



PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT TO THE EFFORTS AIMED AT ENSURING AN EARLY RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER IN GUINEA-BISSAU

Addis Ababa, 11 May 2012: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, continues to closely monitor developments in Guinea-Bissau. In particular, he maintains regular contact with all relevant international actors, notably the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), towards the early restoration of constitutional order in the country.

The Chairperson of the Commission recalls that, at its 319th meeting held on 24 April 2012, the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), reaffirming the principle of subsidiarity, endorsed the decisions of ECOWAS, in particular the deployment of a stabilization mission, and welcomed the commitment and dynamism of ECOWAS in dealing with the crisis in Guinea Bissau.

In this context, the Chairperson of the Commission welcomes the continued engagement of ECOWAS in promoting the return to constitutional order in Guinea Bissau.

The Chairperson of the Commission stresses the importance of continued consultation among all relevant international actors, to facilitate a coordinated approach and concerted support to the ECOWAS efforts, with the view to restoring constitutional order, completing the defense and security sector reform, and fighting against drug trafficking and impunity.

In conformity with the PSC communiqué of 24 April 2012, the AU is making arrangements for the holding, in the context of a Multilateral Consultation and Coordination Framework on the Stabilization of Guinea Bissau, of a meeting that would bring together all relevant international actors, to develop a comprehensive strategy that would facilitate a speedy and lasting solution. This strategy will be reviewed by the PSC, before submission to the United Nations Security Council and other multilateral partners concerned, in order to mobilize the necessary support and facilitate its effective implementation.