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**REPORT OF COMMISSON ON THE HIGH LEVEL MEDIA WORKSHOP ON THE
AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE (APSA)
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 2 – 4 NOVEMBER 2011**

**HIGH LEVEL MEDIA WORKSHOP ON THE AFRICAN PEACE AND
SECURITY ARCHITECTURE, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
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FINAL REPORT

Introduction

1. The High Level Media Workshop on the African Peace and Security Architecture, jointly organized by the Directorate of Information and Communication (DIC) and the Peace and Security Department (PSD), in partnership with the Francophone Research Network on Peace Operations (ROP), opened at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa on 2 November 2011. Over 80 participants, including leading journalists from across Africa, communication and information experts as well as communication officers from the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other African Union organs participated actively in the three-day workshop, which was aimed at raising their awareness of the peace and security mechanisms, as well as the instruments and operations of the decision-making organs of the African Union (AU). The objective of the workshop was to enhance their understanding of AU's role in peace and security, particularly the African Peace and Security Architecture, and to enable them to better reflect its activities and programmes in their coverage of peace and security issues in the continent.

Opening Ceremony

2. In opening the workshop, the Director of Communication and Information, Mrs. Habiba Mejri-Cheikh, conveyed the compliments and encouragement of the Chairperson of the Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, to participants and thanked them for partnering with the AU in its quest for reliable, credible and free-flowing information to promote peace and security in the continent. She assured the participants that they would, over the next three days of discussion, get the chance to interact freely with peace and security experts from the Commission in the spirit of openness and transparency.

3. In a speech read on his behalf by Mrs. Roda Peace Tumusiime, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, the Chairperson of the Commission, Dr. Jean Ping in particular called for open and transparent dialogue throughout the workshop. In his message, the Chairperson underscored the role of the African media in promoting peace in the continent. He urged the media to remain resolute in their constructive criticism of African governments and institutions whilst maintaining their independence, impartiality and professional ethics. He further assured them of the Commission's willingness to share its expectations and plans with the African media in the promotion of peace and security for the good of the continent. The Chairperson moreover welcomed the plan to establish a network of journalists for the promotion of peace and security in Africa (NetPeace) which is an item on the agenda of the workshop.

4. Speaking during the opening ceremony, the Counsellor and Consul at the Canadian Embassy and Representative of the Francophone Research Network on Peace Operations (ROP), Mr. Christopher Hull, said that the AU and its partners such as Canada share a commitment to fostering effective global governance as well as international security and stability. He reiterated Canada's belief that the African Union should be the first to respond in times of regional crises, provide the much needed continental perspectives and coordinate conflict prevention and management. Mr. Hull indicated that this was the reason why Canada was very pleased to support the workshop, the aim of which was to enhance continental awareness and understanding of African Union's involvement in peace and security issues.

Workshop proceedings

PANEL 1: AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE (APSA)

5. A presentation on AU decision-making process made by Mrs. Aïssatou Hayatou-Tall, Peace and Security Council Expert, introduced the first panel discussion devoted to the pillars of the APSA. There were further presentations on the functioning of the Peace and Security Council (by Mr. Admore Kambudzi, Secretary to the Peace and Security Council), the Panel of the Wise (by Mr. Kassim Khamis, Secretary to the Panel of the Wise) and the Early Warning System (by Mrs. Shewit Hailu, Continental Early Warning System Expert).

6. The debate focused mainly on the following points:

- I. **The capacity of the Panel of the Wise** to avoid further escalation of the on-going conflicts in Africa, bearing in mind that the role of the Panel leans more towards prevention as opposed to fully fledged mediation exercises.
- II. **The issue of peace funding**, which various presenters singled out as one of APSA's key challenges. It was proposed that, as a first step, AU should increase the allocations from its regular budget.
- III. **Decision-making, African common positions and foreign interventions in Africa**: the presenters concluded that there was one main reason why AU decisions were undermined during peace and security interventions, a case in point being the situation in Libya. The primary reason was the divisions existing among Africans themselves, especially because Africa is not a continent of big powers, but rather has lead nations such as Nigeria, South Africa and Algeria.
- IV. **Operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS)**: the expert noted that the system was not yet fully operational at the time of the uprisings in Tunisia and was unable to anticipate their development, given the fact that there was minimal information on the events that were both dynamic

and structural. That, in itself, constitutes one of the challenges facing the CEWS. The data collection and monitoring system was an on-going process in Africa. The CEWS tried to gather information, analyse trends and predict potential conflicts in Arab countries, with the aim of submitting proposals and suggestions to the relevant AU authorities, to enable the latter to respond appropriately.

