



## **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Mr Alpha Oumar Konare deploras the recent fighting which has erupted in the area of Sool and Sanaag between Puntland and Somaliland and which resulted in considerable loss of lives and destruction of property.

These developments are all the more regrettable as they come at a time when the Somali National Reconciliation Conference has registered historic progress, through the formation of the Somali Transitional Federal Parliament and the election of the President of the Transitional Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and when all efforts and energies were expected to be geared towards consolidating those gains.

The Chairperson of the Commission strongly appeals to the parties in this crisis to immediately cease all hostilities and desist from any action that would further exacerbate the situation. He further urges the parties to settle their differences through dialogue.

Finally, the Chairperson of the AU Commission appeals to the countries of the region to continue to demonstrate their cohesion and unity of purpose and support the Somali people in overcoming their present difficulties.

Sunday, October 31, 2004