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CONCEPT NOTE

**THE THIRD ANNUAL HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND
GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA: TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS**

THEME:

**SILENCING THE GUNS: STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE TO PREVENT, MANAGE AND
RESOLVE CONFLICTS IN AFRICA**

VENUE: KING FAHD PALACE HOTEL, DAKAR, SENEGAL

DATE: 30 - 31 OCTOBER 2014

1.0 Introduction

The African Union (AU) organs and institutions that form the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and its Platform (AGP)¹ are convening the Third High Level Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance focusing specifically on how democratic governance can be leveraged to silence Africa's blazing guns. At the heart of Africa's violent conflicts, lie two fundamental problems: development failure and governance deficit. Indeed, political instability, insecurity and lack of peace hinder development and socio-cultural harmony - which are key pre-conditions for state-building and national integration for AU's 54 Member States.

Given the fact that weak democratic governance is part of the structural causes of Africa's protracted violent conflicts, it is imperative that a more sustainable and meaningful response to violence is entrenched. That can only be achieved by strengthening governance systems, institutions and embedding a culture of democracy and peace aimed towards inclusive, equitable and participatory development.

The theme of the Third High-Level Dialogue is "Silencing the Guns: Strengthening Governance to Prevent, Manage and Resolve Conflicts in Africa." The focus on that theme is a direct response to the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted by the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on 26 May 2013. The Declaration marked the beginning of the year-long celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the African Union (AU), where African leaders committed to ending "all wars in Africa by 2020."²

The AU is cognizant of the significant importance of democratic-developmental governance as a foundation for silencing the guns on the continent as enumerated in its various shared values instruments. In this regard, African leaders proclaimed in the 50th Anniversary Declaration their determination to anchor African societies on the respect for rule of law, human rights and dignity, popular participation, the management of diversity, as well as the inclusion of development and democracy. Through the Declaration, African leaders have committed themselves to:

¹ Coordination of the High-Level Dialogue is the responsibility of the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission as the Coordinating Hub of the African Governance Architecture and its Platform. DPA is implementing this programme in close collaboration with some of its key partners, notably the Government of Senegal, African Governance Institute (AGI), GIZ, Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) Addis Ababa University, UNDP and International IDEA. The African Governance Architecture (AGA) is the overall continental framework for promoting, nurturing, strengthening and consolidating democracy and governance in Africa. The AGA seeks to achieve these objectives through initiatives facilitating constructive dialogue among Member States, African Union organs, institutions, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African citizens, civil society and other stakeholders on emerging trends, threats, challenges and opportunities on democratic governance and human rights in Africa.

² AU2013. 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- i. Strengthen democratic governance including decentralised systems, the rule of law and the capacities of national institutions to meet the aspirations of African peoples;
- ii. Reject unconstitutional changes of government, including any attempts to seize power by force, but recognise the right of peoples to peacefully express their will against oppressive systems;
- iii. Promote integrity by fighting corruption in the management of public affairs and promote leadership that is committed to the interests of the people; and
- iv. Foster the participation of African peoples through democratic elections to ensure accountability and transparency.

The importance of silencing guns in Africa is recognised as critical for the attainment of sustainable human development on the continent within the framework of both the medium-term development strategy as contained in the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the long-term development vision as enshrined in the Africa Agenda 2063. Conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as developing strategic and development interventions that are aimed at silencing the guns in Africa by 2020, must be rooted in sturdy, resilient, participatory, efficient, effective, accountable and inclusive governance systems. Such governance systems must be premised on a democratic culture that fosters peacebuilding and development simultaneously. In other words, the response to crises in Africa must be more comprehensive and should include: fostering democratic and participatory governance, social cohesion and harmony, along with promoting a culture of democracy and peace as encapsulated in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, among the AU's various normative frameworks.

