

AFRICAN UNION

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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE SUDAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE OF THE AFRICAN UNION/UNITED NATIONS/LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES JOINT PROPOSAL ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Addis Ababa, 29 June 2012: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, welcomes the acceptance by the Government of Sudan of the tripartite proposal of the African Union, the United Nations and the League of Arab States for access to provide and deliver humanitarian assistance to the war-affected civilians in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States. The Chairperson of the Commission wishes to underscore, as evidenced by the AU Roadmap of 24 April 2012, the Commission's unwavering support for the tripartite proposal since it is imperative that the affected population has access to humanitarian assistance, while a lasting political solution is being sought.

In line with the tripartite proposal, the Chairperson of the Commission urges all those responsible to ensure that it is effectively and fully implemented without further delay, to facilitate the humanitarian operation in the two affected states. Furthermore, the Chairperson of the Commission would like to underline the readiness of the AU to contribute personnel to the joint teams that would be responsible for undertaking a rapid humanitarian assessment mission in all affected areas. The Commission is also ready to contribute monitors. These teams and monitors will work very closely with the Sudanese parties to ensure neutrality, impartiality, accountability and transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Chairperson of the Commission acknowledges the fact that the Sudanese parties remain the primary guarantors of the safety and security of all humanitarian staff and observers deployed in these affected areas.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the AU's continued commitment to assisting the Sudanese parties, through the African Union High Level Implementation Panel on Sudan (AUHIP), in finding a lasting solution to their challenges. In this respect, and in line with the AU Roadmap, the Chairperson of the Commission reiterates AU's conviction that a political settlement is the only long-term solution to the crisis in the two States.

