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**PRESS RELEASE**

*(for immediate release)*

***AMISOM to hold Roundtable on Enhancing Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the Implementation of its mandate.***

***Nairobi, July 1st, 2011;*** The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) will hold a Roundtable on the theme “Enhancing Respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the Implementation of AMISOM Mandate” from 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The meeting is in line with the outcomes of the 279<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011. At that meeting, the PSC discussed the issue of the protection of civilian populations in armed conflicts on the basis of the Progress Report of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on the Development of Guidelines for the Protection of Civilians in African Union Peace Support Operations as well as the statement made by the representatives of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

In its Press Statement issued after the meeting, the PSC welcomed the efforts being made by the AU Commission, including steps taken to mainstream the Draft Guidelines for the Protection of civilians into the work of AMISOM and encouraged the AU Commission to pursue its efforts, notably through the development of, among others, an AMISOM approach for the protection of civilians.

The three day meeting, which is being hosted by the Government of Rwanda, will pool participants from AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries, the Somalia Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Somalia Civil Society, Human Rights Organizations, Academia, Peace-keeping Training Institutions, Research and Policy Advocacy Organizations and the Media among others.

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