



PRESS RELEASE

THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND ITALY AGREE ON NEW PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED THROUGH THE ITALIAN AFRICA PEACE FACILITY

As part of the implementation process of the *Italian Africa Peace Facility* (IAPF), Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, African Union Peace and Security Commissioner, and Ambassador Armando Sanguini, Director-General for Sub-Saharan Africa at the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, reached today, in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, on the margins of the 11th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, an agreement regarding the funding, through the IAPF, of five new projects.

These projects, which amount to a total cost of US\$ 9 million, relate to the following activities:

- support to the activities of the AU Panel of the Wise and the functioning of its Secretariat, in order to foster conflict and peacemaking prevention efforts in the continent;
- support to the operationalization of the AU Liaison Offices in Khartoum and Juba (Sudan), as part of the efforts aimed at contributing to the successful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the promotion of sustainable peace and reconciliation in that country;
- implementation of the AU Border Programme, through the recruitment of the required human resources and the convening of regional workshops to disseminate the Programme, which revolves around border delimitation and demarcation, cross border cooperation and capacity building;
- strengthening of the AU Commission capacity in the area of prevention and combating of terrorism and other related issues;
- support to the operationalization of the African Stand-by Force (ASF) by financing components of the ASF training plan.

It is to be recalled that, last March, the AU and the Italian Government agreed on three projects aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, including its police force, for a total cost of US\$ 10 million. With the Agreement reached today, the total amount of projects funded by Italy, through the IAPF, now stands at US\$ 19 million.

The IAPF was established in December last year, following an agreement between AU Commission and the Italian Government signed in Lisbon, on the margins of the Africa-EU Summit, with a total amount of €40 million to support the implementation of the AU peace and security agenda.

Sharm El Sheikh, 30 June 2008