



Press Release

Chairperson Receives the Credentials of the New Permanent Observer of Pakistan to the African Union



Chairperson Ping (R) welcomes Ambassador Ghulam Dastgir to his new position as the Permanent Observer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the African Union (Photo AUDIC)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 4 July 2012 --- The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Jean Ping, received in his office at the AU Headquarters on Wednesday, 4 July 2012, the credentials of H.E. Mr. Ghulam Dastgir, the new Permanent Observer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the African Union.

Welcoming Ambassador Dastgir, the Chairperson said that the AU is pleased to have formal diplomatic relations with Pakistan, adding that Africa has much in common with Pakistan.

He pointed out that Pakistan is a developing country like most AU Member States and has played a key role in the Non-Aligned Movement and collaborated with Africa in other major international fora, notably, the United Nations.

“Pakistan is facing many problems because of its geo-strategic location. We fully support all the efforts deployed by the Pakistani Government and People to overcome these challenges,” the Chairperson stated.

On his part, Ambassador Dastgir conveyed to the Chairperson the warm regards of Pakistan’s Foreign Minister, H.E. Ms Hina Rabbani Khar and emphasized his country’s interest to strengthen its relations with Africa.

The Pakistani Ambassador praised the African Union for its pre-eminent role in maintaining peace and security and promoting democracy in the Continent.

“We do appreciate the significant efforts the AU and you personally have deployed in the last few years to promote democracy and put an end to unconstitutional changes of government in Africa. This is a great lesson for other regions,” he stated.

The Ambassador reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to assist the AU’s peacekeeping endeavours and pointed out that Pakistani peacekeepers are currently serving in several African different countries.

The Chairperson asked the Ambassador to convey to the Government and People of Pakistan the appreciation of the African Union for the collaboration and assistance Africa has always received from Pakistan.

Both personalities also exchanged views on several other topical issues of mutual interest.

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