Democratic governance, peace and development are inextricably intertwined. Both democracy and peace are necessary for flourishing societies where human rights and rule of law are respected. They are also important for the advancement of socio-economic development and sustainable growth, pointing to their intrinsic value. In seeking to silence guns in Africa by 2020, it is therefore critical to enhance the synergy and complementarity between and among the AU's relevant architectures for integration and continental development. These include the African Governance Architecture (AGA), the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme of the Union. AGA is a vehicle for driving continental integration on Africa's governance domain. APSA coordinates the AU's efforts on peace and security issues. NEPAD promotes continental integration with a special focus on socio-economic development. In striving towards silencing the guns in 2020, it is imperative that the three architectures complement each other more systematically and in a coherent manner. The complementarity between and among these three architectures underlines the thesis that democracy and peace ought to be a foundation and enabler for socio-economic transformation in Africa.

2.0 The Context

Upon independence in the 1950s and 60s, Africa's democratization and peacebuilding record was a mixed bag, with few countries embracing the culture of democracy while a majority adopted less democratic methods of governing. In that context, a small group of Member States of the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU) experienced multi-party rule while a majority were governed through military rule or one-party rule. At the time there were more military coups than multi-party elections. It was within this context, therefore, that a plethora of both endogenous and exogenous factors propelled Africa's inter-state and intra-state conflicts, with devastating consequences for democratic governance, peace and development.

Africa celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the OAU/AU between May 2013 and May 2014. One of the major achievements of the OAU was the total decolonisation of the continent. Today, following the transformation of the OAU into the African Union in 1999-2000, the situation has changed significantly with positive progress made with respect to Africa's governance landscape. Since the late 1980s, major strides have been made by African states to democratize their societies. Today, unlike in the 1960s and 70s, there are more multi-party elections than military coups across the continent.

Following the collapse of the Cold War ideological bi-polarity between the then superpowers (USA & USSR) and the demise of apartheid in Southern Africa, Africa is today experiencing a relative peace dividend, political stability and democracy. The three imperatives of peace, stability and democracy form a fundamental pre-condition for sustainable human development. However, while inter-state conflicts have reduced considerably, the continent is still prone to protracted intra-state conflicts. An understanding of the nexus between democracy, peace and development will help to put this reality into perspective.

While democracy has an intrinsic value in terms of broadening the frontiers of civil and political liberties, it equally has an instrumental value in promoting socio-cultural, economic and environmental rights. The process of nurturing and consolidating democratic governance on the continent relates directly to the extent to which the twin-values of democracy (intrinsic and instrumental) are realized on a more sustainable basis.

The intrinsic value and scale of democracy is measured, among other things, through the quality of citizens' engagement and participation, including the holding of regular, credible and transparent elections, establishment of effective and efficient democratic institutions, along with the respect and promotion of human and peoples' rights. Democracy must address the effective realisation of socio-economic and cultural rights,

gender equality, youth empowerment and protection of minority rights. The instrumental value of democracy is measured by the extent to which democracy delivers basic or fundamental needs such as food, water, health, education, housing, clothing, and environmental protection, particularly to marginalized social groups such as women, youth, people with disabilities and minorities. In other words, democracy must put bread on the table and also compel belligerents in conflicts to lay down their weapons and pursue peace through mediated negotiations and dialogue. This is more apt in the definition of development by a Somali Elder of Baidoa who describes development as the satisfaction of five basic human needs as follows:

*First, is water. It is the first thing needed to live. Without it, a plant, an animal or a baby dies. Second, is food. Without enough of it, life is miserable and short. Third, once water and food are won, is health - otherwise the human being becomes sick. Fourth, is education, once a human being has water, food and health he/she needs to learn to open new horizons and unlock new possibilities. And there is a fifth-peace and order. Without these none of the four basic needs can be sustained.*³

The above quote depicts a simple but realistic nexus between democracy with development and peace.

