

**COMMENTS BY H.E. DR MBUYA ISAAC G.  
MUNLO; CHAIRPERSON;**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE  
(PRC)**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE  
21<sup>ST</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PRC**

**24<sup>TH</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2011**

**PLENARY; AUC HEADQUARTERS**

- **Your Excellency, Mr Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission**
- **Your Excellency; Mr Erastus Mwencha; Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission**
- **Your Excellencies Commissioners**
- **Your Excellencies Ambassadors**
- **Members of the Press**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

We are glad that once again we are here to undertake preparatory work for the AU Summit.

We have a long agenda to go through but we hope that with discipline and dedication, we can complete our work in time for the Executive Council meeting.

Your Excellencies we are Permanent Representatives and therefore aspire that we should be meeting more frequently thereby doing more work in a manner that is more thorough. This has not been possible because of recurring problems of logistics and facilities. These are really issues that ought to preoccupy our minds. Last week I had the opportunity of joining His Excellency, Jean Ping; Chairperson of the African Union Commission on a conducted tour of future building facilities for the African Union. There is no doubt that when completed they will help eliminate the problem of space.

But still we must aspire to resolve the issues of logistics, proper planning and coordination.

I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate improvements in our working methods. This time around we have senior officers of the AUC present during sessions; presenting reports and responding to questions comprehensively.

As we conclude yet another eventful year, we must embrace this evolving culture, of working as one unit with one goal and mandate, owning issues and seeking solutions in a transparent manner. It is important that we always take stock of what has worked well and what needs improvement.

There are still issues that need addressing; these are issues about incorporation of core values in our business, Good Governance and effective use of resources.

We hope the retreat we have proposed will materialize and its resolutions will address these issues.

As you all know; this is the last week of my mandate as Chairperson of the Permanent Representatives Committee. I am not bidding farewell but I would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the warmth and openness of the AUC Chairperson Jean Ping; the technical counsel of Mr Mwencha, the Deputy

Chairperson, the support of all Commissioners and the richness of experience and wisdom of my colleagues, Ambassadors of Member States. I appreciate the learning I have gone through during the period of my tenure.

I now invite Chairperson Jean Ping to open this session.

**I thank you.**