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PRESS RELEASE

AU CONCERNED BY MR. ANDRE MBA OBAME'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Addis Ababa, 26 January 2011: The Commission of the African Union (AU) has learned with surprise and concern the announcement made by Mr. Andre Mba Obame, on 25 January 2011. This announcement, which comes 17 months after the holding of the presidential election on 30 August 2009, in the presence of international observers, is likely to undermine the integrity of the legitimate institutions, as well as threaten peace, security and stability in Gabon, which constitute the foundation on which the country can build on in order to strengthen its democratic process and attain socio-economic development.

The Chairperson of the Commission, Jean Ping, calls on all political actors in Gabon, in particular the opposition leaders, who can all take pride in their contribution to the stability and respect Gabon enjoys, to exercise restraint. He urges them to act responsibly and to continue, at all times and in all circumstances, to place the supreme interests of Gabon above any other consideration. He encourages all the Gabonese stakeholders to address the challenges facing their country, through dialogue and consultation, with due respect for legality and the normal functioning of the institutions.

The Chairperson of the Commission, who is concerned about the increase of election and governance-related conflicts in the continent, hopes that Gabon will find, in the wisdom of its leaders and genius of its people, ways of achieving sustained progress, including progress in its political life, in an environment of peace, tranquility and conviviality.