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General National Congress Elections

Team Leader of the African Union Observer Mission to Libya Briefing the Observers on the Upcoming General National Congress Election

Libya, Tripoli, 4th, July 2012 - The African Union Commission is pleased to announce today the launch of its observer mission to Libya for the 2012 General National Congress Elections of Libya, upon invitation of the Libyan National Transitional Council and under the patronage of H.E. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

The African Union Observer Mission is led by H.E. Essam Sharaf, former Prime Minister of Egypt, and consists of 35 high-profile personalities from Tunisia, Libya, Kenya, Sudan and South Africa, among other countries.

Participants include members of the Pan African Parliament, African Ambassadors to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Election Management Bodies and civil society organizations. Technical assistance is provided for by staff of the African Union Commission, the Secretariat of the Pan African Parliament and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa.

H.E. Essam Sharaf launched the mission today with a briefing session with the members of the mission, in which he commended the members for their participation in the historical election in Libya, the first of its kind in the country following the fall of the Gaddafi regime and the end of the February 17 revolution of last year. Mr. Sharaf said that he was proud and honored to be observing a momentous occasion in recent Libyan history, and wished the Libyans all the best in their progression towards a true democracy and self-determination.

The African Union Observer Mission will officially dispatch on the 6th of July to observe the elections in different cities across Libya in conformity with the relevant provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. The mission will also meet with major local electoral stakeholders in Libya as well as judicial authorities and international experts.

A preliminary statement will be issued to the media upon the completion of the mission, in which the AUOM will make recommendations and observations of the electoral process in Libya to the Libyan people.

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