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**PRESS RELEASE**

**THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION,  
JEAN PING, UNDERTAKES A VISIT TO ABUJA AND ABIDJAN**

***Addis Ababa, December 15, 2010:*** As a follow-up to the decisions of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, heading a delegation comprising the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, will visit, starting tomorrow, 16 December 2010, Abuja, Nigeria, and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Mr. Victor Gbeho, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), will also participate in this mission.

In the Nigerian capital, the Chairperson of the Commission will meet with President Goodluck Jonathan, who is the current chair of ECOWAS. Subsequently, he will travel to Abidjan to meet with the Ivorian parties.

In the past few days, the Chairperson of the Commission has been in constant contact with a number of AU multilateral and bilateral partners, including the United Nations Secretary-General, and with the countries of the region. He welcomes the support being extended by all concerned international actors to the AU and ECOWAS efforts.