Recommendations

7. Following this session, the meeting suggested that African countries with the means to do so, particularly military, economic, financial and logistical capacities, should put their hands together to counteract foreign intervention.

PANEL 2: AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE (CONTINUATION)

8. Panel 2 continued with the presentations on APSA pillars. The presentation on the African Standby Force (ASF) was made by Mr. Cheik F. Dembelé, Planning Officer, PSOD); and that on the African Peace Fund was made by Mr. Adeyemo Biodun, Head of PSC Finance Division.

9. The ensuing discussions focused, *inter alia*, on the **financial dependence of APSA** in general and the ASF in particular vis-à-vis foreign donors. **Hence the urgent need for an internal budget reform** at the AU to enable it to take over the financing of its operations, **the revision of the concept of the ASF** taking into account the lessons learned from on-going missions and the Amani Africa Exercise conducted in 2010.

10. The panellists briefed the audience about the various measures taken by the Commission to address the financial challenges. With the lack of sufficient funds, there was the concern that the AU might not be able to effectively implement its vision on peace keeping operations. They highlighted the efforts deployed by the Finance Directorate, including the establishment of a package of innovative and gradual measures that would help improve the management of its financial resources. It is noteworthy that the austerity measures taken by the Commission since the beginning of the year form part of this dynamic reform agenda.

11. Moreover, the concept of the ASF as defined in the Protocol on the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council indeed made it a standby force with civilian and military components ready for rapid deployment at appropriate notice. The ASF Units are also available for AU Member States and are managed through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Union and the RECs/Regional Mechanisms. The document defines the conditions under which these capacities should be used.

Recommendations

12. In this regard, the session recommended that the media (especially the African media) and APSA components should in future build their cooperation around AU shared values. The African media should also upscale their involvement in APSA activities in general. This requires strengthening the partnership between the AU and the media to enable them to give more visibility to AU activities and amplify its voice in the area of peace and security.

Panel 3: **UNDERSTANDING THE ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY DEPARTMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

13. The presentation by Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security, centered on the status of peace and security in Africa, the common defense and security policy and AU-UN relations described as burden-sharing.

14. The main issues discussed were as follows:

- (i) **Alleged assassination of two journalists in Somalia by AMISOM troops and the presumed failure by the AU to conduct investigations.** The audience was informed that the AU did conduct investigation following the incident and found that AMISOM troops shared the responsibility but not the Burundian Battalion, as earlier claimed. AMISOM has the mandate to protect all civilians, including journalists, but it lacked the means to effectively execute that mandate.
- (ii) **Regional mechanisms** seem to be more effective and consequently affect the AU's pan-African role during its operations, especially considering the emergence of non-traditional actors in situations such as in North Africa and Somalia. The PSC Protocol recognizes AU's supremacy over regional mechanisms, just as the UN Security Council is predominant over other regional mechanisms that also undertake regional operations. Actually, there is a system of comparative advantage and complementarity.
- (iii) **The general bias in media coverage of AU activities:** Apparently, the AU is still viewed in the same light as the OAU. For instance, in Libya, the emphasis was on a peaceful and negotiated solution whilst hundreds of people were dying. In this connection, a chronology of AU's involvement in Libya was given. It was acknowledged that the AU could have done more, had it an appropriate doctrine and a mechanism for operational intervention in such situations. It should also be understood that the AU is an inter-governmental organization operating with the consent of the governments of the day.

