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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

## Press Release

**AUC Chairperson Moussa Faki urges African Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ambassadors Group in Washington to speak with one voice while defending the cause of Africa abroad**



**Washington, USA 15 November 2017 – H.E** Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), on 15 November 2017, met with Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Head of Mission and African Ambassadors Group while on his first official visit to Washington DC, since he became Chairperson of the AU Commission. During the meeting which took place at the conference room of the AU Mission to Washington dubbed “Africa House”, Chairperson Faki urged the Ministers and Ambassadors to speak with one voice while defending the cause of Africa abroad. He said “only a united and strong African will help project the continent as a key player on

the international scene”. To that effect, he invited the diplomats to better organize themselves and work together for Africa to occupy its rightful position in the world arena.



The AUC Chairperson who was interacting with the members of the African Diplomatic Corps ahead of the 5<sup>th</sup> African Union Commission (AUC) / United States High Level Dialogue scheduled to take place on 16 November 2017 in Washington, USA, took the opportunity to update the ambassadors on the AU Institutional Reforms and progress towards its implementation.

He invited the Ambassadors to pay attention to issues related to the development of the youth who constitute a majority of the African population, as well as attract investment for economic growth to create Youth employment and mitigate migration in search of greener pastures abroad. The AUC Chairperson further highlighted key areas of Agenda 2063 such as gender and women development; accelerating agriculture and agro-processing; industrialization, infrastructural development to produce energy, transportation and other economic drivers.

Meanwhile, peace and security in the continent was mentioned as a key factor to a “prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development” with the view to improve the living condition of all African peoples.



The meeting with the African diplomatic corps was chaired by H.E Bockari Kortu Stevens, Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Also in attendance were some AU Commissioners and the Permanent Representative of the AU Mission to the USA, as well as advisers to the AUC Chairperson.

#### **Note to Editors:**

The African Union Representational Mission to the United States of America is the first bilateral mission of the African Union in the World. It was established in 2006 following the decision CM/DEC. 367 (LXVII) adopted during the 67<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session (February 1998) authorizing the Secretary General to open the OAU office in Washington, DC. The Mandate, Core Functions and the structure were adopted during the Maputo Summit of July 2003.

The main Mission of the AU diplomatic representation in the US is to build, sustain, and nurture a strategic partnership with the United States government, develop, maintain productive institutional relationships between the African Union and key U.S stakeholders including the Congress, think- tanks, institutions of higher learning, civil society, the private sector and the in the Diaspora.

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