

**AFRICAN UNION**  
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**AU/WDC/PRESS RELEASE/2/07**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**African Union Ambassador to the United States of America  
Presents Letters of Credence to President George W. Bush**

WASHINGTON, DC, July 26, 2007---The African Union (AU) Ambassador to the United States of America yesterday presented her Letters of Credence to President George W. Bush at the White House in Washington, DC. The presentation of credentials accrediting Ambassador Amina Salum Ali, a national of the United Republic of Tanzania, marks a new chapter in the relationship between Africa and the United States.

In a letter addressed to Ambassador Ali containing his reply to the Letter of Credence from Chairperson Alpha Oumar Konare, President Bush

said the United States “stands ready to support” the African Union, which he described as “integral to the continued growth and successful future of Africa.” He noted the historic significance of his country’s decision to become the “first non-African Country to establish a separate diplomatic mission to the organization,” and reaffirmed his Administration’s commitment to “building and strengthening the relationship between the states and peoples of Africa.” This “commitment to Africa,” he said, is “demonstrated in part by assistance programs such as PEPFAR,” the President Emergency Plan for Aid Relief, “and by the growing economic and commercial relationship that the United States has with the continent.” In particular, the President pointed to the fact that “U.S. trade with sub-Saharan Africa increased 242 percent between 2000 and 2006.”

The President concluded by personally welcoming Ambassador Ali and said he “anticipate(s) working closely with” her as the “chief representative of the African Union on issues of mutual concern” to Africa and the United States. He wished her success “during her tour as the first Ambassador of the African Union to the United States.”

Washington, D.C. July 26, 2007