- (iv) **The problem posed by terrorism in the Sahel** owing to the spread of weapons beyond Libya's frontiers and the general situation in North Africa. The PSC had already proposed a meeting between the new Libyan authorities and the neighboring countries to discuss the situation. In the meantime, the AU was opening an office in Libya with the mandate to work with the UN and other partners to ensure peace.
- (v) **The failure to raise 12,000 troops for Somalia** whereas AU boasts 54 Member States. The reason was not the lack of will on the part of Member States to contribute, but rather the lack of logistics support. Progress was being made in Somalia as the Al Shabab movement was losing the war. The gains achieved have now been consolidated. A road map was signed on 6 Sept 2011 in Mogadishu. Progress towards a political solution was already in sight.
- (vi) **Contemplating African solutions to African problems:** the principle of non-indifference was born during the genocide in Rwanda. Despite UN presence, AU leaders decided that Africa should resolve its own problems. When the AU was established, this concept was embodied in its Constitutive Act. In this regard, Africa was developing constructive partnerships built on comparative advantages.
- (vii) **How to address the issue of unconstitutional change of government** following the recent upheavals in North Africa. When it was found that AU instruments were incomplete in this regard, the Panel of the Wise started to reflect on the issue. A meeting on this issue is scheduled to be held in December 2011.
- (viii) **Issue of funding AU activities**, considering AU's very high dependence on its partners.
- (ix) **The AU's reluctance to recognize the revolution in Libya** even after the fall of Tripoli.
- (x) **Accusation that AU had sided with Gaddafi.** That accusation is viewed as a false perception. Libya was neither the only Member State making significant contributions to the AU budget nor the only member active in African affairs. During AU's initiative to resolve the crisis in Libya, AU leaders did their utmost to convince Gaddafi to listen to his people and AU held talks with both parties.

Recommendations

15. Africa should step up efforts at conflict prevention, enhancing regional integration and improving socio-economic development with special focus on youth empowerment.

16. It is important to review AU instruments on unconstitutional changes of government so as to come up with an effective doctrine and intervention mechanism. AU Member States should also respect their constitutions.
17. Member States should furthermore ratify, domesticate and implement AU instruments on illegal trade in small arms, drug trafficking and counter terrorism.
18. The full operationalization of the African Standby Force and the Early Warning Mechanisms should be realized as planned. The APSA Road Map (2011-2013) should be implemented to enhance relations with the RECs.
19. Africa should do more to contribute to its own operations in terms of logistics. Member States therefore need to demonstrate greater commitment, and efforts at mobilizing domestic resources should be sustained.
20. The African members of the UN Security Council should do more to push for the realization of the PSC agenda at the UN.

PANEL 4: COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AU AND INTERNATIONAL ACTORS AND OTHER ISSUES

21. This panel devoted effort to discussing the strategic partnerships between the AU and other international organizations (by Mr. Amadou Diongue, Peace and Security Council Expert), the interaction between the AU and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) through the Livingstone Formula (by Mrs. Nassera Roguiai, Peace and Security Council Expert), the relations between the AU and the RECs (by Mrs. Elisabeth Choge, Legal Expert and Ms. Raheemat Momodu, ECOWAS Liaison Officer to the AU) and protection of journalists in conflict situations (by Mrs. Catherine Gendre, Head of the ICRC Delegation to the AU).

Interventions during the session covered the following main areas:

22. APSA is a complex structure better known in Europe than in Africa. It is also largely funded by AU partners. What is the role of journalists in changing this situation?
23. Collaboration between the RECs and the AUC is strong. However, there is less inter-regional collaboration. How can this be changed from the structural stand point?
24. AU's voice was heard to some extent on Côte d'Ivoire, especially when ECOWAS threatened to intervene but stopped once France started the onslaught. The situation was worse in Libya as AU's voice was not heard while that of NATO resonated across the world.
25. How can CSOs and the media get involved at national level in human rights, and in peace and security issues, when they encounter difficulty in so doing?

PANEL 5: MANAGING PEACE AND SECURITY ISSUES - CASE STUDY: LIBYA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, SUDAN AND SOMALIA

26. This session was devoted to the AU's action during the crises or conflicts in Libya, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan and Somalia.

27. On Somalia, the presenter (Mr. Wafula Wamunyinyi, Deputy Special Representative of the African Union for Somalia) focused on the challenges which he summarized as the evolving nature of the conflict, the lack of capability (the military did not have air or maritime capability or quite simply adequate equipment to deal with the insurgency) and the funding gap. He emphasized that the peace process was now stronger than ever with the growing international attention, the recent signing of the roadmap between the stakeholders in Somalia which prioritized reconstitution, good governance and assistance. AU was working on sending additional troops, which would enable the mission to cover the entire country.