Democracy and development are inextricably linked to peacebuilding. The concept of peacebuilding is traceable to the works of Johan Galtung in the 1970s.⁴ Boutros Boutros-Ghali, as UN Secretary-General in 1992 defined peacebuilding as “medium to long-term processes of building war-affected communities through identifying and supporting ‘structures which strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid relapse into conflict’.”⁵ Essentially, *An Agenda for Peace* saw peacebuilding as a worthy and distinct area of international attention, and conceived of it as the promotion of activities and structures that reduce the likelihood of violent conflict.⁶ Ho-Wong Jeong equally describes peacebuilding activities as follows:

Peacebuilding involves a process comprising various functions and roles. It often entails a wide range of sequential activities, proceeding from cease-fire and refugee resettlement to the establishment of a new government and economic reconstruction. The end of violent conflict has to be accompanied by the rebuilding of the physical infrastructure and the restoration of essential government functions that provide basic

³ Adedeji, Adebayo. 2006. ‘Democracy and Development: A Complex Relationship’, in Matlosa, K., Elklit, J. and Chiroro, B. eds. *Challenges of Conflict, Democracy and Development in Africa*, Johannesburg: EISA Books, P.23.

⁴ ACCORD.2013. *ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook*, Durban, South Africa (mimeo).

⁵ Curtis, D. 2012. ‘Contested Politics of Peace-Building in Africa’, in Curtis, D. and Dzineza, G. (eds) *Peacebuilding, Power, and Politics in Africa*, Ohio: Ohio University Press.

⁶ Ibid

*social services. In the long run, stability cannot be achieved without the participation of former adversaries in a democratic political process and socioeconomic reform*⁷.

Peacebuilding “seeks to help people recover from, prevent, reduce, and transform violence.... It involves concepts of conflict prevention, management and transformation, all of which must be undertaken to address comprehensively conflicts that arise in post-conflict settings, but should also aim to transform the conflict system as a whole, preventing violent conflict from arising in the future.”⁸ Accordingly, peacebuilding entails processes, activities and structures that are meant to bring about inclusive development.⁹

The state of peace in every African state is varied. It is possible to have what Galtung terms ‘negative peace’ where there is an absence of violence and war. It is also possible to have what he terms ‘positive peace,’ essentially a situation where open conflict as well as the threat of conflict is absent and the causes of conflict have been removed from the situation¹⁰. Nonetheless, peace in itself does not necessarily mean the absence of open conflict. Even without outright war, most societies are confronted with the daunting challenges of structural violence, for instance against women,¹¹ children and other marginalized social groups.

⁷ Jeong, H. 2005. *Peacebuilding in Postconflict Societies: Strategies and Processes*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, P.1.

⁸ ACCORD. 2013. ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook, Durban, South Africa (mimeo), p11.

⁹ The extant literature perceives of peace as a varied and variegated concept, and in particular, three framings of peace. Firstly, peace as liberalism in which peace is seen to be pursued through liberalization including institutionalization of free markets, multiple parties and regular elections. As Curtis observes, in this ideation of peace, “multiparty electoral democracy and a market economy are seen as inherently peaceful and desirable and it is thought that all ‘good things’ go together. Peace-building therefore consists of activities and initiatives to help bring about and facilitate this desired liberal end” (Curtis, 2012:10). Secondly, peace as stabilization in which peacebuilding is perceived as “the creation of stable, secure states with well policed borders”. Its emphasis is on peace as the creation of law and order even if low intensity conflict prevails and even under conditions of structural violence. Thirdly and finally, peace as social justice which perceives of the foundations of peace as rooted in “social justice rather than liberal governance or stabilization. Structural violence is the problem to be addressed through peacebuilding, and peacebuilding therefore involves programmes to encourage inclusive access to resources and institutions, to empower marginalized groups, to end discrimination against women and other disadvantaged groups, and to redistribute income and land ownership. In other words, peacebuilding becomes focused on reaching the condition of ‘positive peace’” (Curtis, 2012:14).

¹⁰ ACCORD.2013.Ibid, p.12-13.

