## Joint Statement

on the meeting between H.E Mr. Haile Mariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia & H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

President El-Sisi & Prime Minister Desalegn met on 30 January 2017, in Addis Ababa on the margins of the African Union Summit.

Both leaders recognized the paramount importance of enhancing the bilateral relations between Egypt and Ethiopia to capitalize on the achievements accomplished thus far at the leadership and institutional levels, and to enhance mutual confidence.

In this regard, both leaders stressed the importance of widening and deepening the scope of cooperation in all fields of their bilateral and regional relations, including political, security, and economic fields. Both leaders agreed to continue to work together to enhance this relationship and to prevent any situation that could undermine its brotherly and strategic nature.

The two leaders indicated that they are closely following the trilateral technical talks regarding GERD and reaffirmed their commitment to the prevailing cooperative spirit in this regard.

Both leaders stressed the need to enhance closer communication and continuous consultations at the leadership and institutional levels, regarding all aspects of bilateral relations, as well as on regional and international issues of mutual concern. They also highlighted the need to boost people to people relations in order to enhance mutual public confidence. They emphasized the important role to be played by the media and public opinion institutions in this regard.

Both leaders agreed on the need to maintain a regular exchange of visits at different levels. In this regard, Prime Minister Desalegn accepted an invitation from his brother President Al-Sisi to visit Egypt in the near future.