

AFRICAN UNION

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PRESS RELEASE

**THE AFRICAN UNION STRONGLY CONDEMNS
THE TERRORIST BOMBINGS IN NIGERIA**

Addis Ababa, 26 December 2011: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, strongly condemns the bombings of churches across Nigeria, on 25 December, which were claimed by Boko Haram and killed a large number of people in the capital Abuja alone.

The Chairperson of the Commission expresses his most sincere condolences to the bereaved families of the victims who have been denied the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with their loved ones, and wishes those wounded strength and a speedy recovery.

The Chairperson of the Commission stresses that Boko Haram's continued acts of terror and cruelty and absolute disregard for human life cannot be justified by any religion or faith. He reaffirms AU's total rejection of all acts of intolerance, extremism and terrorism.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates AU's solidarity with the people and government of Nigeria and its full support to their efforts to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms.



Note to the Editors

In late November 2011, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission in charge of Counter Terrorism Cooperation, Mr Francesco Madeira, visited Abuja, Nigeria, and delivered a message of support and solidarity with the Government and people of Nigeria from the Chairperson. He held discussions with the relevant authorities on the terrorism threat in Nigeria, efforts undertaken by the government in this respect and how best to enhance the effectiveness of the efforts to prevent and combat terrorism.

Over the past years, the AU has developed a normative and operational framework for dealing with the threat of terrorism in Africa. This framework includes the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its 2004 Protocol, the 2002 AU Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and a number of relevant Assembly decisions. The African Model Law on counter-terrorism, endorsed by the 17th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in 2011, further complements this framework.

On 8 December 2011, the Chairperson of the Commission submitted a report on “Terrorism in Africa and the AU’s efforts to address this scourge”, to the Peace and Security Council (PSC). The PSC, in turn, adopted a communiqué outlining additional concrete steps to be taken at continental, regional and national levels, to enhance the effectiveness of Africa’s efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, within the framework of the relevant AU and International instruments.

