



# AUC NEWS

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MAKE PEACE HAPPEN

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## Peace Day commemorations

Year long campaign for peace and security in Africa culminates with fitting celebration

This year, the International Peace Day on 21 September, had a special meaning for Africa as it was the culmination of the 2010 Year of Peace and Security, which was declared during the AU special session on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa held in Tripoli on August 31 2009.

To mark the occasion the African Union Commission held special events to mark Peace Day.

The first part of the programme for the day included delivery of the Make Peace Happen lesson plan to schools in Addis Ababa.

The second part of the programme was held at the AU.

AUC Deputy Chairperson Mr Erastus Mwencha highlighted the importance of the day, when he addressed delegates at the African Union headquarters today:

“Peace Day affords us the chance to take stock and celebrate our hard won gains, to cherish the peace that we have, and to honour and commemorate those who have dedicated themselves to resolving conflicts and restoring security on our continent”, he said.

The day offered “an unprecedented opportunity for African governments, citizens and institutions, in partnership with the international community, to come together and work towards a com-



The Peace Day witnessed the awarding of the Interfaith Peace Building Initiative (IPI). AUC Deputy Chairperson Mr Erastus Mwencha received the award on behalf of the AU for its efforts to bring peace to the continent.

mon goal, i.e., peace”, he added.

He highlighted diplomats, peace keepers, humanitarian agencies, businesses and individuals from every walk of life as those

**See Pictures on  
Pages 6 and 7**

involved in the quest for peace.

The gathering of diplomats, peace activists and AU Commission staff members was reminded that violent conflicts have decreased significantly since the mid 1990s.

Through the years it has been

involved in conflict resolution, the African Union has refined its engagement with stakeholders and its resource mobilization capacity.

It has also enabled Africans to take ownership of the processes, said Mr Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security at the African Union Commission.

The Commissioner pointed out substantial gains that have been made, such as the strong foundations that have been laid in elections and good governance.

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# Dr Ping underscores importance of science and technology in Africa

**The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Jean Ping participated in the 14th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Common Market for Eastern and Central Africa (COMESA).**

The meeting was held in Ezulwini, Swaziland from 31 August to 01 September 2010 under the theme: "Harnessing Science and Technology for Development."

Addressing delegates at the summit, Dr Ping observed that there is a positive correlation between scientific and technical development and development in general.

He noted that Africa's contribution of less than 2 percent to the global scientific knowledge base was unacceptably low and underscored the urgent need to promote science and technology research on the continent.

With regard to the regional and world economic climate, the Chairperson said that following the recent systemic financial and economic crisis, Africa now appears ready to resume growth and move a step closer towards achieving its economic potential.

He added that Africa was determined to take action in order to achieve its rightful place on the emerging global strategic arena. Using its enormous potential, he continued, the continent has been working in the last few years to create the requisite conditions for its success and assume the ensuing responsibilities.

Dr Ping regretted that the insufficiency and inconsistent flows in the financial resources of regional economic communities and the Commission continue to hinder the continent's integration. To that effect, he recalled that the recently concluded AU Summit in Uganda had asked the Commission, through the Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economy, to finalise ongoing efforts to identify alternative sources of funding and have a proposal ready for review and adoption by the Executive



Dr Ping

Council in January 2011.

He appealed to COMESA and its member states to support the Commission's efforts in that regard and called on COMESA member states which have not yet done so, to accelerate the signing and ratification of the Protocol Agreement creating the African

In his keynote address the outgoing Chairperson of COMESA, President Robert Mugabe said the regional organisation had come a long way, with free trade agreements now exceeding US\$15 billion, up from US\$3 billion last year.

Investment Bank, one of three Panafrikan financial institutions established by the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

The Chairperson commended COMESA for its leading role in promoting sub-regional integration and development and reaffirmed

the Commission's commitment to continue supporting the efforts of sub-regional economic communities towards regional and continental integration.

In his keynote address the outgoing Chairperson of COMESA, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe said the regional organisation had come a long way, with free trade agreements now exceeding US\$15 billion, up from US\$3 billion last year. He lauded the great achievements in the agriculture sector, especially in countries such as Malawi and Egypt which have produced surplus staple foods like maize and sugar, thereby enhancing the region's food security and creating jobs.

On peace and security, Mr Mugabe said despite several challenges, conflicts in the region had been resolved peacefully and COMESA was working proactively to develop an early warning conflict prevention and mitigation system.

On his part, the incoming COMESA Chairperson and Summit host, His Majesty King Mswati III of Swaziland promised that his kingdom would do everything to ensure that COMESA programmes receive the full support they need. He appealed to member states to continue moving towards deeper economic integration and the expansion of trade through the tripartite Free Trade Area.

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is an organisation of 19 member states created to promote regional economic integration through trade and investment. Covering a geographical area of 12 million square kilometres and a population of 430 million, COMESA has an annual import bill of US\$152 billion and an export bill of over US\$157 (2008).

On the sidelines of the summit, Dr. Jean Ping held fruitful consultations with regional leaders on a broad range of issues of mutual interest.