¹¹ The relationship between peace, war and the role of women in violent conflict situations is advanced by Amina Mama and Margo Okazawa-Rey (2012). Citing Aretxaga, the two scholars argue that “peace and war are not so much two opposed states of being as they are multifaceted, ambiguous, mutually imbricated arenas of struggle. Peace does not necessarily entail the end of violent conflict.” Using data from West African case studies including Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia, they also investigate the position and role of women in war situations and conclude that: The accumulated evidence of women’s involvement in acts of violence against civilians does of course disrupt outdated but often-reiterated notions of women as inherently more peaceful than men. However, women’s involvement in fighting and killing, as well as in the combat economy, has costly and long-term social and economic consequences that are yet to be adequately addressed in post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. (Mama and Okazawa, 2012:117)

The militarization of society, perhaps occasioned by high levels of unemployment and the lack of space for young men and women to effectively participate in governance processes, have continued to influence the conscription of these groups into radical and fundamental military insurgents. Addressing structural violence should intrinsically be tied to creating the enabling environment for the enjoyment of the socio-political and economic rights by young people and other marginalised groups in development. This will consequently address the catalyst of continued militarization in society.¹²

Sustainable development cannot be achieved under conditions of conflict (especially violent conflict) that generate insecurity and political instability. Political instability erodes democracy. Sustainable human development requires not only a democratic setting, but also a peaceful environment. Protracted violent conflicts in Africa over the last fifty years have not only cost the continent immensely in terms of loss of human lives, economic retardation and environmental degradation (including climate change), but have also postponed democratization. Evidence abounds suggesting that where development, democracy and peace are found wanting, marginalized social groups are the hardest hit, including women, youth, minorities, and people with disabilities as on-going conflicts in the Sahel region, the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa vividly illustrate.

In redressing the current situation and devising durable solutions that ensure the silencing of guns on the Continent by the year 2020, AGA Platform members¹³ are grappling with inadequate implementation of AU norms that seek to address the root causes and triggers of conflicts in Africa. The AGA platform members are concerned with the daunting challenge of devising durable solutions aimed at prevention, and effective resolution of violent conflicts within AU Member States. For stable states, the focus is on preventive diplomacy to support on-going peacebuilding initiatives. For states engulfed in violent conflicts, the focus is on how best to put in place effective and constructive conflict management mechanisms. For states emerging from violent conflicts, the focus is on how to devise and implement post-conflict reconstruction and development. All three approaches aim towards reconciliation, national harmony and healing for the purposes of nation-building.

An effective response to Africa's violent conflicts and political instability must go deeper in addressing structural root causes. Failure to address these root causes will limit Africa's attempts to mere window dressing. Recent studies have focused attention on

¹² Mama, A. and Okazawa-Rey, M. 2012. 'Militarism, Conflict and Women's activism in the global era: challenges and prospects for women in three West African contexts', *Feminist Review*, 101, P.116

¹³ These include: AU Peace and Security Council (PSC); AU Permanent Representative Committee (PRC); The AU Commission (AUC); African Court on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR); African Commission on Human and People's Rights (AfCHPR); Pan-African Parliament (PAP); African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC); AU Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC); African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC); Relevant Specialised Technical Committees; African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL); NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency; Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

the concept of fragility. According to the Oxford dictionary, fragility can be defined as the “*quality of being easily broken or damaged or the quality of being delicate or vulnerable*”. Two recent studies on fragility in Africa published by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS)¹⁴ and the African Development Bank (AfDB)¹⁵ define this concept as “low capacity and poor state performance with respect to security and development. A state is fragile when it is unable to provide for the security of and development of its citizens. The majority of citizens in highly fragile countries in Africa (1) are poor, (2) experience high levels of repeated or cyclical violence, (3) experience economic exclusion and inequality and (4) suffer from poor/weak governance”¹⁶. Recent studies including the one by the AfDB have identified the triggers or drivers of fragility and violent conflict in Africa as follows, among others:

