



Press Release

Chairperson holds talks with UNAMID Joint Special Representative

Addis Ababa, 03 May 2011-- The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Jean Ping, today, 3 May 2011, held talks at AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, with Professor Ibrahim Gambari, Joint Special Representative (JSR) of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

Professor Gambari briefed the Chairperson on recent developments in UNAMID, including the current security situation in Sudan and the unfortunate death of a Sierra Leonean female peacekeeper in West Darfur on 5 April 2011. JSR Gambari also highlighted the new initiatives by the UN Country team and UNAMID to ensure delivery of humanitarian supplies to previously inaccessible deep field locations.

The JSR further briefed the Chairperson on his recent visit to Doha, Qatar, where he met with the Joint Mediation Team for Darfur and the parties engaged in the peace process, to discuss further cooperation between UNAMID and the Mediation.

The Chairperson and the JSR discussed ways and means to ensure that the UNAMID Joint Support and Coordination Mechanism (JSCM) Office remains an independent and necessary part of the Mission. Both parties further discussed the upcoming visit to Sudan by Chairperson Ping and the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra.

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the JSR for his regular briefings and consultations with the leadership of the African Union Commission and renewed his complete confidence and full support for UNAMID.

Professor Gambari arrived in Addis Ababa on 2 May 2011 for a two-day visit to attend the Validation Workshop on AU-UN Strategic Partnership, held at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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