
Press Release

Ambassador of Canada Bids Farewell To Chairperson



*Chairperson Ping and Ambassador Lévesque bid each other farewell, at the end of their respective tenures.
(Photo AUDIC)*

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 17 August 2012 --- The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Jean Ping, received in his office at the AU Headquarters on Thursday, 16 August 2012, the Ambassador of Canada to Ethiopia and Permanent Observer to the African Union, H.E. Ms. Michele Lévesque, who came to bid the Chairperson farewell, having come to the end of her stay in Ethiopia.

Welcoming Ambassador Lévesque, the Chairperson expressed the gratitude of the African Union to the Government and People of Canada for the fruitful and mutually beneficial partnership that exists between both parties, and assured all AU Partners that despite the

change in its leadership, the African Union will continue to develop its relations with the Partners.

The Chairperson described the current political and economic situation in Africa as “promising”, adding that democracy and good governance are irreversible processes which Africans have voluntarily embraced.

He warned against the danger of “Nescafé Democracy” – that is, the expectation of instant, perfect and standardized democratization – and pointed out that even in Europe and North America democratic political cultures have taken centuries to emerge and have been punctuated by several setbacks, including Fascism, Nazism, Racial Segregation, Military Rule, World Wars, etc.

“Democracy will not succeed in Africa, if it is perceived as a form of neo-imperialism,” the Chairperson warned.

The Canadian Ambassador thanked the Chairperson for receiving her on the last day of her stay in Ethiopia, and for the frank expression of his views on the situation in the Continent.

“Before leaving Addis Ababa tonight, I thought it proper to come and thank you with all my heart for what you have done for Africa and AU-Canada relations,” the Ambassador stated.

The Chairperson and the Ambassador wished each other well in their future endeavors, as they conclude their respective tenures.

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