



Press Communiqué

The Chairperson Receives the Credentials of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia to the AU

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr Jean Ping, received in his office at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa on Friday 5 November 2010, the credentials of the Ambassador of Namibia, H.E Ms. Sophia Kakena Kauna Nangula, as Permanent Representative of her country to the AU.

Welcoming the Permanent Representative, the Chairperson expressed gratitude to Namibia for its consistent support to the AUC. He appreciated the fact that Namibia was the first country which not only flew the AU Flag alongside the Namibian National Flag, but also sang the AU Anthem together with the Namibian National Anthem.

The Chairperson acknowledged the important role that Namibia played in the maintenance of peace and security on the continent and congratulated Namibia on its ongoing contribution to the peace keeping efforts of the AU.

On her part, Ambassador Nangula remarked that Namibia attached a great deal of importance to flying the AU flag and playing the AU National Anthem alongside the Namibian flag and Anthem because it believed that it was the responsibility of AU Member States to implement the Lusaka Decision aimed at popularizing the African Union.

The new Representative indicated that during her tenure, she would commit herself to working closely with the leadership of the AUC, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels, in promoting the AU and its work. She added that Namibia's attainment of independence was the product of the efforts of the former Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the country remained determined to lend its full weight to the realization of the AU's ideals and aspirations. She stated that as a member of the AU Peace and Security Council, Namibia would contribute to the maintenance of peace and security on the continent.

Ambassador Nangula has many years of diplomatic experience. She was the first Namibian woman to serve at the then Namibian Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations from 1980 to 1987. Before arriving in Addis Ababa to take up her position as Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Ambassador Nangula was Namibia's Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe from 2005 to 2010.

Addis Ababa, 5 November 2010