- (i) Youth bulge and unemployment
- (ii) Rapid urbanization
- (iii) Poverty, inequality and exclusion
- (iv) Mismanagement of natural resources
- (v) Environmental degradation and climate change
- (vi) Uncertain political transitions
- (vii) History of instability
- (viii) Organised crime and terrorism
- (ix) Weak state institutions
- (x) Mismanagement of diversity
- (xi) Poor service delivery
- (xii) Militarization of politics and politicization of the military
- (xiii) Corruption and lack of accountability which leads to impunity
- (xiv) Weak national infrastructures for peace¹⁷

The Third High Level Dialogue will be alert to these triggers of fragility and violent conflicts in Africa. In an effort to address these triggers, the forum will focus specifically on appropriate governance responses that could guide the AU interventions at member state, regional and continental levels with a view to silencing the guns by 2020.

3.0 The Goal and Objectives

The main goal of the Third High Level Dialogue is to explore the structural root causes of conflicts in Africa and propose policy measures through which governance systems can be strengthened to address violent conflicts on the continent.

The specific objectives are to:

¹⁴ Cilliers, J. and Sisk, T. 2013. Assessing long-term state fragility in Africa: Prospects for 26 ‘more fragile’ countries, ISS Monograph no.188, p.v.

¹⁵ See Nhema, A. and Zeleza, T. eds. 2008. *The Roots of African Conflicts: The Causes and Costs*, Oxford: James Currey; AfDB.2014. *Ending conflict and building peace in Africa: A call to Action*. High Level Panel on Fragile States, Tunis, Tunisia.

¹⁶ Cilliers, J. and Sisk, T. Ibid. p.v.

¹⁷ See Nhema, A. and Zeleza, Ibid.

- (i) Share evidence-based knowledge and analysis on the root causes of conflict in Africa and how they can be addressed through appropriate governance reforms;
- (ii) Exchange lessons, experience and best practices in fostering accountable, responsive and effective governance in conflict situations;
- (iii) Concretise strategies for achieving synergy and complementarity between AGA and APSA towards silencing the guns in Africa - taking cognisance of existing frameworks and recommendations;
- (iv) Identify the specific roles of AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities, Africa's development partners along with state and non-state actors in strengthening democratic governance as a means for silencing the guns by 2020.

4.0 Expected Outcome

Within the overall vision of achieving a democratically governed and conflict-free Africa, the expected outcomes of the Third High-Level Dialogue will include:

- (i) Improved appreciation and understanding of the root causes of conflict and the appropriate governance reforms required to address it;
- (ii) Increased pool of knowledge and best practices that can be leveraged to foster accountable, responsive and effective governance in conflict situations;
- (iii) Deepened understanding of the complementarity and synergies between and among AGA, APSA and NEPAD programme as well as strengthened implementation strategies;
- (iv) Improved understanding of the roles of AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities towards strengthening democratic governance as a means for silencing the guns by 2020;
- (v) Deepened appreciation of decentralization and local governance as vehicles for the realization of people's empowerment and popular participation.

It is envisaged that the outcomes will help contribute to:

- (i) Strengthened governance institutions and systems advancing service delivery for the achievement of sustainable human development (a corruption-free and efficient public service);
- (ii) Entrenched culture of human and people's rights taking due regard to the constructive management of diversity (human rights-based governance and development approaches);
- (iii) Embedded culture of constitutionalism and rule of law (eradication of unconstitutional changes of government);
- (iv) Existence of an enabling environment for credible and transparent elections that nurture and consolidate democratic and participatory governance;
- (v) Societal and institutional resilience, which is capable of preventing and/or responding effectively to disasters that propel humanitarian crises.