Dr Murilla Grace Adira



Dr Abukutsa M.O. Onyango



Dr Hassina Mouri



Pr Geneviève Barro



Pr Salimata Wade

## Five African women scientists honoured

Five outstanding African women scientists were honoured on 9 September when they received prizes worth \$20 000 each, a silver medal and an AU certificate at a Woman Scientist Regional Scientific Award ceremony held at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The women, selected from among many other scientists were celebrated for their work in two fields of science, i.e. Life and Earth Sciences and Basic Science, Technology and Innovation.

**The award recipients were:**

### Eastern Region

1. Dr. Murilla Grace Adira from the Eastern Region in the Basic Science, Technology and Innovation Sector, Kenya

2. Prof. Dr. Abukutsa Mary Oyiela Onyango for the Earth and Life Sciences Sector, Kenya

### Southern Region

3. Dr. Hassina Mouri for the Earth and Life Sciences Sector, South Africa

### Western Region

4. Pr. Geneviève Barro, Ep. Kabre for the Basic Science, Technology and Innovation, Burkina Faso

5. Pr. Salimata Wade for the Earth and Life Sciences Sector, Sénégal

Delivering the keynote address, AU Commission Chairperson Dr Jean Ping underscored the African Union Commission's commitment to ensure that science and technology in Africa contributes to sustainable development efforts.

He recounted steps that have been taken by the African Union to support science and technology. These include the formation of the Department of Human Resources Science and Technology, adoption of "Science, Technology and Research



Chairperson of the African Union Commission Dr Jean Ping flanked by the five laureates.

for Africa's socio-economic development" as the theme for the Summit in 2007, declaration of 2007 as the launching year for building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa, and adoption of the joint cooperation strategy with the EU in December 2007 that has a dedicated partnership on science.

"In 2009, the AU Assembly took a decision to establish an observatory on science and technology and innovation following the offer by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host and also availed seed funds.

In July 2010, the same Assembly took a decision to launch a Decade of Science and Technology in Africa", the Chairperson added.

Dr Ping encouraged more participation of women in the sciences, recalling that women make up more than 50 percent of Africa's population and should therefore be active in the main-

stream economy.

He congratulated the Regional Economic Communities (RECS) for successfully organising the awards and appreciated the efforts of the development partners, particularly the EU for supporting the programme.

Professor Jean Pierre Ezin, AU Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology; Dr Maxwell Mkwezalamba, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs; Dr. Isaac Munlo, representing Dr Bingu Wa Mutharika, Chairperson of the African Union, in his capacity of Ambassador of Malawi; Ambassador Koen Verwaeke, EU Permanent Representative to the AU; the Deputy Director General of UNESCO and accredited to the AU; and the Ambassador of India took part in the ceremony. Several officials of the AU Commission, ambassadors of AU member states as well as the President of the AU staff association also attended the ceremony.



Mr Erastus Mwencha (left) and Ms Ingrid Hayden of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) Africa Division.

## AUC and DPKO consult on Secretary General's report

**A meeting focusing on means to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable resources for peace operations and other related activities was held on 1 September at the African Union Commission as part of consultations in preparation for the report of the UN Secretary General on UN support to African peace keeping.**

Led by the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission, Mr Erastus Mwencha and Ms Ingrid Hayden of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) Africa Division, the meeting also provided the Commission with an opportunity to outline the progress it has made so far in increasing its financial management capacity, in an effort to allay anxieties about the Commission's capacity to manage funds meant for peace operations.

The Commission indicated that steps have been taken to mobilize further resources from within Africa in support of peace as demonstrated by the decision taken in Tripoli to double the standing transfer from the AU regular budget to the peace fund from 6-12 percent. This process is to be implemented over three years.

The meeting was also an opportunity to broadly outline the capacity needs of the AU and what the UN could concretely do to assist.

Further to the need to clean up financial systems, the meeting emphasized the importance of ensuring that whatever resources are available are used to actually achieve the aims of the various peace missions, i.e. attainment sustainable peace and development.

On the increase in the number of troops in Somalia to the proposed 20 000, it was reported that further meetings on this issue are planned for 13 and 24 September this year.

In addition, there was consensus on the paramount importance of supporting the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in Somalia as well as to reduce violence there. "The mission needs to reach out to the larger Somalia since the TFG is under pressure from Al Shabaab", Mr Mwencha said, citing the recent loss of four AU soldiers through a mortar bomb attack and the bombing of a hotel in Mogadishu which resulted in the loss of many lives and injury to many others.

The TFG also needs support to tackle its internal challenges, the meeting agreed.

The DPKO and AU delegations also discussed ways and means of supporting their joint operations which are guided by a Memorandum of Understanding. They restated their agreement to take stock of lessons learned so far from the actions implemented and to consult and cooperate on broader strategic policies.

## African parliamentarians congratulate Dr Ping

The delegates of the African parliaments invited to the high level conference organized jointly in Brussels on 15 and 16 September 2010 by the parliament of the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Security and Defence Assembly (AESD), congratulated the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Dr Jean Ping, on his contribution to the conference and the defence of the interests of Africa which he continuously takes in international fora.

The parliamentarians expressed their support for the Africa-EU Partnership, and expressed the wish that it be strengthened and be respectful of the interests of the two parties.