28. On Sudan, the speaker (Ambassador Mahmoud Kane, Head of AU Office in Sudan) emphasized that the security situation in Darfur had improved thanks to UNAMID. AU participated in the peace talks through the appointment of Mr. Bassolé. An Agreement (the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD)) was signed and its implementation was on-going through the good offices of the AU. The AU PSC in 2008 put in place a High Level Panel composed of former Presidents Mbeki, Abubakar and Buyoya. They made the most comprehensive analysis of the Sudanese crisis in their report. AU extended their mandate by including therein the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

29. On Libya, the presenter (Mr. Dawit Toga, Political Analyst) stated that among all the revolts in North Africa, the Libyan uprising was one of the most intensively covered by the media. However, the military intervention received more attention as compared to the political initiatives, and this eclipsed the role the AU played in the crisis. He presented the events in Libya as a call for democracy and respect for human rights. The crisis, he added, unfortunately evolved into a military operation whereas the AU had believed that Libya's case was essentially political in nature and that it needed a political solution. In conclusion, the speaker expressed regrets over the way and manner the media undermined AU's action in the crisis.

30. On Côte d'Ivoire, the presenter (Mr. Mathieu Kinouani, Political Analyst) made a historical presentation of AU's action. The crises in question were provoked by the absence of democracy and poor governance in that country. AU would be able to prevent this type of crises only if the Charter on Elections, Democracy and Good Governance enters into force.

31. The following points dominated the discussions:

- The AU did not speak with one voice nor take a single position on Libya, especially with respect to the recognition of the NTC;

- The perception of AU's role and place in crises such as that of Libya, North Africa as a whole, and Côte d'Ivoire;
- NATO's role in ending Kadhafi's regime;
- How NATO impeded or undermined AU's action in Libya;
- Did the AU learn lessons from these crises so as to be more rapid in establishing a position in future?

PANEL 6: PROPOSING AN ACCOUNT OF EVENTS: COMMUNICATING IN A CRISIS SITUATION

32. During this session, AU (presentation by Mr. El Ghassim Wane, Director of the Peace and Security Department) explained to participants the constraints it faced in terms of access to information when a crisis erupts in the continent. One of the primary challenges of communicating on peace and security issues was the lack of a clear understanding of the impact of the inherent differences between peace and security practitioners and media professionals, and this state of affairs inhibited the dissemination of information to the public. It was noted that while journalists go for innovating news with exciting potentials, even when such news were tentative, peace and security experts prefer that the information at their disposal go through the slow and painstaking process of verification and validation as well as political and social negotiation. Such timeframe renders the news uninteresting in the perception of journalists. In response, Mr. Tidiane Diah (Media Programme Officer, International Organisation of the Francophonie) gave some advice as to how the AU could improve its communication and hence its image. He also provided food for thought on how the AU can contribute to giving an African viewpoint on African events.

Recommendations

33. After these brief presentations, the participants had the opportunity to formulate the following recommendations:

(i) Recommendations for the AU:

- Improve the content of AU's website to create an effective tool for information sharing which will enable the organization to interact with and meet the needs of its various stakeholders and audiences. The website should provide easy access to certain documents such as periodic and annual reports, progress reports, communiqués on meetings and general updates that clearly reflect AU's efforts at peace-building, security and stability;
- Establish a network of journalists that would be in direct contact with the PSD to facilitate exchange of information;

- Improve and increase access to information sources;
- Use the mass media and the new technologies;
- Build African identity through media reporting;
- Be more proactive;
- Increase the number of spokespersons and staff in charge of communication at the AU;
- Improve AU's internal vetting system to ensure timely delivery of information;
- Reconcile media timing and AU timing;
- Encourage the culture of communicating within the AU;
- Institutionalize focal points in Member states;
- Organize video-conferences in partnership with Foreign Affairs or African Affairs Ministries;
- Organize press luncheons with AU leadership;
- Develop partnerships with Pan-African media, etc.;
- Foster exchange of information between the five regions of the continent and the Diaspora;
- Build or strengthen the capacities of media practitioners on peace and security issues;
- Present the new PSD website to the media community before other audiences;
- Organize a workshop for AU leadership on how to communicate;
- Organize a global review of AU communication policy;
- Draw on the experiences of journalists who attended the workshop;
- Maintain regular contacts with journalists even when there is no major announcement;
- Invite journalists for field visits in which AU is engaged (AMISOM, UNAMID) and *vice versa*;
- Organize field visits outside AU headquarters;
- Include peace and security in the modules of journalism schools curricula;
- Support research and development on peace and security issues in African universities;
- Support the establishment of African media houses;
- Create an online database with video and audio materials that will be updated at appropriate times on the new PSD website;
- Support the creation of a website for NetPeace with a link to the AU website;
- Ensure that press releases are distributed simultaneously in all the four AU working languages.

