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COMMUNIQUÉ

THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS IN LIBYA

Addis Ababa, 9 July 2012: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, welcomes the successful conduct of the 7 July 2012 elections in Libya, to elect a General National Congress, as part of the transition process towards democratic and accountable institutions. He commends the people and Government of Libya for this great achievement and milestone.

The Chairperson of the Commission stresses that the peaceful conduct of the elections and the high voter turnout bear testimony to the commitment of the Libyan people and political stakeholders to pluralism and democracy. He encourages them to stay the course, in order to successfully complete the ongoing transition and address all related challenges. He assures them of AU's continued support, mindful that a democratic and stable Libya will be a tremendous asset for the entire African continent.

As part of AU's support to the transition in Libya, and in response to the invitation extended by the Libyan High National Electoral Commission, the Chairperson of the Commission dispatched an Election Observer Mission to Libya. The Mission was led by Mr. Essam Sharaf, former Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and comprised 35 members.