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TRIPOLI, 17 January 2012: The Chairperson of the AU Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, paid a working visit to Libya, on 16 January 2012.

During his visit, the Chairperson met with the Prime Minister, Dr. Abdurrahim El Kieb, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr. Ashoor Ben Khaial.

During these meetings, the two parties emphasized the commitment of the new Libya in the African Union and the Chairperson expressed AU's readiness to contribute, along with the regional and international partners, in the consolidation and stabilization of the transition in Libya, and the concrete ways in which the AU could assist in this regard.

Both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister reiterated the active role of the new Libya to Africa, and the African Union, based on a principle of mutual respect and understanding, as well as non-interference in the affairs of others.

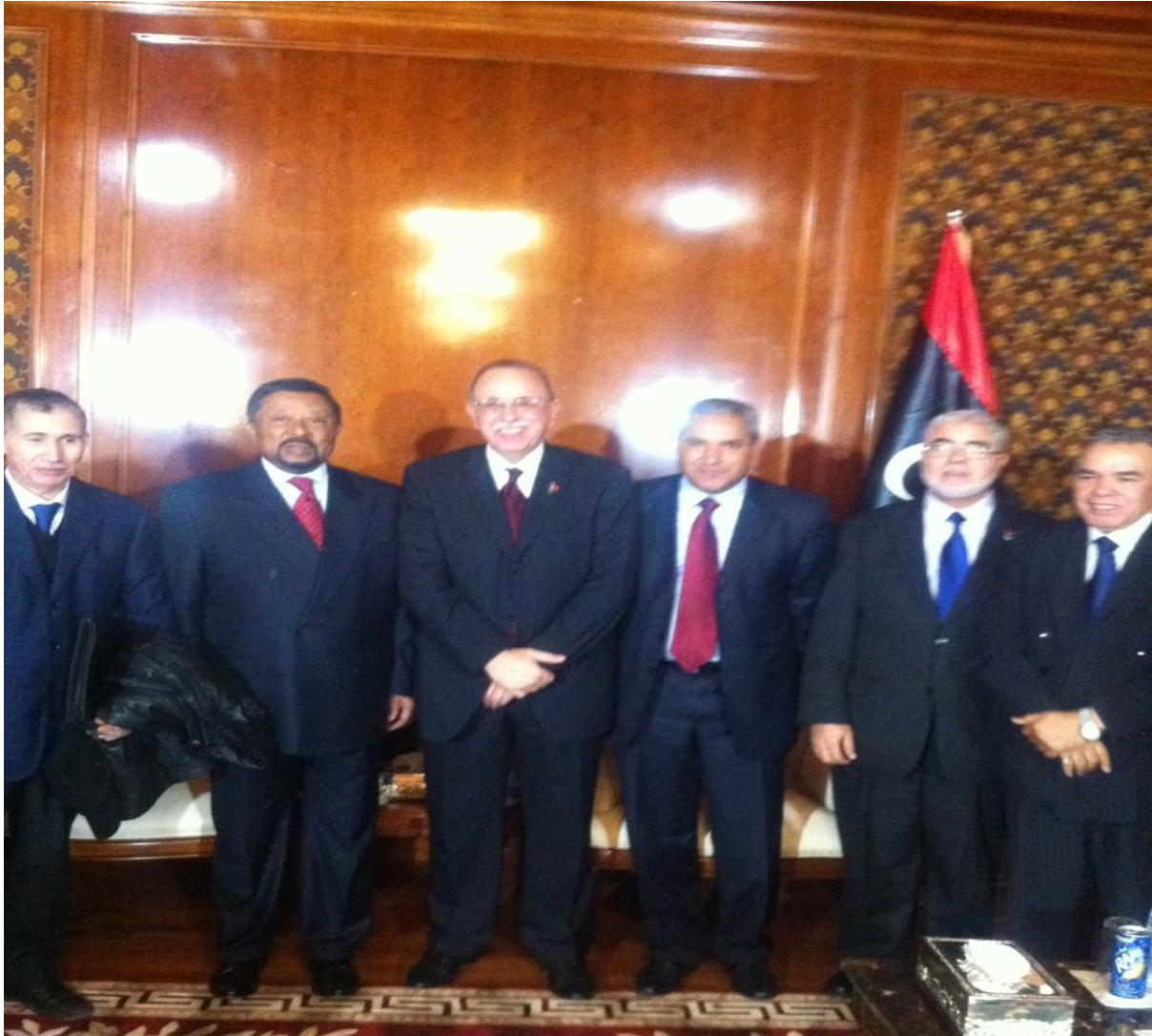
The Prime Minister informed the AU Chairperson that he will lead the official Libyan delegation to the forthcoming AU Summit, to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 – 30 January 2012. The Prime Minister will address the Summit and will hold meetings with African Heads of States and Government and exchange views on bilateral and matters of mutual interest.

The Chairperson also briefed his Libyan interlocutors on the outcome of his recent visits to the neighbouring countries of Libya, and he stressed the importance of normalizing its relations with all the neighbours and expressed the keenness of the AU to facilitate this process.

The two parties also discussed the proposal of the African Union to establish the AU Liaison Office in Libya with the objective of facilitating the transition process towards democratic institutions.

At the end of the meetings, an official luncheon to the Chairperson was hosted by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Mustafa Abushagoor, on behalf of the Prime Minister.

END



From L-R: The AU Representative to the Arab League Ambassador Mofiah Ezowam, Chairperson Ping, The Libyan Prime Minister Dr. Abdurrahim El Kieb, The AU Director of Administration and HR Dr. Abdul-Hakim Elwaer, The Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Mustafa Abushagoor and the Director of the Africa Department at the Libyan Ministry of FA Ambassador Mahfood Rahiam