(ii) Recommendation for the media:

- Bring African leaders to promote AU decisions and positions.

SETTING UP A NETWORK OF JOURNALISTS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA (NetPeace)

34. After the presentation of AU's proposed structure for the NetPeace network, participants broke into groups to reflect on the following items: operational structure of the network, proposed activities and Action Plan for 2012 and communication mechanisms and channels. They also elected the bureau of NetPeace.

35. The following are the reports per group:

Group 1 - Structure of the network

It was agreed as follows:

On the structure of the network:

- NetPeace regions are: Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern, Central and the Diaspora;
- Each of the six regions should be represented by two persons on the Continental Coordination Unit. These members will coordinate the activities of the Network at regional level. Each country will have a national coordinator for the Network;
- The management shall include a Chairperson, a Deputy-Chairperson and a Secretary;
- The seat of NetPeace network will be located at the AU headquarters.

On membership criteria:

- Only professional/practising journalists will be eligible to become members of NetPeace;
- Media experts working in the areas of peace can become associate members. As for institutions, these can enjoy the status of NetPeace partners.

On membership benefits:

- AU should facilitate capacity building programmes for NetPeace members;
- NetPeace members will be allowed to attend plenary sessions of AU;
- All journalists should be eligible to participate in the competition for the AU NetPeace award;
- The award will be open to the various media categories (print, audio-visual and online).

On the Terms of Reference of the Coordination Unit:

- The Coordination Unit/Bureau is responsible for drawing up the rules of procedure of the Network;

- The Bureau will support journalists in reporting on peace and security issues;
- The Coordination Unit/Bureau will be the interface between the Network and the AU;
- The Coordination Unit/Bureau will build the capacity of journalists on peace and security;
- The Coordination Unit/Bureau will ensure that regional and country chapters are active;
- Members of the Coordination Unit/ Bureau, the Regional Unit and country focal points will all be elected for a two-year term renewable once;
- The Continental Coordination Unit/Bureau will meet just before the African Union Summit which is held twice a year.
- The Coordination Unit/Bureau will partner with persons working in the field of peace and security in the African continent and beyond.

On the issue of sustainability of the Network

- AU should ensure sustainability by providing funding for NetPeace members to attend meetings;
- Partner with institutions for support, including funding and technical support (training).

Group 2 - Proposed activities and action plan for 2012

Participants agreed as follows:

On the list of organizations working in the area of peace:

- All journalists working in the area of peace can become members of the Network;
- Journalists of media associations and organizations like MISA.

On the calendar:

- The election of members will take place on 1 March 2012;
- May 2012 will be an opportunity for members to meet.

On funding:

- The awareness of partners like UNESCO will be raised on the activities of the Network;
- AU identified partners will be requested to fund the activities of the Network;
- AU to provide support to the Network.

On training:

- The Network should mobilize journalism schools to incorporate peace and security reporting in their curricula.

On the NetPeace award:

- This award should be made on annual basis;
- The award money should be about US\$5,000.00, including equipment like computers. Winners should be decorated by the AU;
- At country level, the award money should be about US\$1,000.00;
- AU should protect journalists, prepare and ensure the circulation of an annual report on the situation of journalists in the continent of Africa.

Group 3 - Communication mechanisms and channels

Participants agreed as follows:

- Develop a mailing list;
- Hold discussions on Facebook and other social networks;
- Publish a specialized quarterly magazine on issues of peace and security in Africa;
- Develop a website on peace and security issues in the continent;
- Get involved in activities on the world small arms and light weapons day and other special days;
- Encourage the participation of Member States in Network activities at national level;
- Establish a partnership with other networks working on similar issues.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE CONTINENTAL COORDINATION UNIT/ BUREAU

36. The following personalities were elected to the Continental Coordination Unit/Bureau:

Chairperson: Ms. Uduak Amimo, Media Expert, Kenya, Eastern Region;

Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Vincent Nkeshimana, Radio Isanganiro, Burundi, Central Region;