5.0 Expected Outputs

- Seven (7) Discussion Papers

- One (1) Policy Brief
- One (1) Proceedings Report
- One (1) Video
- Revamped AGA Website
- Press Releases (Various)
- Media Interviews (Various)
- One (1) Special Issue of the African Governance Newsletter on Silencing the Guns

6.0 Focus and Cross-Cutting Issues

The dialogue will focus on five (5) main key issues:

- (vi) Governance institutions and systems with a view to advance service delivery for the achievement of sustainable human development;
- (vii) Human rights and transitional justice including constructive management of diversity;
- (viii) Constitutionalism, rule of law and the eradication of unconstitutional changes of government;
- (ix) Democracy and elections for nurturing and consolidating participatory governance;
- (x) Humanitarian assistance with a view to prevent, manage and respond to forced displacement.

In addressing these five main issues, deliberate effort will be made to ensure that relevant issues are sufficiently included. These include: gender equality, youth empowerment, minority rights and climate change. As the primary *raison d'être* of the AU, regional integration and continental unity will also be overarching issues and included in High-Level Dialogue discussions. It is worth noting that the Golden Jubilee in 2013 recommitted the African Union to the values and principles of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance, which form the ideological and philosophical anchor for African Unity. The Africa Agenda 2063 recognises the strategic value of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. As a result, the African Union Commission is fully involved in the organisation of the 8th Pan-African Congress planned for November in Accra, Ghana on the theme “The Africa We Want: Building an African People’s Union for the Next Generation” with a focus on key elements of the Africa Agenda 2063.

7.0 Justification and Rationale

The annual High Level Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance provides a frank, open and inclusive platform for Member States, AU organs and institutions, Regional Economic Communities, African citizens, think tanks, civil society, the media, private sector, philanthropists, and development actors to engage and share comparable experiences and lessons on how to improve governance, consolidate democracy and foster effective realization of human and peoples’ rights on the continent.

The inaugural High Level Dialogue was held in November 2012 in Dakar Senegal and

focused on the state of governance and democracy in Africa.¹⁸ The second High Level Dialogue followed in 2013, with a focus on enhancing constitutionalism and rule of law in Africa.¹⁹ At both fora, participants reiterated the need for robust engagement with stakeholders on strengthening and deepening democratic values and ideals on the continent.

In furtherance with a key resolution of the inaugural High Level Dialogue to convene the consultation annually, and a commitment by the Senegalese Government to co-host the Annual Dialogues in the subsequent year, AGA members will convene the third **High Level Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance in Africa: Trends, Challenges and Prospects** on the theme “**Silencing the Guns: Strengthening Governance to Prevent, Manage and Resolve Conflicts in Africa.**”

Achieving good governance, democracy and sustainable peace are principle objectives of the African Union. The AU has set 2020 as its target for silencing the guns²⁰ in a bid to deepening the post-Cold War peace dividend among Member States and as part of the Africa Agenda 2063 framework.²¹ Indeed at the 430th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) held on 24 April 2014, the PSC devoted discussions to the theme “Silencing the Guns: Pre-requisites for Realizing a Conflict-Free Africa by the Year 2020”.²² A High-Level Retreat organised by the Department of Peace and Security followed on 28-29 April 2014 in Durban, South Africa, with the intention of exploring concrete options towards silencing guns in Africa. The overarching objective of the retreat was to lay a foundation for the subsequent elaboration of a roadmap towards a conflict-free Africa. The 430th PSC Open Session stressed the need for elaborating the roadmap to be submitted for consideration by the Assembly in order to underpin the actions necessary for the attainment of the goal of a conflict-free Africa by 2020, and called on all stakeholders to contribute to this process. The PSC requested the Commission to finalize the elements of a roadmap for its consideration.

Both the PSC and PSD consultations were convened as part of efforts to implement the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, adopted on 25 May 2013 by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government focusing primarily on security dimensions of the agenda. The two consultations are part of an on-going process to coordinate efforts towards concretely living up to the commitments of the AU Assembly. Both meetings reiterated the need for the identification of root causes of violent conflicts on the Continent while calling for a common understanding, definition of, and response to, the root causes of violent conflicts so as to build consensus on the solutions required to comprehensively and effectively address them. Importantly, the meetings reaffirmed the imperatives of good governance, respect for human rights, popular participation and inclusivity as pre-requisites for deepening the culture of democracy, accountability,

¹⁸ See the Key Outcomes of the 2012 High Level Dialogue on Governance Trends at <<http://pa.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Governance%20Trends%20Outcome%20Statement-%20English%20-30%20November%202012.pdf>> accessed 20 May 2014.

