

AFRICAN UNION

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PRESS STATEMENT

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SUDAN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Addis Ababa, 15 November 2010: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, welcomes the significant progress made by the Sudanese Parties in the negotiations they started, in Khartoum, on 7 November 2010, under the auspices of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on the Sudan. In particular, he notes with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the negotiations on a “Framework for Resolving Outstanding Issues Relating to the Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Future Relations of North and South Sudan”.

The Chairperson of the Commission congratulates the leadership of the NCP and the SPLM for the resolve they have shown in addressing the outstanding issues for the completion of the CPA implementation process and the post-referendum arrangements. He encourages them to continue to display the same resolve and commitment in addressing the issue of Abeyi. In this respect, he welcomes the agreement to resume negotiations on the future of Abeyi at the level of the political principals, namely President Omar Hassan Al Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit, on 22 November 2010, under the auspices of the AUHIP.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the AU’s confidence in the capacity of the Sudanese Parties to reach agreements on the outstanding issues and overcome the challenges facing their country. In this respect, he stresses the need to ensure that all citizens of Sudan, wherever they reside, are afforded the protection of the State and respect for human rights, in accordance with African and international standards.

The Chairperson of Commission congratulates Former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Abdulsalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya, as well as the team of experts supporting the Panel, for their outstanding work and commitment to assist the Sudanese Parties in this historic juncture.