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**MESSAGE FROM**

**H.E Jean PING,  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE AFRICAN YOUTH DAY 2011**

**Theme:**

**« Accelerating youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development »**

**1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2011**

**AFRICAN YOUTH DAY**  
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On this memorable celebration of the African Youth Day 2011; I have the great pleasure to convey my heartiest congratulations and my best wishes to all African Youth within the continent and the Diaspora!

Africa believes in your creativity, innovation, and dedication to the Africa's Development. We are grateful for your efforts aimed at promoting the growing collaboration with the AU Member States, partners, the public authorities and private sector within the continent. Fruitfully the International Youth Year 2010 – 2011 has been a Year to celebrate fundamental values of dialogue and mutual understanding, to identify measures to be adopted to facilitate continental integration based on leadership and governance. Various activities have renewed the support to youth development in the past year. The highest one was confirmed when the African Heads of State and Government, not only focused their Summit in July 2011 on ways to “*Accelerate Youth Empowerment to ensure Sustainable Development for Africa*”, but also listened and debated with the African youth in a very meaningful way. This was the first time ever, when this intellectual, emotional and collaborative dialogue happened at such a level gathering in Africa. The success of this event is still present in our mind and I personally wish that the experience happens again on other development issues. My conviction for a successful and sustainable Africa's development sticks with the effective involvement of its youths. Many member states share that view and do not hesitate to call upon their youth to high level governance responsibility. Now is the right time to share fairly with the African Youth the responsibility to develop Africa and to re-establish mutual confidence and dialogue between the different generations for a new and youthful Africa.

I wish to encourage all the Member States and the African Youth to leverage this growing enthusiasm, momentum and attention to youth development to enhance the ratification, domestication, popularisation and implementation of the African youth Charter and the renaissance of a youthful generation dedicated to Peace, unity, integration and shared values, good governance and leadership in Africa.

The African Union Commission and its organs are resolute in upholding fundamental policy orientations to contribute to Africa's Development. It is beyond reasonable doubt that in light of the increasingly globalized world that the demographic bonus in our African Youth is an inalienable asset to the continents' development as our main human resource capital. The new energy, self-drive, determination and optimism are the defining difference that will contribute to overcome social injustice, poverty and disease, armed conflict, ethnicity intolerance, corruption and bad governance. I therefore invite all the African youth to pre-emptively work and be equal development stakeholders and especially the public sectoral authorities and the youth particularly to re-evaluate their political, economic and financial paradigms in order to assist better the youth contribute to the pride and legacy of their resourceful continent and to ensure the sustainable Peace and prosperity of Africa.

I salute all the African Youths gathered in Accra today invited by the Government of Ghana to launch the Ghanaian Youth Parliament.

Finally, Dear African Youth, I challenge you to strengthen your capacity to actively be part of genuine understanding and constructive dialogue around issues of capacity building, lifelong learning, meaningful participation for values sharing, effective and efficient leadership are core in the building of African Development.

**ONE AFRICA, ONE VOICE!**

**Long live the African Youth Dream,  
Long live the Pan African Youth Union and  
God bless Africa!**

**I thank you,**

**November 1<sup>st</sup> 2011  
Jean Ping  
Chairperson of the African Union Commission**