Press Release

Chairperson expresses sadness and solidarity with the Government and People of Japan, following the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on Friday, 11 March 2011

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr Jean Ping, has expressed profound sadness and sincere condolences to the Government and People of Japan, following the powerful earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on Friday, 11 March 2011, resulting in widespread devastation and loss of thousands of human lives.

In addition to a message he sent to Prime Minister Naoto KAN, the Chairperson paid a visit to the Japanese embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, today, 14 March 2011, to personally express his sorrow, solidarity and support.

In his message to the Japanese Prime Minister, Dr. Ping wrote:

“It is with great sadness that I learned of the massive earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan a few hours ago, causing great loss and damage. On behalf of the entire Commission and in my personal name, I wish to convey our most profound condolences and heartfelt sympathies, as well as our solidarity with Your Excellency and the People of Japan, as you strive to cope with this unimaginable tragedy whose heartbreaking devastation is still unfolding.

“During this difficult time, as a genuine partner of your country, we wish to assure you that the African Union Commission extends its full support and sympathy to the People of Japan. Our thoughts and prayers go to the affected families. We also wish the rescue and recovery teams every success in their efforts.”

Addis Ababa, 14 March 2011