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**PRESS RELEASE**

**OPENING IN ALGIERS OF AN EXPERTS' MEETING ON THE DRAFT  
AFRICAN MODEL LAW ON COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**The meeting also witnessed the inauguration of the African Union Special  
Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation**

**Addis Ababa, 15 December 2010:** A meeting of Experts of Member States of the African Union (AU), to consider the draft African Model Law on Counter-Terrorism, opened today in Algiers, Algeria. More than 35 AU Member States, representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other stakeholders are attending the meeting, which is convened by the AU Commission and hosted by the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT). The meeting will conclude tomorrow, 16 December 2010.

It is to be recalled that the elaboration of the African Model Law on Counter-Terrorism is part of the implementation of the AU 2002 Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. It will serve as a template that would guide Member States in developing, strengthening and/or updating their national laws, to better meet their obligations under relevant African and international instruments, including the 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its additional 2004 Protocol.

The Chairperson of the Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, seized the opportunity to formally inaugurate the AU Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, Mr. Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira, who is, concurrently, the Director of ACSRT.