme of the Day involving some members of the Permanent Representatives Committee of the AU, the AUC Commissioners and staff, and invited guests. The panel was moderated by Mrs. Habiba Mejri-Cheikh, Director of Information and Communication of the AUC.

A commemorative cake was cut by the AUC Chairperson and chaired amongst all the participants.

For Further Information consult the AU website: www.au.int