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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The African Union welcomes the agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan on the border monitoring support mission**

**Addis Ababa, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011:** The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Jean Ping, welcomes the Agreement reached, under the auspices of the AU, between the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan, in Addis Ababa, on 30 July 2011, on the Border Monitoring Support Mission. The deployment of this Mission will make a significant contribution to enhancing security between the two states, filling the vacuum that has been created in security mechanisms since the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), on 9 July 2011, and will allow the people of the two countries to go about their daily lives in greater security and safety. The Chairperson recognizes the particular significance of this Agreement, which marks the first intergovernmental accord between the two states since the emergence of South Sudan as a sovereign state.

The Chairperson of the Commission commends the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), comprising former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Pierre Buyoya and Abdusalaami Abubaker, for its tireless work in ensuring that the neighbouring states of Sudan and South Sudan exist together in harmony and good neighbourliness. The role of the AUHIP in facilitating the negotiations towards the smooth ending of the CPA and the finalization of post-secession relations between Sudan and South Sudan cannot be overemphasized. In this respect, the Chairperson of the Commission looks forward to further fruits of the Panel's efforts, as it works with the Parties to reach agreements on the other outstanding issues, including oil, currency, assets, liabilities and debt relief, the demarcation of the common border and the development of cross-border relations within the context of a soft border.

The Chairperson of the Commission also lauds the leadership of Sudan and South Sudan for their maturity and determination to address all outstanding issues that must be concluded in order to strengthen their relations.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates his appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for its invaluable support to the process, by agreeing to deploy troops along the border as force protection to monitor and verify security along the border.

The Chairperson of the Commission calls on the international community, in particular the United Nations Security Council, to lend its full support to the implementation of this agreement.