

**Press Release N°008/2017****Transition in the AU Commission**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – 1 February 2017: A day following the conclusion of the 28th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government, during which new leadership was elected, mid-March 2017 has been agreed upon as the date for the effective handing-over ceremony from the outgoing to the incoming Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Commissioners of the African Union Commission (AUC).

Presided over by H.E. Prof. Alpha Condé, President of Guinea and Chairperson of the Union, the meeting was attended by President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad, and immediate past Chairperson of the Union, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and H.E. Mr. Moussa Fafia Mahamat, respectively incoming and outgoing Chairpersons of the AU Commission.

The meeting was also attended by the outgoing and incoming Commissioners.

While bearing in mind the established procedure providing for the handover to take place within 3 months after election and the necessity to embark soon on important tasks ahead of the new Commission, both the outgoing and incoming administration have agreed that, besides working on the transition modalities, they will also work together to begin preparations for the 29th AU Summit scheduled for July 2017 at the Headquarters in Addis Ababa, and other important events taking place before the next Summit. In this regard, new Members of the Commission would attend working

sessions with the outgoing members within the month leading to the agreed handover date.

During the meeting, the outgoing Commission Chairperson stated that her team will work relentlessly to ensure rapid, smooth and orderly transition and handover from the incumbent to the incoming Commission.

As part of the transition process, they agreed to hold a three (3) day retreat focusing on everything that the new Commission should know and be acting on.

H.E. President Alpha Condé, once again, congratulated the outgoing Commission Chairperson, her Deputy and Commissioners who have worked relentlessly to raise the profile of the Union. He also reminded the incoming Commission that the continent expects a lot from them, in particular within the spirit of the ongoing reforms.

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