Secretary: Mr. Nicolas Abena, I Magazine, Diaspora

Northern Region

- 1) Mr.. Deida Jeidna –Mauritania (Le Quotidien de Nouakchott)
- 2) Mr.. Ahmed Khalifa – Libya (Lybia Free TV)

Western Region

- 1) Mr.. Haméye Cissé – Mali (Le Scorpion)
- 2) Mr. Malcolm Joseph – Liberia (Center for Media Studies and Peace Building)

Eastern Region

- 1) Mr. Kadar Ali Diraneh – Djibouti (Djibouti Radio-Television, RTD)

2) Ms. Uduak Amimo – Media Expert, Kenya

Central Region

- 1) Mr. Vincent Nkeshimana – Burundi (Radio Isanganiro)
- 2) Mr. Bernardino Ndze Biyoa – Equatorial Guinea (Director General of International Press - Ministry of Information)

Southern Region

- 1) Mr. Wisdom Mdzungairi – Zimbabwe (News Day)
- 2) Mr. Lungi Daweti – South Africa (Channel Africa, SABC)

DIASPORA

- 1) Mr. Nicolas Abena (I Magazine)
- 2) Ms. Melissa Chemam (Vox Africa TV)

Conclusion

37. At the end of the deliberations, the workshop adopted a declaration (copy attached).

38. The meeting also accepted to propose the consideration of this report as an agenda item of the 18th Assembly of the African Union scheduled for end of January 2012.

39. A draft decision on the culture of peace in Africa, which was discussed during the workshop, will also be submitted to the Executive Council and the Assembly of the African Union.

DECLARATION

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**High Level Media Workshop on the African
Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)
2 – 4 November 2011
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**DECLARATION OF THE HIGH LEVEL MEDIA WORKSHOP ON
THE AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE**

Promoting the culture of peace in the media

WE, media professionals, participated in the first High Level Media Workshop on the African Peace and Security Architecture in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 2 to 4 November 2011, to share information and enhance our knowledge of the activities and programmes of the African Union Commission and of the organs of this Continental Organisation;

OUR workshop was held in an environment characterized by persistent conflicts on the continent, despite the efforts and some progress made in promoting peace, security and stability, which are essential conditions for the economic development and social cohesion of African States, as stated in the Constitutive Act of the Union;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the vision of a strong and united Africa buttressed by values for promoting and protecting human and peoples' rights, good governance and for establishing the rule of law, consolidating institutions and a democratic culture, as stated in the Constitutive Act;

WELCOMING the efforts and encouraging results of the "Year of Peace and Security in Africa", implemented by the African Union, as well as the "Make Peace Happen" campaign, which ensued therefrom;

REAFFIRMING our belief in the galvanizing role and educational character of messages which the media must convey to foster policies and practices for promoting a culture of peace throughout the continent;

CONSIDERING that these messages must be such that eliminate the scourge of war and contribute to entrenching a culture of peace, which is crucial to the future of the continent;

RECOGNIZING the positive role of the media in promoting peace, democracy, and in processes seeking reconciliation and preservation of national unity;

ENCOURAGING this responsible practice and undertaking to work towards strengthening it;
We hereby declare as follows:

REAFFIRM our collective commitment to work for the entrenchment of a culture of peace in Africa and urge all media to contribute thereto;

WELCOME the establishment of the Network of Journalists for Peace in Africa (*NetPeace*);

UNDERTAKE to promote the flow of information between the African Union and the media, particularly in the area of peace and security and across the *NetPeace* network, which we invite to establish a mechanism for information access and sharing;

ALSO UNDERTAKE to promote the network's activities as well as synergies with existing media networks working for peace and security on the continent;

REQUEST the Bureau of *NetPeace* network to constantly monitor activities, in a bid to give more visibility to African Union activities for the promotion of peace and stability;

UNDERTAKE to strive to give the world an African account and perspective of events that occur on the continent;

ENCOURAGE Member States of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and regional mechanisms to involve the *NetPeace* network in their activities to promote and entrench peace, security and stability;

ALSO ENCOURAGE *NetPeace* network members to educate the public on the functioning and various actions of the African Union in the field of peace and security;

INVITE media, which have not yet done so, to endorse this Declaration and to join the *NetPeace* network;

REQUEST the African Union Commission and the Bureau of *NetPeace* network to act as the secretariat;

NOTE WITH APPRECIATION the assistance provided by the Francophone Research Network on Peace Operations (ROP).



2012

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