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PRESS RELEASE

**THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA SIGN AN AGREEMENT ON
THE DEPLOYMENT OF A FORMED POLICE UNIT TO SOMALIA**

Addis Ababa, 29 June 2012:The Commission of the African Union (AU) and the Government of the Republic of Uganda signed today, at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the deployment by Uganda of a Formed Police (FPU) Unit of 140 police personnel, as part of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

The deployment of the Ugandan FPU will be the first of its kind in an AU-led peace support operation, which so far involves only individual police officers (IPOs), in addition to military personnel. This deployment is part of the implementation of the new strategic concept for AMISOM operations, which was adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC), on 5 January 2012, and endorsed by the United Nations Security Council, in resolution 2036 (2012), of 22 February 2012. Steps are underway to also sign an MoU with the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which will provide another FPU.

Currently, there are 60 IPOs deployed in Mogadishu, who are playing a critical role in the overall efforts to build the capacity of the Somali Police Force, through advising, training and mentoring. It is planned to deploy 200 additional IPOs. The insertion into the Mission area of FPUs is meant to bolster law and order initially in Mogadishu and subsequently in other liberated areas. The signing of the MoU took place against the background of continued progress on the ground by TFG and AMISOM forces.

The MoU was signed by Minister of State for Internal Affairs James Baba, on behalf of the Republic of Uganda, and Peace and Security Commissioner Ramtane Lamamra, on behalf of the AU Commission. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Baba conveyed President Yoweri Museveni's appreciation of the work that the AU is doing to bring about lasting peace in Somalia, adding that the signing of the MoU was a further testimony of Africa's commitment to shouldering its responsibility and solidarity with the people of Somalia.

On his part, Commissioner Lamamr reiterated AU's deep appreciation to the people and Government of the Republic of Uganda for consistently supporting the peace process in Somalia. He stressed that 'the deployment of FPU's attests to the improving operational environment in Somalia, especially in Mogadishu, where military operations are now gradually being replaced by the police, to address law and order issues'.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the AU, Ambassador Mull Katende, and the Director of Interpol and International Relations in the Uganda Police Force, Assistant Inspector General Asan Kasingye .