COMMUNIQUÉ

THE AFRICAN UNION STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE ATTACK AGAINST THE CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA

Addis Ababa, 13 September 2012: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, strongly condemns the unacceptable attack against the US Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, which resulted in the killing of the US Ambassador to Libya, Mr. Christopher Stevens, and that of other US diplomats.

The Chairperson of the Commission presents AU’s heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of the United States, as well as to the families of the deceased.

The Chairperson of the Commission is confident that the Libyan authorities will spare no efforts in identifying the perpetrators of this criminal attack and bringing them to justice. He assures them of AU’s solidarity. He also expresses to them his sympathy for the reported Libyan casualties in this incident.

The Chairperson of the Commission seizes this opportunity to reiterate AU’s support to the Libyan authorities’ efforts to enhance State authority throughout their national territory and encourages them to take all necessary steps to ensure effective protection of all diplomatic, consular and international organizations representations accredited to Libya.

The Chairperson of the Commission, who welcomes the election of Mr. Mustapha Abouchagouras Prime Minister, looks forward to continued and enhanced cooperation between the AU and Libya in furthering the African Peace and Security Agenda.