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LIGHTING OF THE AFRICAN UNION FLAME OF PEACE MARKS THE CONCLUSION OF THE 28TH EDITION OF THE AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS 2012

Libreville, 12 February 2012:

The conclusion of the 28th edition of the Africa Cup of Nations 2012 was marked by the lighting of the African Union (AU) 'Flame of Peace', today, in Libreville, at the Angondjé Stadium. The Flame, which was lit before the kick-off of the final match between Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia, symbolises the commitment of African peoples and governments to *Make Peace Happen* on the continent.



The ceremony was notably witnessed by Presidents Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon and Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea, whose countries co-hosted the 28th edition of the Africa Cup of Nations, as well as by President Thomas Yayi Boni of Benin, Chairman of the AU. Also in attendance was FIFA President Joseph Sepp Blatter.

Following the AU anthem, the Chairperson of the Commission, Jean Ping, invited CAF President Issa Hayatou to light the *Flame of Peace*. Mr. Hayatou then raised the Flame to a rapturous applause from the packed stadium.

The lighting of the *Flame of Peace* during the final of the Africa Cup of Nations is a further demonstration of the close partnership between the AU and CAF towards the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa. Within this framework, the two institutions have endeavoured to harness the unifying power of football to further the *Make Peace Happen* campaign. Today's ceremony sent out a strong message on the need for renewed efforts to end conflict in Africa and sustain peace.

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

