



## **PRESS RELEASE NO. 026/2005**

### **DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM APPOINTED AS AU SPECIAL ENVOY FOR DARFUR**

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, today announced the appointment of Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Former Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) as the AU Special Envoy for the Inter-Sudanese Political Talks on Darfur, which are scheduled to resume on 10 June 2005.

The longstanding commitment of Dr. Salim to the promotion of peace and security in Africa, as well as his rich political and diplomatic experiences will facilitate and provide additional momentum to the ongoing efforts by the African Union, and the Continents' Leaders, through a sustained negotiating process in order to achieve a peaceful end to the conflict in Darfur.

In the performance of his task, he will be supported by the Mediation Team from the Commission and the Chadian Co-mediation. Dr. Salim will also work closely with the African Facilitators, observers and partners from the International Community, which have consistently supported AU's efforts in Darfur.

This strengthening of the AU Mediation Delegation to the Talks, comes at a time when concerted efforts are also being made for the enhancement and the consolidation of the role and capacity of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in order to enable it contribute more effectively to the improvement of the security, humanitarian and human rights situation in Darfur.

**Addis Ababa, 26 May 2005**