



PRESS RELEASE

CHAIRPERSON PING CONCLUDES A ONE DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO GERMANY



Berlin, 5 July, 2011: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr Jean Ping, paid an official visit to Berlin on 5 July, 2011, at the invitation of the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel. This visit took place on the eve of the Chancellor's trip to three African countries, namely Kenya, Nigeria and Angola.

Chancellor Merkel and Chairperson Ping had extensive discussions on issues of mutual interest, including Libya, Sudan and other situations on the Continent, as well as bilateral cooperation between the AU and Germany.

The Chairperson briefed his interlocutor on AU's efforts to find a political solution to the Libyan crisis on the basis of the proposals contained in the Draft Framework Agreement endorsed by the Malabo Summit. The Chairperson also stressed the encouraging developments in Cote d'Ivoire and Sudan and the need for adequate international support to assist these two countries and consolidate the gains made.

On her part, Chancellor Merkel emphasized the importance Germany attaches to the AU and its key role in promoting peace, security and development in Africa. She pledged continued support to the AU's efforts aimed at achieving these goals.

The Chairperson also met the Federal Foreign Minister, Dr Guido Westerwelle, and the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Mr. Dirk Niebel. Discussions with both Ministers focused on several political and economic issues of mutual interest.

It is worth mentioning that Germany is providing significant support to AU Commission in different areas, including peace and security, governance and democracy and development, as well as capacity building. Among others, Germany is funding the construction the building that will house the Peace and Security Department with all the facilities required for the effective discharge of the mandate of this Department.

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