

AFRICAN UNION

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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

MEDIA ADVISORY

High Level retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa

INVITATION TO THE MEDIA

When: 4- 5 September 2011

Where: Cairo, Egypt at Fairmont Nile City Hotel, “Magenta” Conference Hall

Who: Organized by the Commission of the African Union (AU) in collaboration with Egypt, and with support of the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, the Cairo Regional Center for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA), and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD).

Why: The event will primarily provide an opportunity to respond to governance-related challenges to the peace and security landscape in Africa. The main objectives of the Retreat are:

- To review commonly applied parameters of governance.
- To examine the implications and consequences of poor governance to peace, security and stability.
- To identify opportunities for promoting and strengthening governance, peace and security.
- To identify and develop mechanisms and frameworks for addressing governance challenges.

- To formulate policy recommendations that will strengthen governance on the continent.
- To enhance regional and international responses to governance-related conflicts.

Participants: The Retreat will bring together approximately 150 participants including senior officials and special envoys/representatives of the AU (including the Peace and Security Council); representatives from the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms (RMs) for conflict prevention, management and resolution; representatives from the United Nations (UN) including representatives of the permanent members of the UN Security Council; representatives from the European Union (EU), the League of Arab States, the International Organization of La Francophonie, the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation as well as research institutes and think tanks; and experienced private mediators.

Background: The 2010 AU High Level Retreat was held during the Year of Peace and Security and in support of the International Peace Day. The meeting was the first ever gathering of such a wide range of actors involved in peacemaking and mediation in Africa. Participants critically assessed peacemaking efforts in Africa and identified gaps in capacity as well as concrete steps which could be taken to strengthen ongoing peace processes. In addition, participants engaged with experts to discuss common thematic challenges such as unconstitutional changes of government; election-related violence; justice and reconciliation; disarmament and security; and natural resources. The 2010 Retreat resulted in a Call for Peace which was endorsed by all participants.

The 2011 AU High Level Retreat will build on the momentum created in 2010 and aims at capitalizing on the successful co-operation between the AU and partners involved in carrying out the 2010 Retreat.

Journalists are invited to cover the opening and the closing ceremonies of the Retreat from 4- 5 September 2011 in, Cairo, Egypt, Fairmont Nile City Hotel, “Magenta” Conference Hall.

For more information visit the AU website: www.au.int

Programme attached

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 4 September 2011

08:30 – 10:30 OPENING SESSION (with the Press/Media)

Keynote address by H.E. Dr Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

10:30 – 11:00 Group Picture and Coffee break

11:00 – 13:00 POLITICAL GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA: TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

This session will provide an overview of the consequences of poor governance for peace, security and stability on the continent by looking at recent achievements and setbacks in promoting good governance. It will also consider different governance monitoring approaches with a view to assessing their contribution to improving governance.

Chair: Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, AU Commissioner, Peace and Security

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:00 THE ROLE OF GOVERNANCE IN PREVENTING CONFLICTS (Part 1)

Plenary session: **Jumpstarting governance: How new technologies and social media can revolutionise the relationship between citizens and state**

This session will consider how new technologies and social media have connected societies and mobilised them to identify and overcome governance challenges. It will also look at how governments, despite limited resources, can use and adapt new technologies for significantly improving governance and service delivery to their citizens.

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 THE ROLE OF GOVERNANCE IN PREVENTING CONFLICTS (Part 2)

Three sessions running in parallel will continue the discussion of the role of good governance in preventing conflicts. Participants can choose which session to attend.

Parallel session I: **Leadership and accountability**

This session will look at the potential of leadership to transform societies and support peace as well as the consequences of failures in governance. It will address how leaders can be held accountable for their actions and inaction as well as the role of stakeholders, such as those in civil society, in ensuring accountability.

Parallel session II: Sharing responsibility for governance - Public opinion and the role of civil society

This session will critically assess the contribution of the African media and civil society to supporting responsible governance. Participants will examine the role of civil society in ensuring credible elections in Ghana in 2008.

Parallel session III: How can the private sector support good governance?

This session will examine how a vibrant private sector can contribute to good governance. Participants will elaborate on the strategies and policies currently available to governments to empower, and partner with, the private sector.

18:00 – 18:30 Plenary Session: Report back from Day One

19.30 Nile Cruise, with an informal dinner

Monday, 5 September 2011

08:30 – 10:30 High Level Panel: **The uprisings in North Africa: A new dawn for governance?**

This session is an opportunity to consider ways in which the international community can support the transformation from autocratic to more open societies. Focusing on Egypt, the session will consider how remaining challenges can be addressed and how the international community can adapt political, economic and development policies following this period of profound socio-political change.

10:30- 11:00 Coffee break

11:00- 12:30 RESTORING PEACE WHEN GOVERNANCE BREAKS DOWN

Four sessions running in parallel will consider options for restoring peace when governance breaks down. Participants can choose which session to attend.

Parallel session I: Responding to election-related conflicts

This session will examine the phenomenon of election-related and political violence. It will aim to identify options to deal with, and resolve, these conflicts as well as to help re-establish the credibility of the democratic process after it has been abused.

Parallel session II: Responding to constitutional crises

This session will examine cases of constitutional impasse and coup d'états in order to identify structural similarities between them and options to address them. Participants will look at the factors that usually lead to political breakdown and may lead to violence. The session will consider how working institutions and processes can be strengthened to protect African states from future unconstitutional changes of government.

Parallel session III: Responding to dysfunctional security sector

Dysfunctional security structures often lie at the heart of (re-emerging) violence. This session will look at how the security sector can be transformed so that it is subject to democratic control and actively promotes human security and the rule of law.

Parallel session IV: Responding to mismanagement of natural resources

Competing claims as well as inequitable access to, and mismanagement of, land and natural resources are sources of conflict in many African states. This session will seek to identify possible responses to situations where the management of natural resources triggers, escalates or sustains violent conflict. It will examine the many ways in which resources affect conflict dynamics and how the management of resources can be included in peace talks.

12:30 – 13:00 Plenary Session: Report back from Day Two

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 INSPIRE CHANGE: STRENGTHENING POLITICAL GOVERNANCE

Four distinguished personalities will reflect on past experiences and governance challenges as well as outlining the prospects for good governance on the continent.

16:00 – 17:00 CONCLUDING REMARKS (with the Press/Media)

Chair: Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, AU Commissioner, Peace and Security

18:00 Informal dinner in Khan el-Khalili