

# Launch of the AU Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mission in Ethiopia

## PRESS STATEMENT

**ANTHONY J. BLINKEN, SECRETARY OF STATE**

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We applaud the signing and launch of the African Union's Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mission (AU-MVCM) in Mekele, another important step toward securing lasting peace for the people of northern Ethiopia. The United States stands ready to support the AU-MVCM and full implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement (COHA), which includes disarmament of Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) combatants, withdrawal of Eritrean forces, unimpeded humanitarian access, resumption of essential services, and implementation of transitional justice.

We call on the parties to ensure the protection of civilians as mandated in the COHA and believe the AU-MVCM should play an important role in monitoring and verifying respect for human rights throughout the former conflict areas. We commend the AU and its High-Level Panel for facilitating agreement on the AU-MVCM. We look forward to working with AU panel members and the parties to expedite full implementation of the COHA that leads to lasting peace for the benefit of all Ethiopians. The United States will also continue to support the AU's mandate to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts and promote peace, security, and stability on the continent.