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PRESS RELEASE

SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN CONCLUDE THE THIRD MEETING OF THEIR JOINT BORDER COMMISSION

Addis Ababa, 20 March 2015: The Joint Border Commission (JBC) of the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Sudan concluded, on 18 March 2015, in Addis Ababa, its 3rd meeting, with the signing of an Agreement for the establishment of an Escrow Account to meet the cost of demarcation of the boundary between the two States. The three-day meeting was held under the auspices of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) and in accordance with the JBC Resolutions adopted in Juba, South Sudan, from 7 to 8 February 2015.

The Agreement was signed on behalf of the Republic of South Sudan by Mr. Michael Makuei Lueth, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and, on behalf of the Republic of Sudan, by Dr. Al Rasheed Haroun Adam, State Minister at the Presidency, in the presence of representatives of the AUBP.

The meeting also adopted the final list of the members of the Joint Technical Team (JTT) consisting of equal numbers of surveyors, cartographers and other relevant experts from each State, as proposed by the JBC session of February 2015. The meeting also considered and adopted the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Joint Demarcation Committee (JDC) to manage and supervise the boundary demarcation exercise.

The signing of the Agreement marks a new step in the implementation of the Cooperation Agreements signed, between Sudan and South Sudan, in September 2012, under the auspices of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP). It also constitutes an encouraging development in the implementation of the AUBP, whose two core objectives are the delimitation and demarcation of African borders where such an exercise has not yet taken place and the promotion of cross-border cooperation, notably on the basis of the AU Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation, also known as the Niamey Convention.