## AUC, Global E-schools, Finland sign tripartite MoU

A signing ceremony of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the African Union Commission (AUC), the Government of Finland and the Global E-school on the African Leadership program took place on 24 September at the AU Commission.

The ceremony was organised by the Department of Human Resources Science and Technology (HRST) of the AUC.

## Deputy Chairperson holds talks with Staff Association

At the request of the Staff Association, a meeting was held with the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission on Monday, 20 September 2010 in his Office.

Apart from the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission, the meeting was attended by the following members: the Director of Administration and Human Resource Development, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Bureau of the Deputy Chairperson, the Senior Officer in Charge of Staff Welfare, the Advisor to the Deputy Chairperson on Administrative Matters, the President of the Staff Association, the Vice President of the Staff Association, The Vice Secretary of the Staff Association, the Treasurer of the Staff Association and the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on AU Pension Fund .

The following agenda items were submitted by Staff Association for consideration:

- Status of Administrative/Legal/Welfare Staff Pending Matters raised by Staff Association as of September 2010,
- Modalities of implementation of new Staff Regulations and Rules,
- Status of disciplinary cases
- Convening of 1st meeting of Administrative Tribunal
- Concerns on issuance of the new AU Policy on Travel Documents
- Status of Establishment of AU Pension Fund,
- Consideration of decision on restriction of access to AU Clinic;

The outcomes of the meeting and all pending issues were circulated to all staff by the Staff Association.



# Dr Ping highlights importance of culture on sidelines of UNGAS

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Jean Ping had a number of consultations and activities on the sidelines of the 65th United Nations General Assembly Meeting which was held in New York in September.

On 21 September 2010, he co-chaired with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director-General Irina Bokova and EU Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs a roundtable discussion on culture and development, organised by the UNESCO.

The event also heard by keynote addresses from Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade and the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haris Silajdzic.

In his address, Dr Ping underscored the importance of culture and intercultural dialogue in promoting tolerance, mutual understanding, reconciliation and peace, and expressed optimism regarding the resolution of conflicts on the continent.

Dr Ping announced that the AU is this year launching a two-year campaign for African Cultural Renaissance, aimed at promoting culture, cultural institutions and positive values, images and perspectives on Africa.

He expressed hope that the campaign will further mobilise the peoples of Africa towards building lasting peace, unity, prosperity, democracy and justice in the continent.

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova stated that while culture is not explicitly referred to in the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this week's MDGs Summit in New York provides an opportunity to highlight the relationship between culture and development.

President Wade called for the eradication of potentially harmful cultural practices. He announced that Senegal will launch a country-wide initiative to support the capacity building of dynamic African cultural industries, to help improve their sustainability by developing economic outlets. He proposed the holding of a Conference on Cultural Industries in Dakar, Senegal and requested the AUC to play a role for this purpose.

President Silajdzic stressed the importance of intercultural dialogue and respect for cultur-

## Events of the Chairperson's visit in brief

### MINI SUMMIT ON SOMALIA

On the fourth day of his stay in New York the Dr Ping participated in a mini-summit on Somalia on 23 September 2010. The meeting was attended by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, the Somali President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and the current Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Participants also included the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, France, Germany, Japan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and 24 other countries, as well as the European Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Participants agreed on the urgent need to mobilise the necessary resources to support and strengthen the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), to enable the peacekeeping operation sustain an enlarged deployment of forces, with a view to fulfilling its mandate under better conditions.

### IGAD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

On the eve of this Mini-Summit, Dr Ping attended an extra-ordinary session of the IGAD Council of Ministers, which discussed the challenges posed by the situation in Somalia.

### CHINA AFRICA CONSULTATIONS

The Chairperson also attended and addressed the Second Round of Ministerial Political Consultations between China and Africa at the ministerial level where the two sides exchanged views on strengthening China-Africa cooperation in international affairs, making progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and promoting peace and security in Africa.

### CONSULTATIONS WITH SEVERAL OFFICIALS

The Chairperson further held consultations with several officials present in New York, including: the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium; the Foreign Ministers of Kenya and Ghana; the Danish Minister of Development and Cooperation; the US Assistant Secretary of State; and the Secretaries General of the Organisation of American States (OAS), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The parties reviewed issues of mutual interest, including conflicts in Africa, the upcoming EU-Africa Summit and cooperation with the AU Commission.

### MOU WITH AUSTRALIA

A major highlight of the Chairperson's activities was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the African Union Commission and the Government of Australia for greater harmonization and co-ordination of their efforts in Africa with a view to attaining common objectives. The MOU was signed by Dr Ping, and the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Kevin Rudd MP. The MoU envisages greater cooperation in relation to trade and investment; peace and security; achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; agriculture and food security; democracy, governance and human rights; and climate change.

### CONSULTATIONS ON NIGER ELECTIONS

Dr Ping also discussed the electoral calendar in Niger with the country's Head of State, General Salou Djibo.

### HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON SUDAN

A high-level international meeting on Sudan was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September 2010, on the sidelines of the ongoing 65th Ordinary Session of the UN General Assembly. The meeting was convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to review the situation in the Sudan, 107 days ahead of the crucial referendum on the self-determination of South Sudan.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Jean Ping urged the leaders and people of Sudan to rise to the historic challenge of organising a legitimate and credible referendum on the self-determination of South Sudan. He reiterated the view that the primary responsibility to find lasting solutions to the crises in Sudan rests with the Sudanese people, and called on them to boldly meet the challenge of renewing their nation. If the last phase of the implementation process of the CPA is peaceful, orderly and credible, Sudan will serve as an example and further proof that Africa is capable of finding effective solutions to its problems." the Chairperson underscored.

