PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION WELCOMES THE REDEPLOYMENT OF THE SUDANESE FORCES FROM ABYEI

Addis Ababa, 2 June 2012: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, welcomes the redeployment, on 29 May 2012, of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan Police Service personnel from the Abyei area, in line with the AU Roadmap of 24 April 2012 and United Nations Security Council resolution 2046(2012). SAF’s redeployment was confirmed by the Force Commander of the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), Lieutenant-General Tadesse Tesfay, in a letter addressed to the AU on 29 May 2012.

The Chairperson of the Commission welcomes this positive step towards compliance with the AU Roadmap and the UN Security Council resolution. He notes that a number of police personnel from the Oil Police remain in the Abyei Area. It is therefore imperative that the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) meet without further delay, to be able to address the issue of security of the oil infrastructure in a way that respects the provisions of the Roadmap and the UN Security Council resolution. The Chairperson of the Commission also urges the Parties to reach agreement on the composition of the Abyei Area Council and the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration as soon as possible, to facilitate the speedy resumption of normal life for all the affected communities of Abyei.

The Chairperson of the Commission wishes to emphasize the need to ensure full and unconditional compliance with all aspects of the AU Roadmap. In particular, he calls on the Parties to use the current round of negotiations to agree to the steps necessary for the full activation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mission (JBVMM), the establishment of the Secure Demilitarized Border Zone (SBDZ) and the operationalization of the Ad Hoc Committee to address allegations and counter-allegations by the Parties.