



---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE CHAIRPERSON OF AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION UNDERTAKES A TWO - DAY VISIT TO SUDAN**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 7 June 2011:** The Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, ended his visit to Sudan on 7 June 2011. During his two-day visit to Sudan, the Chairperson was received by H.E President Omar Al Bashir on 6 June 2011, and discussed with him the status of the CPA implementation as well as the efforts being made for the resolution of the current crisis in Abyei.

In his meeting with the President of the Republic, the Chairperson thanked the Government of Sudan for successfully conducting the general elections of April 2010, and the South Sudan referendum in January 2011. He also commended the Government of Sudan for the positive outcome of the Doha talks aimed at resolving the conflict in Darfur, and expressed the AU's readiness to continue to assist for the early commencement of the Darfur Political Process (DPP).

President Bashir briefed the Chairperson on efforts being made by Sudan to resolve the crisis in Abyei, and underscored the importance of having dialogue with the Government of South Sudan to de-escalate this crisis.

On 7 June 2011, the Chairperson met with H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, First Vice President and President of the Government of South Sudan. They consulted widely on the progress being made on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and the challenges ahead. In this regard, they extensively discussed the current situation in Abyei, and the various efforts being deployed to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

The Chairperson and President Kiir agreed on the importance of dialogue between the two CPA Parties in order to resolve the crisis in Abyei. The Government of South Sudan expressed its readiness to continue with the facilitation of African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP).

They have also discussed the preparations being made for the upcoming Independence of South Sudan on 9 July 2011, and the practical steps to be taken for the admission of the new country as the 54<sup>th</sup> AU member state.

The Chairperson reassured President Salva Kiir of the AU's commitment to fully work with AU member states and the international community with regard to Post Independence Reconstruction and Development of South Sudan.

During his stay in Khartoum, the Chairperson also attended the opening ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee for Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA).

During his visit, the Chairperson was also briefed by Dr. Salahueddin Ghazi, Presidential Advisor responsible for the Darfur file, on the positive outcomes of the Darfur talks.

Furthermore, the Chairperson traveled to Al Fasher, North Darfur, and visited United Nations-African Union Mission in Dafur (UNAMID) and received a briefing from the acting Joint Special Representative Mohammed B. Yonis and other senior leadership of the Mission, on the activities of UNAMID. He also paid a courtesy call to the Acting Governor of North Darfur.