



## The Chairperson of the African Union Commission welcomes new election timelines for Somalia through inclusive national consultations

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, welcomes the successful conclusion of the National Consultative Council (NCC) Summit among Somali leaders, which took place from 3rd to 9th December in Mogadishu.

The Chairperson is encouraged by the decision of the NCC to conclude free and transparent Lower House elections by 25th February in full respect of the 17 September 2020, 27 May 2021 agreements and the election procedures of 01 October 2020 and August 24, 2021.

He reiterates AU's position that credible elections are a crucial and necessary step towards a lasting peace in Somalia. This step and other outstanding issues can only be sustainably achieved through peaceful interaction and dialogue.

The Chairperson, therefore, urges Somali political leaders to exercise restraint and promote interactive political dialogue towards political stability. The African Union stands ready to scale up support for all such efforts, that will result in peace, progress and prosperity for Somalia.