

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

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### **Press Statement of the AU Commission Chairperson On the Ebola Outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda**

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf expresses deep concern over the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreaks declared in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Uganda, and the growing risk of regional spread within our continent.

The Chairperson commended the Governments of the DRC and Uganda, as well as national health authorities and frontline workers, for their swift response and continued efforts to contain the outbreaks under difficult circumstances. I also welcome the preparedness measures being undertaken by neighbouring countries, particularly South Sudan.

“The African Union stands in full solidarity with the peoples and Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda at this critical time,” said H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf. “Africa has overcome major public health challenges before, and through unity, coordination, and collective action, we shall overcome this one as well, he added.

The African Union fully supports the leadership of its Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in coordinating a continental response in close collaboration with Member States, the World Health Organization, humanitarian partners, donors, and all relevant stakeholders.

“The protection of African lives and the safeguarding of our continental health security remain our highest priority,” the Chairperson underscored. “We call upon all Member States and partners to intensify support for preparedness, surveillance, and rapid response efforts in affected and at-risk countries.”

The African Union remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding Africa’s public health security and strengthening the continent’s preparedness and response architecture.

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