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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MRS AMIRA ELFADIL AFRICAN UNION COMMISSIONER
FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE SEVENTIETH SESSION
OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

PROTOCOLS

Greetings, Honourable Ministers and members of the 70th Africa Regional Committee of WHO, allow me to bring you the greetings of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, HE Moussa Faki Mahamat to my sister Dr Moeti, Regional Director of AFRO and to Director-General WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom.

Honourable Ministers, it is appropriate that the Commission joins the Africa Region of WHO, to celebrate the certification of wild polio eradication in Africa. Our congratulations are extended to all Member States, WHO and field staff who have contributed to this significant milestone. The gains made thus far shall need to be safe guarded, and victories such as this, remind us that collective multisectoral action can deliver on the health commitments that are necessary to ensure that Africa's human capital, is in good health to drive Africa's transformative development Agenda.

Honourable Ministers, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has reignited the need for global health solidarity and partnerships, in order to arrive at collective and decisive solutions that will advance global public health security and safety. "No one is safe till everyone is safe". I take the opportunity to thank all Member States and WHO for the cooperation and collaboration with the AU, the Commission and Africa CDC, that has resulted several positive gains although many challenges do remain. The Commission is also pleased that 4 Member States have now ratified the AMA Treaty that shall establish the Africa Medicines Agency and continues to urge others to do so at the earliest.

Honourable Ministers, distinguished Ministers, since this is my last official address to this august Committee, in my capacity as Commissioner of Social Affairs, I thank you for your cooperation during my tenure and I wish you fruitful deliberations.