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## PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

### **The Chairperson of the African Union Commission expresses strong support for UNAMID.**

Dr. Jean PING, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission met today with Professor Ibrahim GAMBARI, the AU-UN Joint Special Representative (JSR) in Darfur to exchange views on the situation in Darfur JSR Gambari briefed the Chairperson on the security, humanitarian, status of deployment, as well as the political situation in Darfur.

The Chairperson expressed strong support of the African Union Commission for UNAMID efforts despite the challenges facing the Mission. He also assured JSR Gambari of African Union Commission's understanding and encouragement for UNAMID efforts to broaden the support base for the Doha peace negotiations through an internal political process on the ground in Darfur.

In this connection, the Chairperson welcomes the collaboration between UNAMID and African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) led by former President Thabo Mbeki and took note of the agreement reached between the two parties to organize as soon as possible a wide peace conference in Darfur.

He also promised to encourage the Government of Sudan to continue to do all it can to facilitate UNAMID activities in order for it to discharge its mandate including creating a conducive environment to facilitate humanitarian access and to encourage voluntary return of IDP's to their homes.

In this regard, the Chairperson underlined the need for UNAMID to use its presence in Darfur to utilize to the extent possible, its assets and resources for early recovery activities in order to bring the peace dividends to the people of Darfur.

**Kampala, 21 July 2010**

