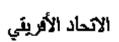
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PRESS RELEASE

THE CHAIRPERSON RECEIVES SEVERAL DELEGATIONS INVITED TO MALABO

Malabo, 27 June 2011, on the sidelines of the 19th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Executive Council held in Malabo, capital of Equatorial Guinea, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Jean Ping, received on 25, 26 and 27 June, 2011 respectively, a number of delegations invited to attend this High Level AU Meeting. The delegations include the Minister for Africa of United Kingdom, the Foreign Ministers of Slovenia and Serbia, as well as the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, the Deputy Foreign Minister of China and the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

During these meetings, the Chairperson discussed with his interlocutors issues of mutual interest including the crises in Libya, and the main items on the agenda of the AU Executive Council

The Chairperson seized the opportunity to reiterate AU's conviction that only a political solution based on a long term vision, would bring about a lasting solution to the conflict in Libya and preserve that unity and territorial integrity of the country. The Chairperson called on AU's partners to work with Africa towards the achievement of this objective.

On their part, all the delegations received by the Chairperson emphasized the need to work closely with AU on the Libya crisis as well as on the other conflicts in Africa, including Somalia and Sudan.

They also expressed the readiness of their respective countries to further strengthen cooperation and partnership with AU and its Member States.