¹⁹ See the outcomes of the 2013 High Level Dialogue on Governance (www.dgtrends.org)

²⁰ See African Union 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, adopted on 25 May 2013 by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

²¹ See Africa 2063 Agenda (<http://agenda2063.au.int/>).

²² Press Statement of the 430th Peace and Security Council Meeting held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia on the 24th April, 2014.

peace and good governance on the Continent. It is here that the added value of the Third High Level Dialogue is self-evident. The forum complements rather than duplicates these two previous efforts. Its main remit is purely governance responses to political crises in Africa.

It is therefore imperative that as part of the on-going process to coordinate efforts towards concretely living up to the commitments of the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, the Africa Governance Architecture and Platform's flagship governance dialogue is dedicated to discussions aimed at contributing to the efforts towards silencing the guns in Africa by 2020. This effort should also lay a firm foundation for the practical synergies and complementarity between and among the African Governance Architecture, the African Peace and Security Architecture and the NEPAD programme of the AU. It is incontrovertible that democracy and peace, while good in and of themselves, are also key enablers for socio-economic development, continental integration and unity as envisaged in the Africa Agenda 2063.

8.0 Methodology

The methodology to be followed in preparation and execution of the project will include:

- (i) Data collection, collation and analysis (research)
- (ii) Peer review of papers produced
- (iii) Validation of the papers
- (iv) Consultations and dialogue (one main forum and five pre-forum events including IPI consultative workshop, gender forum, youth forum, humanitarian symposium and elections forum)
- (v) Publications
- (vi) Dissemination of publications
- (vii) Policy influence and advocacy

9.0 Partnerships, Institutional and Management Arrangements

The Third Annual High Level Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance in Africa: Trends, Challenges and Prospects is jointly convened by the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Government of Senegal. Technical and financial resources for the High Level Dialogue are provided by the African Governance Institute, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the GIZ Regional Governance Programme Support to the African Union, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of the University of Addis Ababa and International IDEA.

10.0 Documentation

In the interest of protecting the environment, the Third High-Level Dialogue will, to the extent possible, be paperless. Most of the documentation for the Dialogue Forum will be shared electronically. Few basic documents will be reproduced in hard copy. All High Level Dialogue documents and news updates will be available on the www.dgtrends.org website, Twitter @AUC_DPA, Hashtag #DGTrends.

11.0 Participation

The key stakeholders to be invited to the High-Level Dialogue include the following:

- Heads of state and government of the AU Member States
- Former heads of state and government
- AU organs and institutions
- Regional Economic Communities
- Media organisations and journalists
- Universities, research institutes and think-tanks
- Youth organizations
- Women's organizations
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Pan-African Movement
- National and state institutions
- Political Parties
- Development Partners and Agencies
- Private Sector (Multinationals/ Local/Informal trade groups)
- Philanthropy organisations and individuals
- Trade Union Movements
- Religious organisations
- African traditional authorities
- UN agencies
- International and continental financial institutions (e.g. AfDB, IMF, World Bank)
- Affected populations

Participation to the High Level Dialogue will be by invitation only. Sponsored participants will be provided support in terms of travel arrangements and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for the duration of the meeting. Self-sponsored participants are required to share their travel arrangements with the organising/coordinating team.

12.0 Working Languages

The Meeting will be conducted in English and French.

13.0 Dates and Venue

The Third High Level Dialogue will be held at **King Fahd Palace Hotel, Dakar Senegal on 30-31 October 2014.**

14.0 Contact Details of the Coordinating Team

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