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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **AU Peace and Security Council Undertakes a Three-Day Field Mission to the Republic of Sudan**

**Khartoum, 30 March 2021:** The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), under the Chairmanship of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya, Ambassador Jean Njeri Kamau, arrived in Khartoum, Sudan, today, on a three-day field mission from 29 March to 1 April 2021. The delegation is comprising representatives of the following PSC Member States, namely: Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and Senegal.

The Field Mission is taking place in line with the Council's mandate to promote and enhance peace, security and stability in the Continent, in particular, as it relates to the implementation of its various decisions on the situation in Sudan. It is also taking place following the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement on 3 October 2020; the removal of Sudan from the United States of America list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST), leading to the lifting of sanctions on the country; and the establishment of a new Cabinet based on the peace agreement, which includes most of the former armed movements; as well as the recent signing of the 'Declaration of Principles' that calls for freedom of religion and cultural identity in Sudan.

During its mission, the Council will gather first-hand information regarding the political, security, economic and humanitarian developments in the country, including the state of progress in the implementation of the Juba Agreement, challenges being faced and to ascertain the next steps required in order to facilitate a successful transition in the country. Furthermore, the Delegation will reaffirm the AU solidarity with the Government and people of Sudan, as well as the unwavering commitment of the AU to support the ongoing transition and to encourage the Transition Government to continue implementing the signed agreements with a view to build a peaceful Sudan. Notably, this is the fifth field mission of the PSC to the Republic of Sudan since March 2013.

The Delegation will hold consultations with a number of stakeholders, among others, the high officials of the Transitional Government, political parties, civil society organizations, African Diplomatic Community, representatives of the United Nations Integrated Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), European Union and the Five Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council. The Delegation will also travel to El Fasher, North Darfur, where it will visit the Abushuk Internally Displaced Persons Camp and consult with UNAMID officials.