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PRESS RELEASE

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union commends the smooth conduct of the second round of the presidential election in the Republic of Guinea

Addis Ababa, 8 November 2010: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Mr. Jean Ping, welcomes the serene and peaceful atmosphere in which the second round of the presidential election in the Republic of Guinea took place, with the presence of several election observer missions, including that from the AU. He praises the people of Guinea for having massively participated in the polls, thus manifesting their commitment to democracy and their yearning to see the transition successfully completed, through the restoration of constitutional order, so that their country can address the many challenges facing in the best possible conditions.

At this decisive phase in the history of Guinea and in the democratization process in that country, the Chairperson of the Commission underscores the responsibility incumbent upon the Guinean political actors, who should rise to the challenge and place the interest of their people, who have suffered so much from poverty and poor governance, above partisan and other considerations. In this regard, he stresses the imperative need to respect the outcome of the election and, should the need arise, to resort to the mechanisms and procedures provided for by the law to resolve possible electoral disputes.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the appreciation of the AU to the President of the Transition, General Sékouba Konaté, whose efforts and commitment have greatly contributed to the gains made so far. He also commends the Independent National Election Commission and its Chairperson for all the measures taken to ensure the smooth conduct of the election.

The Chairperson of the Commission renews his gratitude to President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, Mediator in the Guinean crisis. He recalls the crucial role played by the International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G), which is co-chaired by his Special Envoy for Guinea, Prof. Ibrahima Fall, and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Victor Gbého, as well as the contribution of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa, Ambassador Said Djinnit. He notes with satisfaction the close partnership that exists between the United Nations, ECOWAS and the AU, which has facilitated the harmonization of the action of the international community and made it possible to better support the process for a way out of the crisis and return to constitutional order in Guinea.