

**Press Release/2012****Peace and Security Council (PSC) and Department of Political Affairs Policy Consultation on Ensuring Greater Synergies Between the African Governance Architecture and the Peace And Security Architecture Kicks off Today**

Banjul, The Gambia, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012 – The Policy Consultation will officially kick off today at the Kairaba Beach Hotel in Banjul, The Gambia.

The Declaration of the 16<sup>th</sup> AU Summit on the theme “Towards Greater Unity and Integration through Shared Values” encouraged the AUC 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 (PSC). Furthermore, the Decision of the 18th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (EX.CL/Dec.635 (XVIII)) urged the African union commission (AUC) to ensure greater synergy and coherence between the African Governance Architecture and the Peace and Security Architecture.

This Policy Consultation seeks to explore ways and means on how the African Governance Architecture can support the PSC in achieving its objective ‘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 PSC’s efforts aimed at preventing conflicts’.

In-depth presentations on the mandate, strategies and established activities of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) as well as perspectives to overcome the challenges in the areas of peace and security from one hand and governance and democracy from the other hand.

The Policy Consultation is the first such meeting between the PSC and the DPA. All areas of work of the Department will be covered. However, given that there have been limited discussions on the areas encompassed in the Shared Values Pillar; it will remain a central focus for engagement.

The broad areas covered within the DPA mandate are summarized as follows: Governance and Democracy; Anti Corruption and Public Service; Human and Peoples’ Rights; Transitional Justice; Elections and Humanitarian Affairs.

To achieve open and engaged discussions, each session will be chaired by a Moderator. This the Policy Consultation aims at reflecting how the African Governance Architecture (AGA) can support the PSC in its ‘follow-up, within the framework of its conflict prevention responsibilities, the progress towards the promotion of democratic practices, good governance, the rule of law, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the sanctity of human life and international humanitarian law by Member States’.

This Policy Consultation further seeks to explore how the DPA can support the PSC to facilitate humanitarian action in situations of armed conflicts or major natural disasters. The interaction will also place Members of the PSC in a better position to provide guidance on how to overcome the challenges faced by the DPA.

The Programme of the Policy Consultation will also include a briefing on the work of the African Governance Platform and its clusters, which was established by the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.635 (XVIII) and endorsed by the Assembly of the Union (Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XVI)). The Platform is to facilitate information flows, exchanges, dialogue, synergies and joint action between the various African governance actors. The outcomes of these interactions will be translated in concrete actions and proposals to be submitted to the relevant policy organs for consideration and decision-making, according to established rules and regulations. The Platform is not a decision making organ and does not duplicate the mandate or work of existing organs/institutions and initiatives.

For more information, please contact the website of the African Union ([www.au.int](http://www.au.int)).

Attached the Programme of the Policy Consultation.

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