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STATEMENT OF THE AUC CHAIRPERSON AND THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Resignation of the Joint Chief Mediator, Djibril Bassolé

Addis Ababa, on 28 April 2011: The Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations have accepted the resignation of the Joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur, Mr. Djibril Bassolé, with effect from 30 April.

Mr. Bassolé has served tirelessly in that capacity since June 2008 and his efforts have yielded positive progress in the negotiation between the parties towards securing a comprehensive peace agreement.

Mr. Bassolé will return to his Government to serve as Burkina Faso's Foreign Minister. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations expresses their deep gratitude to Mr. Bassolé for his commitment to the realization of peace in Darfur and wishes him every success.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations will have consultations and consult with the Government of Qatar and other key partners, with the view to ensuring that the ongoing negotiations in Doha lead to a positive and early conclusion.