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**P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: 00251-11-5517700 Cable: AU, ADDIS ABABA
Website: www.africa-union.org**

African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (Sudan)

Press Release

African Union Panel to Convene Summit Meeting of Southern Sudan Political Parties in Juba

Juba, 26 February 2010: The African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) headed by former South African president, Thabo Mbeki, will convene a Summit Meeting for Southern Sudan political parties in Juba on 1st March 2010.

The Summit, which will bring together leaders of the governing Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement, opposition parties as well as independent candidates, will provide a timely opportunity for Southern Sudan's politicians to discuss various critical political issues they are facing.

The Summit will discuss a Code of Conduct for the elections as well as a Declaration committing them to supporting democratic and political processes relating to the South, Darfur and to Sudan as a whole.

The opening ceremony of the Summit will also be attended by observers including representatives of civil society and the international community.

The AUHIP was established by a decision of the AU Peace and Security Council, in October 2010, to assist the Sudanese parties in the implementation of the recommendations of the AU Panel on Darfur and to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and other related processes.

Former Heads of State, General Abdulsalami Abubaker of Nigeria, and Pierre Buyoya of Burundi are the other members of the Panel.

For more information please contact:

Barney Afako

+249907890814

barneyafako@yahoo.co.uk