

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

---

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321  
Email: [situationroom@africa-union.org](mailto:situationroom@africa-union.org)

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **African Union Commission Chairperson Calls for Greater Solidarity with African countries affected by the current drought and famine**

***Addis Ababa, 16 March 2017:*** The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, is deeply concerned at the prevailing humanitarian situation in some parts of Africa, caused by the drought and famine, which is the most severe food security emergency in the world today. There are close to 12 million people in South Sudan, Somalia and North-east Nigeria that are in dire need of emergency food assistance. Famine has been declared in some parts of South Sudan. This situation has led to major displacements into neighboring countries. Lives and livelihoods have been lost. The situation in these countries is further compounded by insecurity and conflict.

The Chairperson of the Commission expresses AU's profound appreciation to AU member states that have opened their borders and provided assistance to those in need and appeals to all AU member states to contribute, in whatever way they can, financial and technical support, to alleviate the suffering of the affected populations. The Chairperson calls on African humanitarian and relief NGOs to mobilize the necessary support in favor of those affected by the drought.

The Chairperson further appeals to AU partners and international humanitarian organizations to step up and provide the much needed financial and logistical support to assist the affected countries to avert a catastrophe. He underscores the responsibility and obligation of the international community to take decisive action to prevent a humanitarian crisis.

The Chairperson of the Commission expresses AU's profound appreciation to all United Nations agencies and other humanitarian organizations that are already providing, in very challenging security conditions, assistance to the affected populations in a number of areas, in particular food, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and non-food items, and health.