



DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

PRESS RELEASE N° 21 / 18th AU SUMMIT

**AU Chief Executives meet to Formulate Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention,
Management and Resolution**



Addis Ababa, 30 January 2012 – The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Jean Ping has underlined the need to double the efforts of the Commission to develop both natural and human potential. He also commended the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for their efforts in the economic integration process of the African continent.

Mr. Ping was addressing the ninth meeting of the coordination committee between the AU, RECs, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and African Development Bank (AfDB) which took place on Wednesday 25th January 2012 at the AU Headquarters.

The main agenda of the meeting was to exchange views on the state of Peace and Security in Africa and consideration of the report of the AU, RECs/ Regional Mechanism (RMs) senior officials meeting. The meeting also aimed to adopt the Declaration on Peace and Security issues.

The Chairperson emphasized the importance of the AU taking concerted actions along with the regional economic groups and regional mechanisms. He recalled that the protocol on peace and security signed in January 2008 contributed greatly to the strengthening of the partnership.

Dr. Ping concluded his statement by calling on the participants to support the Pan-African University that was launched on December 14th 2011, and to help the PAU achieve its goal of providing superior education to the African youth.



In his welcome address, the Secretary General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya stated that the African Union Commission together with the joint secretariat need to work together and strengthen their capacity to insure that the dreams of the people on the African continent are realized. He noted that the AU needs to apply the principle of subsidiarity in order to move forward. He further underlined the need for documenting best practices and strategies in the area of trade.

Mr. Ngwenya stated that it is necessary for institutions to be self reliant and not rely on development partners for funding.

AMT/MM/