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## *Press Release*

### **The Chairperson of the African Union Commission Holds Talks with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and German Government Delegation**

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Jean Ping, received today, 04 May 2011, in his office at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia a delegation from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and the German Government.

The delegation comprised of the Chairperson of the FES Board of Trustees, Mrs. Ingrid Mattheaus-Maier, and Head of the Africa Department, Ms. Michele Augu, accompanied by German Deputy Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mr. Michael Biontino.

Speaking on behalf of FES, Ms. Ingrid Mattheaus-Maier informed the AUC Chairperson of the commitment of FES in strengthening its cooperation with the African Union in the aftermath of the signing of the two institutions' Memorandum of Understanding on 18 February 2011. She stressed that FES brings to its work in the African Union, experience gained from working in 24 African countries since the 1960s as well as expertise in various thematic areas, including research and publication.

Ms. Ingrid Mattheaus-Maier added that FES is also committed to providing necessary information and awareness to German and European citizens on the work of the African Union. She expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the African Union Commission under the Chairperson's leadership, especially in the area of peace and security and requested that the Foundation be informed of AU's priorities in order to align its cooperation with AU's major needs.

Speaking on behalf of the German Government, the deputy Ambassador, Michael Biontino conveyed a special message to the AU Chairperson. On behalf of the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, Mr Biontino invited the Chairperson to an official visit to Germany at his earliest convenience.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Ping expressed appreciation for the positive role that Germany was playing in Africa, both at bilateral and multilateral levels.

***Addis Ababa, 04 May 2011***

**END**

