



Press Communiqué

African Union Commission receives important financial donation from China

The African Union Commission (AUC) has received a donation of USD1 320 000 (One Million Three Hundred and Twenty Thousand) from the Chinese Government to support capacity building in the Commission and the African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The generous donation was handed over to the AUC Chairperson, Dr. Jean Ping, by China's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Representative to the African Union, His Excellency Mr. Gu Xiaojie. The ceremony which took place at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa on Thursday, 25 November 2010, was attended among others by the AU Peace and Security Commissioner, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra and the Chief of Staff in the Bureau of the Chairperson, Ambassador John Kayode Shinkaiye.

On the occasion, Ambassador Gu Xiaojie stated that these new donations once more demonstrate the great importance China attaches to the African Union Commission and reiterated China's sustained support for AUC capacity building and its endeavours in safeguarding regional peace and stability. He commended the Commission for the many events and activities organized to celebrate 2010 as the Year of Peace and Security in Africa and to spread the message of peace across the continent and around the world.

The Chinese Ambassador also congratulated the Chairperson on his recent successful visit to China, during which Dr. Ping co-chaired with Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Yang Jiechi, the 3rd China-AUC Strategic Dialogue and participated in the closing ceremony of the Shanghai World Expo. Ambassador Gu Xiaojie further said he looked forward to closer cooperation ties between China and the African Union Commission.

Receiving the donation, the Chairperson expressed deep appreciation for China's continued support to the Commission and assured Ambassador Gu Xiaojie that the funds would be put to good use. He requested the Ambassador to convey the AUC's gratitude to the Government and People of China.

Recalling his recent visit to China, Dr. Ping said he had a rich and fruitful exchange of views with Chinese Government Officials, including Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and renewed his congratulations to China on the brilliant success of the highly attended Shanghai World Expo, which recorded the visit of over 21 million persons to the 43-nation Africa Pavilion and more than 72 million visitors overall.

The Chairperson and the Chinese Ambassador assessed the significant progress made in the construction of the African Union conference centre in Addis Ababa, which has been graciously offered by China and Dr. Ping expressed the hope that the inauguration of the complex, upon its completion in 2012, would be attended at the highest level by the Chinese Government.

* * *

Addis Ababa, 25 November 2010