### Discussions with Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

On 27 September Dr Ping, met with the new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms Valerie Amos, in New York on the margins of the General Assembly. This was their first bilateral meeting since Ms Amos assumed her new role as USG for Humanitarian Affairs. Dr Ping and Ms Amos discussed opportunities to strengthen collaboration between the AU and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, particularly in light of the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Organizations on 25 August 2010.

al diversity. Commissioner Piebalgs announced a one million euro EU-UNESCO strategic partnership to improve the system of cultural governance in developing countries

and underscored the necessity of strengthening regulatory and institutional frameworks for the promotion of cultural industries.

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21 September marked the culmination of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa, which was declared during the AU special session held in Tripoli, Libya on August 31, 2009. The AUC held commemoration events to mark the culmination. Pages 6 and 7 feature some of the pictures from the day's celebrations.





# AUC, EC in high level dialogue on space

The African Space Agency, the Pan-African University Institute on Space Science and the future of space technologies and their applications on the African continent, were at the center of discussions during the high level dialogue on space which were held at the headquarters of the European Union Commissions in Brussels, Belgium on 15 September.

The African Union Commission (AUC) was represented at the meeting by Mr Jean-Pierre Ezin, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technologies (HRST).

The dialogue under the chairmanship of the Vice President of the European Commission (EC) responsible for Enterprise and Industry, Mr Antonio Tajani, took place in the presence of Mrs Sabine Laruelle, Belgian Minister for Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMES), Mr Jean-Jacques Dardain, Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA), Mr Lars Prahm, Director-General of the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), amongst others.

Introducing the issue of the African Space Agency, Commissioner Ezin said, there are some lead African Union (AU) Member States such as South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, and Nigeria to mention a few, that have developed their own space related programmes and have proceeded to put up relevant infrastructures to manage these programmes.



Mr Jean-Pierre Ezin (centre), Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technologies during the dialogue on space held at the European Union Commissions headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

“Some have even established their National Space Agencies”, he noted.

The Commissioner underscored the need for Africa to embark on an ambitious African Space Programme that addresses the challenges the continent faces in managing its natural resources and sustain its diversity.

He added that the African Union Commission is proposing to establish an African Space Agency, as a coordinated and integrated singular pan-African platform to champion a well-defined African strategic space programme.

With regard to the Pan-African University (PAU) Institute on Space Science, Commissioner Ezin said, “time has come to

develop skills so as to achieve high level training and research throughout Africa and to bridge the technological gap between countries and regions within Africa and between Africa and other continents.”

He explained that, consultations are underway to “set up the space component of the Pan African University in Southern Africa in the coming months,” underlining that a stronger mobilisation of an international organisation or a European country is needed to identify the lead thematic partner for the PAU Institute on Space Science.

This partner, he said will play a lead role in coordinating partner support, in collaboration with the AUC.

## Call for developed nations to invest more in Africa

**The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Jean Ping has observed that considering Africa’s economic situation and within the framework of the continent’s development objectives, that Africa’s strategic partnership with Europe should revolve around three major areas: trade, direct foreign investment and development assistance.**

Dr Ping said peace and development are co-dependent and called on developed countries to increase their direct foreign investment and development assistance to Africa.

The Chairperson was addressing delegates at a two day high level international conference on “EU-Africa Partnership for

Development”, which opened in Brussels on Wednesday 15 September 2010.

The conference was organised by the Western European Union (WEU) Assembly and the Belgian Federal Parliament as part of the programme of the Belgian Presidency of both organisations.

Participants were legislators from the national parliaments of European and African countries and members of the WEU Assembly.

The conference sought to review issues affecting the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on development and Euro-African cooperation on peace and security policy, including crisis management, and the deliberations are

informed by past and ongoing crisis management and peacekeeping operations in Africa.

In his keynote address, Chairperson Ping noted that the African Union had made significant progress in the resolution of conflicts and crises on the continent, as well as towards meeting Africa’s development challenges, and thanked the AU’s strategic partners, especially the European Union for their political, diplomatic, financial, material and logistical support.

The Chairperson further said that within the context of global interdependence, Africa has naturally entered into partnerships, including with the European Union.



# Libyan envoy signs host agreement for COMAI V



Dr Mkwezalamba (left), Commissioner of Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission and Mr Ali Awidan Libyan Ambassador to Addis Ababa.

Ahead of the Fifth Conference of African Ministers responsible for integration (COMAIV) which the Libyan authorities have offered to host in Tripoli on 5 and 6 October, 2010, on the theme 'Identifying Innovative Financing Mechanisms for African Integration', Dr Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, Commissioner of Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC) and Mr Ali Awidan Libyan, Ambassador to Addis Ababa, on 4 September 2010, signed a Host Agreement for the conference which will ensure thorough preparations for a successful conference.

