



PRESS RELEASE

APPOINTMENT OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AFRICAN UNION FOR COTE D'IVOIRE

Addis Ababa, March 26, 2011: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Jean Ping, today, appointed Mr. José Brito, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde, as the AU High Representative for Côte d'Ivoire. This appointment is part of the implementation of the communiqué of the 265th meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU, held in Addis Ababa, on 10 March 2011, at the level of Heads of State and Government. Having endorsed the proposals made by the AU High-Level Panel for the Resolution of the Crisis in Côte d'Ivoire on an overall political solution, the PSC requested the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a High Representative for the implementation of this overall political solution.

Born in 1944, José Brito served as Ambassador of Cape Verde to several countries, before assuming the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs of his country.

In the fulfillment of his mandate, the High Representative will notably work towards the convening, under the auspices of the AU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), of negotiations between the Ivorian parties to develop modalities for the implementation of the proposals of the High-Level Panel as endorsed by the PSC.

The Chairperson of the Commission takes this opportunity to reiterate AU's call to the Ivorian parties to extend full cooperation in the implementation of the overall political solution to the Ivorian crisis. He urges them to exercise maximum restraint and to avoid escalation of tension so that the Ivorian people could enjoy the peace, stability and reconciliation that Africa as a whole is earnestly calling for.
