

**DECLARATION ON THE THEME OF THE SUMMIT:
“TOWARDS GREATER UNITY AND INTEGRATION THROUGH SHARED VALUES”**

We, African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government, meeting at the 16th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2011, and after having debated the Theme dedicated to this Session, namely ‘Towards Greater Unity and Integration through Shared Values’;

Recalling the Decision EX. CL/Dec.525 (XVI) which was endorsed by the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which recommended that the 16th Ordinary Session of the Assembly be dedicated to the Shared Values of the African Union, including identifying obstacles and measures to be adopted to facilitate continental integration based on such values, as well as putting in place a Pan-African Architecture on Governance as a framework for dialogue between the various stakeholders;

Inspired by Africa’s history of liberation struggles and the continued quest for sovereignty, freedom and self determination of all African countries, as well as Africa’s rich tradition of solidarity, consensus, national reconciliation and communalism and its contribution to the universal principles of governance, democracy, and human rights;

Further inspired by the Shared Values embodied in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which, amongst others, emphasise the significance of democratic governance, popular participation, the rule of law, human and peoples’ rights and sustainable socio-economic development;

Recognising that Shared Values is one of the four pillars of the Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission (2009-2012) through which the Commission seeks to implement the vision of the Union;

Acknowledging that Shared Values are a means of accelerating Africa’s integration agenda through values and principles that are embodied, in the various instruments, decisions and declarations that have been adopted by the Union;

Further acknowledging the role of women, youth and civil society in promoting Shared Values and the importance of securing and enhancing their participation in the development, popularisation and domestication of these values;

Observing that Africa has made significant progress in the promotion of Shared Values and that development and implementation of these values is a continuous process that, for sustainability, would require the active involvement of all stakeholders;

Committing ourselves to establishing viable and democratic states, and ensuring the efficient delivery of services to the peoples, and promoting economic progress as well as a culture of good governance;

Cognizant of the need to promote and encourage democratic practices, good governance and the rule of law, protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

respect for the sanctity of human life and international humanitarian law, as part of efforts for the prevention of conflicts;

Convinced that the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) constitute the building blocks in the development and promotion of an effective continental agenda for integration, based on Shared Values;

Mindful that the Continent still faces many challenges in promoting, ratifying and domesticating instruments of Shared Values and recognising that there are a number of obstacles that need to be overcome in furtherance of the Shared Values.

Hereby declare as follows:

1. We commit ourselves to enhancing efforts aimed at reinforcing a deeper understanding of Shared Values and their promotion and popularisation amongst the African peoples as a means of shaping Africa's common future and mobilising the African peoples towards achieving the shared vision of continental integration and unity.
2. We reaffirm our commitment to speeding up the ratification and domestication of instruments of Shared Values and call upon the African Union Commission (AUC) to put in place measures and modalities to support Member States to establish the required capacities and processes for monitoring and review of domestication efforts.
3. We affirm the need for the consolidation and full implementation of the instruments of Shared Values, including the African Peer-Review Mechanism (APRM) and relevant National Plans, as a catalyst for unity, policy harmonisation, convergence and integration on the Continent.
4. We encourage the African Union Commission to ensure greater synergy between peace and security matters and governance and democracy, thereby ensuring that developments in the terrain of shared values feature prominently in the Peace and Security Council.
5. We further commit ourselves to promoting the role of women in socio-economic life and prioritise the participation of women in governance and democracy and secure their direct involvement in decision-making in line with the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) and the Declaration on the African Women's Decade (2010-2020).
6. We urge the youth to participate fully in governance and democracy processes, as per the provisions of the African Youth Charter and request that efforts be put in place to establish an annual Youth Parliament at the continental level.

7. We further encourage efforts directed at enhancing the participation of African Research Institutes, Universities, Civil Society and the Media in promoting Shared Values as part of wider efforts directed at securing African ownership.
8. We call on the AUC and other Organs to establish African ownership over Shared Values by way of wider communication and information sharing, through direct support to Member States, by ensuring the strengthening of institutions and by way of putting in place measures to ensure that success is monitored and that there is ongoing review of progress in the implementation of adopted Shared Values instruments.
9. We urge all African peoples and stakeholders to take ownership of adopted Shared Values, through amongst others, providing resources and promoting these as a basis for enhancing African unity and integration.
10. We further call upon the RECs to work closely with the AUC and other AU organs and institutions in harmonising their instruments and further urge them to promote the Shared Values especially in the areas of democracy, governance and popular participation.
11. We commend the work of the AUC on strengthening the African Governance Architecture and affirm the importance of establishing an African Governance Platform as a basis for facilitating harmonisation of instruments and coordination of initiatives in governance and democracy.
12. We note with appreciation the support provided by our bilateral and multilateral partners and call on them to continue working closely with us in the popularization and domestication of Shared Values and request the AU Commission to report on the implementation of this Declaration.



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