The Ministerial meeting will take place on 5 and 6 October 2010, preceded by a preparatory meeting of experts on 2 and 3 October, 2010.

Speaking during the signing ceremony at the Embassy of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Ambassador Awidan underscored his country's pleasure to host what he described as a very important meeting given the interest Libya has in seeing socio-economic and political integration of Africa successfully fulfilled.

He emphasized that although a number of positive results have been attained, more needs to be done to achieve these objectives.

He said Libya is happy to contribute to the integration agenda of the continent and reiterated that the country is prepared to host the COMAI V.

Ambassador Awidan wished the conference successful deliberations, anticipating that positive outcomes will emerge to help strengthen Africa's integration endeavors.

Commissioner Mkwezalamba thanked the Libyan Government on behalf of the African Union Commission, for offering to host the COMAI V. He acknowledged that this was a clear manifestation of Libya's commitment to African integration.

The Commissioner underscored that the conference will further contribute to accelerating the implementation of Africa's integration agenda.

## Africa can now request the services of the AU Youth Volunteer Corps

"If you manage a public sector community development project; a Civil Society Organization (CSO); an international development agency including the United Nations Organizations; a Small Medium Enterprise (SME); a skills acquisition entity; or results based field projects and activities; you can now stop worrying about lack of human resource capacity needed to achieve your set goals and objectives", so ran a notice published by the Human Resources, Science and Technology Department of the AU Commission on 6 August 2010 announcing the formation of the African Union Youth Volunteers Corps (AU-YVC) Project.

The project is coordinated and managed at the Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, under the Division of Human Resources and Youth in the HRST Department.

This project is facilitating the deployment of African youth between the ages of 21-35 living in and outside of Africa, across the AU Member States to serve in volunteer, internship, or junior professional officer positions within the continent. An AU-YVC is available for assignments within two weeks upon completion of compulso-

ry pre-deployment training, except in cases of emergency responses for which deployments will be done as quickly as possible.

The establishment of the AU-YVC responds to the provisions of the African Youth Charter.

The AU-YVC aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Reaffirm Africa's commitment to actualize the African Youth Charter as an instrument that makes youth participation the critical value driver and architect for sustainable human development in Africa.

- Contribute to African's human development in line with the Vision, Mission and Strategic Pillars of the AU, through effective youth participation in Africa's Development process, in which youth are also beneficiaries.

- Promote the inter-Africa exchange of skills and experience through the regeneration of the African volunteer spirit towards integration, peace and security, human capital development and neo-modern Pan African leadership emergence. The AU-YVC request for volunteer assistance form is available at:

[www.africa-youth.org/auyvc](http://www.africa-youth.org/auyvc)

# Fisheries and aquaculture key in achieving CAADP goals

**Ministers, experts and development partners who attended the first Conference of African Ministers for Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) in Banjul, 20-23 September 2010, reaffirmed the role of fisheries and aquaculture in achieving the 6 percent annual growth of the wider agricultural sector as envisaged by the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Programme (CAADP).**

This commitment should be transmitted by the support of member states and the African Union to strengthen the policy coherence in national fisheries sector regarding CAADP in order to enhance the role of fish in food security, poverty alleviation and trade development. "African Union and member states should constitute fish expert pools to urgently engage in the country CAADP processes and respond with post-compact fisheries investment interventions," revealed a report issued at the end of the ministerial meeting.

Meanwhile, the president of The Gambia Dr Alhaji Yahya Jammeh demanded that international trade in fish and fishery products should be fair and equitable so that the sector achieves sustainable development and responsible utilization of living aquatic resource. The Gambian leader made the remarks in a statement read on his behalf by the Vice President, Dr Ajaratou Isatou Nüe-Saidy at the ministerial meeting.

President Jammeh highlighted the challenges facing the sector such as the lack of requisite infrastructure needed to promote value addition as well as a fair balance between artisanal and industrial fisheries.

"Fish is also a resource that continues to be threatened with decline in stock, from a combination of factors, including over-fishing aggravated by the indiscriminate or inappropriate use of fishing methods that destroy juvenile fish and fish survival, and poaching carried out by unlicensed vessels often from countries outside the continent," he said.

Speaking at the conference, Mrs Elizabeth Tankeu, Commissioner for Trade and Industry African Union Commission (AUC) said there was need for strategic dissemination of lessons learned from the success stories and best prac-



Mrs Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture.

tices of the countries that have turned fisheries into wealth.

"Africa duly taps its fisheries potential and significantly contributes towards improvement of nutrition, as well as elimination of hunger and poverty," said Mrs. Tankeu.

**Experts recommended that the AU should assist member states to develop mechanisms, which effectively strengthen south to south cooperation in fisheries at all relevant levels, with the view to increasing coherence in best practices between African states.**

She reiterated the AU's commitment to ensure that the fisheries sector in Africa receives the attention it deserves for its own growth and its contribution to socio-economic development. This includes the commitment to develop the fisheries that is demonstrated through various initiatives that have taken place in the last five years starting in 2004, during the extra-

ordinary Summit, which was held in Sirte, Libya.

Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, in his statement, read out by Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, Senior Fisheries Advisor, NEPAD Agency, said that fisheries are very vital for many Africans who daily catch, process, transport and sell fish.

