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**African Union High Level Implementation Panel on Sudan
(AUHIP)**

Mecca Street, Riyadh, P. O. Box 8372, Khartoum, Sudan. www.africa-union.org

PRESS STATEMENT

**UNAUTHORISED AND DISTORTED REPRESENTATION OF
AUHIP PROPOSALS ON ABYEI**

Khartoum, 02 December 2010: On November 27 the AUHIP met delegations of the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) led respectively by H.E. President Omar al-Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit.

At this meeting the AUHIP presented a document to the Parties containing various proposals relating to the resolution of the issue of Abyei.

It was then agreed that the meeting would adjourn for a few days to allow the Parties time to study the proposals.

At the same time it was agreed that to facilitate the negotiations, the document would remain confidential. Accordingly the Parties solemnly undertook that they would not publicly disclose its contents.

The Panel was therefore very surprised and very disturbed to see the comments attributed to Dr Barnaba Benjamin, Minister of Information of the Government of Southern Sudan, which purported to disclose the contents of the confidential document handed to the Parties by the Panel.

Further, these reported comments constitute a gross distortion and misrepresentation of the contents of the said document.

Accordingly the Panel advises the public completely to ignore and discount the reported comments as they have nothing to do with the document presented by the Panel.

The Panel appeals to the Parties to respect the agreement they reached at their meeting with the Panel, precisely to facilitate the process of concluding an agreement on Abyei as quickly as possible.

**Khartoum
02 December 2010**

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