

**10TH HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE IN
AFRICA: TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS**

THEME:

***RENEWING AFRICAN RENAISSANCE AS A LEVER FOR BUILDING A DEMOCRATIC,
PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS AFRICA***

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

DRAFT REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In the realization of the significant importance of Arts, Culture, and Heritage in establishing the bedrock for a renewed Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance, the **33rd** African Union Heads of State and Government assembly declared the theme of 2021 as ***“Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want”***.
2. Through different activities and initiatives within the context of the theme of the year, the AU aimed to rally various segments of the African society as well as citizens including youth, women, and media to reinvigorate the importance of African shared values, culture, and heritage to find indigenous solutions for an improved state of democratic governance and peace characterized by agility, strength, resilience, equality, equity, inclusion, and social cohesion.
3. In light of this, the African Union organs and institutions that form the African Governance Architecture (AGA) Secretariat on behalf of the Platform (AGP) convened the 10th High-Level Dialogue (HLD) on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance focusing on the theme: ***‘Renewing African Renaissance as a Lever for Building a Democratic, Peaceful and Prosperous Africa’*** held virtually from **9 to 10 December 2021**.
4. Discussions were aimed at reinvigorating Africa’s Renaissance by giving prominence to history and experiences of extraordinary achievements, drawing lessons, crafting solutions, building on successes, and paving a pathway for the future. Key topics addressed during the Dialogue included examining a decade of democratic governance in Africa; AU shared values instruments on democracy and governance; positioning culture to usher in a renewed African renaissance and the next 10 years of megatrends for the African Renaissance.

II. ATTENDANCE

5. Participants to the 10th HLD AU Members States; AU organs and institutions; Regional Economic Communities; Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including Youth networks and Women’s organizations; Development Partners and Agencies; Artists, Culture and Heritage Organizations, Private Sector; UN agencies; Media; and Academic, think tanks and Research Institutions.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

6. The opening ceremony was facilitated by Amb. Salah Hammad, Ag. Head, AGA-APSA, GCPD, PAPS, AUC. The opening remarks were made by the following dignitaries:
 - **H.E. Remy Ngoy Lumbu**, Chairperson, ACHPR, and Chair of the AGA Platform;

- **H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye**, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, AUC;
 - **H.E. Amb. Taonga Mushayavanhu**, Ambassador to FDRE and the AU, Chair of PRC Subcommittee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance.
7. **Amb. Salah Hammad** welcomed all participants to the 10th HLD on behalf of the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security of the African Union Commission. He noted that this HLD was the 10th anniversary of the event which has been a platform for an engagement between the leadership of the African Union as the continental organization and the African citizens on how we collectively can build the Africa We Want. He announced that the African governance platform is chaired by the ACHPR based in Banjul.
 8. **H.E. Remy Ngoy Lumbu, Chairperson, ACHPR and Chair of the AGA Platform**, in his opening remark, expressed his pleasure in taking part in the HLD in his capacity as Chairperson of the AGA for the next two years. He indicated that the African Union Commission (AUC) recognized good governance as a means to strengthen democracy. As such, Electoral Commissions must play a key role in democratic transparency, and governments must empower citizens and encourage them to participate in electoral processes. Electoral Commissions, he observed, need the trust of citizens to function properly, however, many Electoral Commissions are facing challenges linked to limited infrastructure and the power to take independent and bold decisions. African countries, therefore, need free and fair elections, good governance, and rule of law, without which there can be no development.
 9. H.E. Ngoy Lumbu pointed out that there is a link between access to information and good governance, and citizens deserve to have information about elections to promote a culture of participation and transparency. Hence, it is the duty of governments to improve the lives of citizens by ensuring the right to information and a free press which will have a huge ripple effect on dealing with corruption and other scandals that hinder the achievement of good governance. H.E. Ngoy Lumbu further emphasized that an ideal democratic society can only be forged when citizens enjoy socio-economic rights and political rights. For this reason, the ACHPR urges Member States (MS) to acknowledge the rights, duties, and freedoms that are enshrined in the Charter and adopt legislative measures to give full effect to these rights. Governments must also create an environment that promotes citizens' contribution to the development of society. This, he added, can only be possible when citizens' access to information is guaranteed and the freedom of association protected. The African Charter, he stated, also states that individuals have the duty to preserve and strengthen positive cultural values.
 10. In conclusion, H.E. Ngoy Lumbu mentioned that the ACHPR has several soft laws that protect a number of rights and invited participants to consult these instruments. He

expressed the ACHPR's readiness to provide suggestions and advice to states to ensure that human rights, democracy, and development are upheld on the Continent.