Taking the floor, on behalf of Dr Jacques Diouf, the Director General of FAO, Mr. Musa Saihou Mbenga, Deputy Regional Representative for Africa/Sub-Regional Coordinator for West Africa, recalled FAO's initiative on convening the World Summit on Food Security held in Rome, Italy, in November 2009 noting that "Among other issues, the summit declaration explicitly calls for support to regional development frameworks such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)", which includes a fisheries and aquaculture component.

Experts recommended that the AU should assist member states to develop mechanisms, which effectively strengthen south to south cooperation in fisheries at all relevant levels, with the view to increasing coherence in best practices between African states.

"The African Union should develop and implement a coordination mechanism among Regional Economical Communities and regional fisheries boards to ensure coherence of fisheries management and aquaculture development and their adoption and adaptation in Africa," the meeting suggested.

CAADP is based on two major principles; the pursuit of a 6 percent average annual growth at the national level in the agricultural sector, and the allocation of 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture.

The CAADP complementary programme on fisheries works to ensure that fisheries and aquaculture are integrated in these two major target areas.

The ministerial meeting was also attended by AUC Commissioner of Rural Economy and Development Mrs Rhoda Peace Tumusiime and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency CEO, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki.



# Dr Ping highlights importance of culture

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Chairperson Ping also attended a high-level meeting on innovative financing for development, organised by a group of 60 countries and international organisations, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the MDGs by the target date of 2015.

The event was co-chaired by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of France and Japan, and the Belgian Minister of Development and Cooperation, with the participation of Queen

Rania of Jordan.

Under the auspices of the Leading Group, a declaration was adopted calling for a tax on international financial transactions to fund development programmes.

Chairperson Ping, alongside UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and President François Bozizé of the Central African Republic (CAR), participated in an event aimed at addressing the reconstruction and development challenges of the CAR. The event was co-organized by the

CAR Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission and the World Bank.

The Chairperson further discussed AU cooperation and efforts towards conflict resolution and peace enhancement in Africa with the German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Development, Dirk Niebel, the Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Latin America, Juan Pablo de Laiglesia and the Angolan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Rebelo Chikoti.

# PSC urges Somalia President to appoint new PM

**The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 241st meeting held on 23 September 2010 in Addis Ababa, was briefed by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Amb Boubacar Diarra.**

Council expressed concern at the continued precariousness of the situation in Somalia and the pursuit of acts of violence, and strongly condemned, once again, the terrorist attacks being perpetrated by Al Shabab and other armed groups, with the support of foreign elements.

The council also expressed concern at the continued divisions within the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), which are seriously hampering the efforts being made with the support of the international community to stabilize the situation in Somalia and further peace and reconciliation.

In this respect, the council took note of the resignation of the Prime Minister of the Somalia Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Omar

Abdirashid Sharmarke, and encouraged the President of the TFG, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, to urgently appoint a new Prime Minister in order to allow for the speedy appointment of a new cabinet.

The council also urged the President to intensify dialogue with a view to reaching out to all those peace embracing groups willing to join the peace process.

The PSC appealed for increased support towards the rebuilding of professional, national and effective Somali Security Forces.

It took note of the efforts being made by the Commission towards the implementation of the decisions of the IGAD and AU Summits of July 2010, including the convening of meetings of military and security experts, in August and September 2010, to work out a revised concept of operation for AMISOM.

Council further reiterated its appeal to the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite the appointment of the high level personality to mobilize its national attention and support to Somalia.



The Peace and Security Council of the African Union during the briefing on the situation in Somalia.

# Chairperson holds talks with UK delegation



Dr Ping

**The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Jean Ping met the Secretary of State for International Development of the United Kingdom, Mr Andrew Mitchell, and his accompanying delegation on Saturday 4 September 2010, at the AUC Headquarters.**

The Chairperson assured his visitor of the AU's willingness to further strengthen cooperation with the UK and its partners in the European Union, which are playing a major role collectively and individually to support AU Commission's activi-

ties. On his part, the Secretary of State pointed out that the new British Government wanted to have a special and close relationship with the AU and is strongly committed to play a more active role to help in stopping conflicts in Africa, achieving peace and security and promoting reconciliation in order to create conducive environment for development which could bring hope and wealth to the African Continent.

The Chairperson and the Secretary of State had an extensive exchange of views on a range of issues including the situation in

Somalia, the recent developments in Sudan and other questions pertaining to development and security.

In this context, they discussed ways and means to combine efforts aiming at reaching peaceful and lasting solutions to the conflicts in Africa.

A number of senior officials from both sides including the UK Ambassador to Ethiopia and AU as well as the Commissioner for Economic Affairs, and the Chief of Staff from the AU side were present at the meeting.

## Peace Day marked by fitting celebrations

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A number of elections have been held on the continent this year, including those in Burundi, Guinea Bissau, Ethiopia and Rwanda. A successful referendum was also concluded in Kenya.

In addition, the day was also a practical demonstration of the partnership between the AU and the United Nations; a partnership which also encompasses the regional Economic Communities, which have often taken the lead in responding to crises and conflicts in different parts of the continent.

The AU has been working together with the United Nations in various interventions, for example, in the unprecedented AU-UN hybrid operation deployed in the Darfur region of Sudan and the assistance extended by the United Nations to the AU peace support mission in Somalia.

