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**NOTE SUBMITTED TO THE SEMINAR ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
29-30 MAY 2017, KAMPALA**

The Commission of the African Union (AU) wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the Coordinator on National Implementation Measures (New Zealand) and the Coordinators on Universalization (France and Zambia), as well as the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM (ISU-CCM), for their continued efforts to promote the universality and effective implementation of the CCM in Africa.

The AU Commission further wishes to express its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Uganda for graciously supporting and hosting this seminar. The AU Commission commends all attending Member States for their continued commitment to multilateral efforts to eliminate the threat caused by cluster munitions.

The African Union (AU) has remained deeply concerned over the devastating impact of landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war on civilians and socio-economic development. As such, the African Union holds a strong and principled position against weapons that are deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects. As early as 1995 adopted, the AU adopted various decisions to address the scourge of anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

More recently, the 584th meeting of the Peace and Security Council, held on 29 March 2016 in Addis Ababa, adopted a communique in which it welcomed the commendable progress made by Member States in clearing areas under their jurisdiction contaminated by anti-personnel land mines, cluster munitions and ERW, and called upon the concerned Member States to spare no effort in meeting their clearance obligations pursuant to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the relevant Protocols to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Furthermore, the Peace and Security Council called on Member States that have not yet done so, to accede to the afore-mentioned instruments and encouraged the exchange and sharing of expertise and resources among them.

In April 2014, the AU Commission launched the Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War Strategic Framework for the period 2014 to 2017. The objective of the Strategic

Framework is to support AU Member States in reducing the threat posed mines, explosive remnants of war, cluster munitions and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in accordance with the relevant international instruments and best practices. The Strategic Framework consists of three components: (1) Advocacy for universal compliance with the international conventions; (2) Support to Member States in mine action programs and activities; and (3) Support to AU Peace Support Operations in explosive hazard management and threat reduction. In implementing the Strategic Framework the Commission works in close collaboration with a range of regional and international partners.

Within this framework, the AU Commission undertook advocacy and outreach activities and organized a number of workshops and trainings focusing on Explosive Ordnance Disposal, mine action program management and victims' assistance. The AU Commission has also donated hand-held detectors and Personal protective Equipment to a number of member States. Furthermore, and to facilitate inter-African cooperation in the field of mine action, the AU Mine Action Survey was launched in February 2017. The survey aims to identify the mine action needs and challenges faced by Member States as well as the technical and material resources and capabilities that they can avail. Based on the information that will be provided by Member States, the AU Commission will be better able to match-make assistance needs and offers, coordinate the exchange of expertise and resources, and mobilize resources at the international level.

The AU Commission is committed to continue working with the ISU-CCM and international partners to ensure that Member States are provided with the necessary assistance and support towards the universal and effective implementation of the CCM.

For further information and requests for assistance, please contact:

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