



## Press Release

### African Intelligence Headquarters to be constructed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



**A cross section of Heads of State and other dignitaries from the AU and CISSA who braced the occasion**

The Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA), held a stone laying ceremony at the site of its new Headquarters in Addis-Ababa, on Tuesday, January 31st, 2017, on the sidelines of the 28th AU Summit, which was held at the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The site of the construction of the CISSA head office was graciously donated by the Government of Ethiopia to host the CISSA Secretariat, which is responsible for running the day to day activities of CISSA.

The groundbreaking ceremony was hosted by H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea, whose government has pledged to fund the cost of the construction of CISSA Headquarters. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana; H.E. Omar al-Bashir the President of the Republic of Sudan; H.E. Smail Chergui, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security; H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; members of the CISSA Troika and the Bureau; the Executive Secretary of CISSA, and other officials.



**H.E. President Theodore Mbasogo NGUEMA of Equatorial Guinea presenting his remarks during the occasion**

Addressing the dignitaries, President Mbasogo expressed gratitude to the Government of Ethiopia for donating the piece of land for the construction of CISSA Headquarter, and pledged that his government was committed to its pledge to bear the full cost of the project. The President highlighted the fact that for CISSA to play its role in conflict prevention, it was necessary for the organization to have a structure that would enable it to fulfill its mandate. This was necessary given the fact that CISSA was a platform for dialogue, analysis and strategies. He highlighted the fact that Africa needs to take its destiny into its own hands and further noted that in the last few years, Africa has been plagued with security threats evident in wars and terrorism; hence it is the responsibilities of African leaders to combine their efforts and resources to fight these threats.



**H.E. Ambassador Ismail Chergui, The Commissioner for Peace and Security, presenting his remarks during the occasion**

Speaking on behalf of the AUC Chairperson, Commissioner Chergui expressed that he was “proud to be associated with this construction project of an African Union Institution donated by an African Union Member country, which underscores the need for synergy by the governments and people of Africa to contribute strengthening continental Institutions. This is a strong step forward to providing African solutions

to African problems.” He then made specific reference to various security challenges facing Africa, such as militia factions, armed gangs, terrorism, drug trafficking, the use of social media to spread false news, which negatively impacted on the security of African countries.



**Brig. Gen. Joseph NZABAMWITA, Chairperson of CISSA presenting his remarks during the occasion**

Speaking on behalf of the CISSA Troika and the entire CISSA membership, Brigadier General Joseph Nzabamwita, Chairperson of CISSA, expressed his gratitude to both governments of Ethiopia and Equatorial Guinea for their generous offers towards the construction of CISSA Headquarters. He also alluded to the mandate of CISSA’s contribution towards conflict resolution in the continent, including Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020. He concluded by requesting the Heads of State and Government of Africa, to contribute their part towards building a conflict free Africa.



**Mr. Shimeles WOLDESEMAYAT, The Executive Secretary of CISSA presenting his remarks during the occasion**

In his speech, Mr. Shimeles Woldesemayat, Executive Secretary of CISSA, thanked the Government of Equatorial Guinea and its President, whom he said was “the brainchild of the noble idea to create the

institution known as CISSA". He also thanked the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for donating to CISSA a 32,000 square meters piece of land, for the construction of the CISSA headquarters. The Executive Secretary pointed out that these offers were testaments of unwavering support to the good cause of Africa. He concluded his speech by assuring that CISSA continued to play its role towards the consolidation of peace and security within the African Peace and Security Architecture.

The event was concluded with a group photo for the Heads of States and Senior Officials present, in front of the plaque commemorating the contribution of H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo's offer to fund the CISSA Headquarters.



**The unveiling of the cornerstone by Heads of State Present and other AU and CISSA dignitaries**

### **Remarks**

Worth noting is that CISSA was established on 26 August 2004 in Abuja, Nigeria by Heads of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa. At the January 2005 AU Mid-Term Assembly of the Union, the Heads of State and Government endorsed the establishment of CISSA through Decision 62. The creation of CISSA was necessitated by the need to coordinate efforts between and among Intelligence and Security Services in Africa in dealing with threats, which have become transnational in nature and therefore require borderless cooperation and collaboration.

### **Note to Editor**

The CISSA was established in 2004 to provide the African Union Commission (AUC) and its Member States with timely and insightful intelligence, which would assist them in making informed decisions. It is a platform where Member Services exchange intelligence, expertise and experiences while dealing with common threats that affect the continent.