The AU and the UN are combining their comparative advantages to resolve conflicts, overcome their legacies and build new bridges between communities and countries that once saw themselves as irreconcilable enemies.

They are also both involved in the work of preventing conflicts occurring in the first place and in long term efforts to address the underlying causes of conflict and violence.

They are working together to build strong institutions and tools to provide the continent with the capacity required to meet the complex challenges facing it in the area of peace

### AMISOM, IGAD, UNPOS support marking of peace day

**The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia, Dr Augustine P. Mahiga, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, Ambassador Boubacar Diarra and the IGAD Facilitator for Somalia Peace and National Reconciliation, Hon Kipruto Arap Kirwa have called for the Somali groups that are locked in armed conflict against each other to observe a ceasefire on the solemn day of peace and build on it to secure lasting peace.**

The representatives issued this call in a joint statement to mark peace day on 21 September.

"Peace is a basic human right and should be enjoyed by everyone," said the envoys. "This is particularly true in Somalia where civilians have suffered conflict, violence and hardship for the past two decades. It is heartbreaking to hear of the difficulties they face in their everyday lives. "The people of Somalia yearn for peace and stability. We need to do all we can to provide security and stability for everyone and in particular — hope for the young. We do not want future generations to suffer as their parents have done."

Each year events were organized to commemorate and celebrate peace day. Activities were planned in Nairobi, Mogadishu, Garowe and Hargeisa. "Anyone, anywhere can mark International Day of Peace," said the envoys. "Let us all rededicate ourselves to making peace in Somalia a reality."

and security.

The day's commemorations also witnessed the very significant awarding of the Interfaith Peace Building Initiative (IPI) award to the African Union for its efforts to bring peace to the continent. The award was handed over to Deputy Chairperson Mwencha.

Later in the evening a musical concert organised jointly by the European Union and the African Union, and attended by hundreds of patrons was held at the National Theatre in celebration of peace day.

Prior to the peace day celebrations, a football match organized by the Staff Association and Peace and Security Directorate was held on Saturday 18 September 2010 at the AU

football pitch.

Peace Day was also observed at the fisheries meeting that was being held in The Gambia.

Fisheries experts, ministers and stakeholders who were attending the First Conference of African Ministers on Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) in the capital Banjul, also took time to observe peace day.

Mr Ping's statement was read out to the delegates by Dr Mary Maboreke, Executive Secretary, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The delegates observed a moment of silence to remember and honour victims of conflict.



# DCI holds joint workshop with FAJ on the safety and security of journalists

By Wynne Musabayana

**Someone once said when you ask a journalist in a conflict zone what his or her life expectancy is, the response can be “give or take 12 months, with a possibility of extension”.**

Sounds funny? More often than we know, it is the reality.

So serious is the possibility of death, serious injury, torture or disappearance that journalists in conflict zones sometimes have a short to medium term view of their very existence.

This was one of the outcomes at a workshop held from 2-3 September at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, when the Division of Communication and Information (DCI) of the African Union Commission, partnered with the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) to hold a workshop on “the Safety and Security of Journalists in Africa”.

In the context of the Year of Peace and Security, the workshop offered an unprecedented opportunity for the African Union Commission and the Federation of African Journalists to celebrate some accomplishments in partnership with the international community, and review current efforts to peace building on the continent, with a view to strengthening and, where appropriate, launch new initiatives for peace and security.

Such a goal cannot be reached if freedom of expression and a free media, key conditions for good democratic governance, are not able to flourish and journalists cannot work in a safe and secure environment- hence the joining of forces with the FAJ in organizing the workshop.

Participants to the workshop were drawn from unions and associations of journalists across Africa; AUC; FAJ; the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ); journalists’ leaders in Africa; international and regional lawyers; advocacy groups and safety experts amongst others. The main outcome was a draft resolution which set out extensive policies that will compel member states, their legislative institutions and law enforcement agencies to deal with issues of impunity and protection of journalists.

Beyond the resolution, the workshop, as a first foray into such issues, offered the African Union its first real insight into the conditions that media and associated personnel in conflict zones work under. But perhaps to understand why media people involve themselves in conflict situations in the first place, it is necessary to understand what their role is. What is the media there for? Media gives people information. Information is key to development, democracy, good governance, transparency etc, the absence of which can lead to conflict. This information can be used by people to make informed decisions and judgments. Information allows people to choose

a course of action; it opens the eye to the different sides of a story.

Cases of the virtues of having media in conflict zones abound. From the revelations, both good and unpalatable of the goings on in war zones, it is clear that without the involvement of media personnel, the rest of the world would have remained oblivious of some of the facts. UN radio stations have achieved successes in providing information in violent situations. It is a known fact that radio has the biggest penetration of any media in Africa. In many countries, UN stations have provided citizens in conflict zones with local news programs and public affairs forums, often for the first time.

From the personal accounts and some documented cases discussed at the workshop, it became clear just how the media operates in conflict.

The participants at the workshop were unanimous in their view that the environment for journalists is precarious. Journalists are bombed, tortured, killed and harassed for doing their work.

