



### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **African Union Commission (AUC) and Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVSR) sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVSR) is pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Union Commission (AUC). The document that formalises the long standing institutional relationship between the two entities was signed on the margins of the significant 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations of the Organisation of African Union (OAU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The yearlong 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations are held under the theme Pan Africanism and African Renaissance, both principles that guide the work of CSVSR. CSVSR's mission is to promote human rights and democracy through seeking to prevent violence, heal its effects and build sustainable peace at local, national and continental levels. Part of this mission has been recognised through technical partnership with and support provided to the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) towards fulfilment of the



**Left – H.E. Dr. Aisha Abdullahi, Commissioner Political Affairs African Union Commission and Right - Ms Delphine Serumaga, Executive Director, CSVSR - sign MOU in Addis Ababa, 17 May 2013.**

Department's mandate to promote peaceful coexistence among African peoples, the respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance on the continent. As such CSVSR is pleased to announce this milestone we have reached in our collaboration.

The signed MOU enables the CSVR and the AUC to cooperate on mutual issues of interest in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of the AU. Some of these issues relate to: promoting and protecting human rights; good governance; rule of law; transitional justice; and human security. These shall be achieved through research, training and capacity building and any other mutually defined area of common interest.

This MOU was made possible through long term engagement with the Department of Political Affairs and our civil society partners across the continent. In fulfilment of this MOU CSVR is committed to continued collaborations with all civil society organisations working towards the promotion of Human rights, democracy and governance on the African continent and achieving sustainable peace, social and transitional justice.

The CSVR extends its sincere gratitude to H.E Dr Aisha Abdullahi, Commissioner for Political Affairs and her Department in ensuring that civil society organisations work together with the AU to promote and protect human rights in Africa.

**Addis Ababa, 17 May 2013**

For queries and further comments please contact:

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