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COMMUNIQUE

The Chairperson of the Commission hails the conduct of the elections in Zambia as a positive step in Africa's march towards democracy and the rule of law

Addis Ababa, 23 September 2011: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Jean Ping, welcomes the successful holding of the presidential election in Zambia.

The transparent conduct of the election, which was won by Mr. Michael Chilufya Sata, and the acceptance of the results by President Rupiah Bwezani Banda, is a testimony to the maturity of the Zambian people and leadership. It is also a further indication of the steady progress being made by Africa in its march towards democracy, good governance and more accountable political systems, despite the setbacks witnessed on occasion, and the many challenges still facing the continent. The successful election in Zambia is a timely reminder that democratization is a process that requires long-term, sustained commitment.

The positive developments in Zambia is an encouragement for all Africans, both leaders and citizens, to remain steadfast in their commitment to promote democracy and the rule of law, within the framework of the relevant instruments adopted by the AU over the years.