Many journalists are killed in African conflict zones. The FAJ says a total of 233 journalists died in Africa between 1999 and 2009, many of them in conflict zones. Public humiliation and stigma against media personnel are some of the challenges journalists in conflict have to deal with. The workshop delegates said that free

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## Africa’s gains on anti-poverty goals

**Africa has made steady progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), according to a report launched on 21 September in New York by the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**

This year’s annual report, *Assessing Progress in Africa Toward the Millennium Development Goals*, shows that the MDG advances went along with bold and innovative policies. The MDGs are eight internationally-agreed targets which aim to reduce poverty, hunger, maternal and child deaths, disease, inadequate shelter, gender inequality and environmental degradation by 2015.

Africa has made tremendous strides in achieving universal education with 76 percent net enrolment in primary education in 2008, up from 58 percent in 1999. There are close to 91 girls per 100 boys in schools in 2008, up from 85 in 1999. Under-five mortality rates have dropped from 184/1000 in 1990 to 144/1000 in 2008. Africa is on track to meeting the water target with 60 per-

cent of people with access to drinking water in 2008, compared with 49 percent in 1990.

A favourable global economic context, prior to the international economic crisis, and a range of policies in African countries has played a key role in achieving this rapid progress. These measures include the adoption of new and expanded social protection programmes; better policy coordination; and the incorporation of the MDGs and performance indicators at the heart of African countries’ development strategies.

### Significant Results

The report points to significant development results and the policies that went along with this progress. For instance, Burkina Faso nearly doubled the number of children in primary schools, while providing daily meals for all children and take-home rations for girls. Ghana has already fulfilled its target on reducing the proportion of under-nourished, increasing agricultural productivity through fertilizer subsidies and providing nutritional supplements

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# Africa's gains on anti-poverty goals

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and school feeding programmes.

Rwanda was ranked first in the world in 2009 with over 50 percent women's representation in the national parliament, while in Angola, Burundi, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda more than a quarter of the representatives in parliament are women. In addition Mali, Senegal and Togo are on track on the HIV and AIDS target. In 2008, Botswana, Comoros, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa reached over 90 percent coverage for access to safe drinking water.

### Barriers to Overcome

Maternal health poses a significant challenge, with the proportion of deliveries attended by skilled personnel only marginally increasing from 1990 to 2008. Sanitation represents another area of difficulty, with the number of people lacking access to improved sanitation facilities representing 50 percent of the population of the continent in 2008, down from 56 percent in 1990.

Vulnerability to external factors continues to threaten the region's ability to make progress towards the MDGs. Food price volatility is a challenge for a conti-

ment that is struggling to achieve food security for all. Uncertainty in the recovery from the global financial and economic crisis continues to impact African economies. And over the long term, the effects of climate change threaten the sustainability of the gains that have been achieved.

### Action Agenda Going Forward

To accelerate MDG progress over the next five years, the report proposes an agenda for action which includes broad interventions to create an enabling environment for inclusive growth.

These include maintaining sound macroeconomic policies, promoting job rich growth and boosting agricultural productivity, as well as providing opportunities for vulnerable groups, including women.

Additionally, countries are encouraged to adopt development strategies that are based on the MDGs, enhance the efficiency of their service delivery at all levels of government, and improve their ability to monitor the goals.

The report also emphasizes the need to mobilize partnerships with the private sector, civil society and development partners especially from the South.

## DCI holds joint workshop with FAJ on the safety and security of journalists

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speech is being curtailed even in non conflict areas. The situation is worse in areas where there is conflict. Despite legal provisions such as those provided by both the AU and the UN, journalists continue to be under attack, the workshop heard.

Training for covering conflict is very expensive and therefore many journalists working for African media are thrust into covering conflict without proper training and equipment

Some media people are sent into conflict zones with very little training in journalism itself. This can lead to distorted reporting. To make matters worse, there was a strong feeling that those who assault journalists largely go unpunished.

There are however, some perils of media involvement in conflict areas and we have to understand them as well if African media is going to be truly the watchdog of society. If issues are not reported factually, they can lead to more problems than solutions. It is a known fact that people often play up to the camera; in fact there are known cases when camera persons have provoked a situation so that they can have exclusive footage to send back to the editor. Media people are not beyond being used by powerful interests to promote one cause or another, even if that cause goes directly against the ideals of peace and

security. Some journalists may be funded by one of the parties to a conflict, on behalf of whom they relay propaganda and prejudice through their news channels.

Professionals trying to get the correct news out to the people are sometimes frustrated that things are reported without checking the facts or a one sided view is simply reported as the truth. In some cases objective reporting, ethics and reliability go out of the window in conflict situations.

Media may create racial or tribal or even religious tensions by focusing on negative issues about one group and portraying them as outsiders and therefore, as undesirables. Salaries and conditions of service for media personnel are often very poor.

This leaves media open to manipulation by different parties. It is also sometimes questioned why the media are often very active in reporting during the war but fall silent as to the post reconstruction efforts that take place after the war is over.

The workshop also heard what the AU is doing to facilitate the work of journalists. This includes the use of a number of tools such as the website, newsletters, press releases, press conferences, access to AU meetings and provision of a media centre. In addition, the DCI intends to build a media portal which will be a platform for exchange of knowledge.

