

## Senate Resolution 631

By: Senators James of the 35th, Davenport of the 44th and Tate of the 38th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending His Excellency Dr. Jean Ping; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, there is a bond of friendship between the citizens of Georgia and Africa, and  
3 the people of Georgia welcome opportunities to grow our already deep relationship at all  
4 levels, including cultural, academic, and business; and

5 WHEREAS, His Excellency Dr. Jean Ping has long been recognized for his role in leadership  
6 and his deep personal commitment to fostering diplomatic relationships with countries  
7 around the world; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Ping was born on November 24, 1942, in Omboué, Gabon, earned  
9 bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Paris, and obtained a doctoral degree  
10 in economic sciences from the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne; and

11 WHEREAS, a long-time public servant, Dr. Ping has worked at UNESCO in Paris as an  
12 international civil servant, a permanent representative of Gabon to UNESCO, and director  
13 of civilian staff; and

14 WHEREAS, he has served as Minister of Information, Posts and Telecommunications,  
15 Tourism and Leisure, and Reform of the Semi-Public Sector; Minister of Mines, Energy, and  
16 Water Resources; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and Francophony; Minister of  
17 State; Minister of Planning, Environment, and Tourism; Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign  
18 Affairs, Cooperation, and Francophony of the Gabonese Republic; and Vice Prime Minister,  
19 Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and Francophony and Regional Integration; and

20 WHEREAS, this distinguished international leader currently serves as the chairperson of the  
21 African Union Commission, where he leads his country in delegations and serves as a  
22 representative in international forums; and

23 WHEREAS, the Africa Heritage Foundation will host Dr. Ping in Atlanta from April 16-18,  
24 2011, where he will deliver a keynote address on Africa at Morehouse College and pay  
25 tribute to the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King; and

26 WHEREAS, the visit by Dr. Ping serves as an opportunity to promote respect and support  
27 for the development of Africa and recognize the important cultural ties between the United  
28 States and Africa.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
30 commend His Excellency Dr. Jean Ping on his years of dedicated civic service and welcome  
31 him to the City of Atlanta and the State of Georgia.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
33 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to His Excellency Dr. Jean Ping.