11. **H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, AUC** began by welcoming all participants and expressed his gratitude to the AGA Platform for hosting the 10th edition of HLD. He noted that as we renew our commitment to building an Africa that is democratic and prosperous, it is important that we continue to focus on the shared values that bring us together towards effective governance, economic and political integration, and, most importantly, peace, security, and stability.

12. H.E. Bankole shared the following key trends, challenges, and prospects related to the theme of the HLD:

- The continent has witnessed an increase and prevalence of conflicts, violent extremism, terrorism, and radicalism. As a result, the gains recorded with regards to democracy in Africa are being swept away, with three AU Member States suspended by the AU for unconstitutionally changing their governments. Despite this situation, it is promising that in 2021, almost 15 African MS have conducted democratic elections during which in three countries, opposition leaders emerged victorious.
- The trend of political transition is very high on the continent. However, there is a window of opportunity for countries that witness changes that are not in line with AU's shared political values to ensure a smooth transition back to democracy and political governance that is effective.
- On the political landscape of the continent, we need continued adherence to the promotion, protection, and safeguard of human rights and fundamental freedoms even in the context of the pandemic despite the numerous challenges with the respect, protection, and promotion of basic human rights on the Continent.

13. H.E. Bankole added that it is of paramount importance to acknowledge the institutional level commitment, as the AUC is promoting stronger synergies between the AGA and the peace and security components. He expressed the hope that AGA becomes an integrated platform that continues to champion inclusive dialogue. In conclusion, H.E. Bankole called for constitutionalism to remain in all engagements of AU MS, to reduce conflict and create prosperity. On this note, he declared the HLD officially opened on behalf of the Chairperson of AUC H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat.

IV. SESSION DELIBERATIONS, OUTCOME AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

SESSION 1: 10TH ANNIVERSARY HIGH-LEVEL PANEL LOOKING BACK AT A DECADE OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

14. This session assessed the state of democratic governance and peace in Africa for the past decade. Speakers reflected on the past decade of successes and challenges to draw a parallel with current dynamics. The session was moderated by Ms. Gogontlejang Phaladi, Founder and Executive Director, Hope Project, Botswana.

The following were panelists for the session:

- **Prof. Eddy Maloka**, CEO, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM);
- **Dr. Roba Sharamo**, Director, IDEA International;
- **Ms. Idayat Hassan**, Director, Center for Democracy and Development – CDD West Africa.

15. In his introductory remark, Prof. Eddy Maloka commented on the status of democratic governance in Africa. According to him, there are two perspectives when it comes to looking back at a decade of democratic governance in Africa. The first, he said, is the regression characterized by unconstitutional change of government, a Constitutional Amendment to prolong the tenure of a President, and electoral disputes before, during, and after elections in many countries. The second perspective is that what appears as regression is a challenge that Africa is confronted with in consolidating democratic processes since the 1990s. These factors, he stated, demonstrate that consolidating democracy is not an easy endeavor.
16. According to Prof Maloka, it is crucial to recognize the role that active citizens of African countries have played to bring about the new democratic order on the continent through protests and other grassroots activities that have put enormous pressure on some political leaders to abide by the will of the people.
17. Speaking on challenges linked to democratic governance, he highlighted that a major challenge with many African governments is over-dependence, including fiscal dependence on foreign aid. Many governments on the continent cannot fund the core elements of the state from education to healthcare. In this case, it becomes difficult for the state to respond to the basic needs of citizens, and partnerships also constitute a challenge. Governments fail to realize that transitions become easier when both sides of the divide recognize that they need each other to find sustainable solutions to conflicts.
18. Prof. Maloka further alluded to serious gaps in government institutions as well as legal regimes as another challenge in many African countries. He deplored the fact that some countries lack properly constituted human rights bodies including audit agencies to consolidate smooth democratic governance. At the regional level, he mentioned the lack of measures to enforce commitments by MS as a key challenge. As a result, there is a

mismatch with regards to what is contained in the AU's Constitutive Act and the situation on the ground when it comes to democracy and good governance in most MS.

19. **Ms. Idayat Hassan** opined that the last 10 years have witnessed a lot of successes when it comes to democracy and good governance in Africa. Particularly, citizens have deployed technology tools such as social media to bring down authoritarian regimes in Sudan, Egypt, Burkina Faso, and many countries in Africa. She indicated that civic groups continue to emerge and these groups are not led by just youth but also women and persons with disabilities.
20. With regards to some of the key challenges confronting human rights, democracy, and good governance in Africa, Ms. Idayat highlighted the following:
 - Political systems on the continent have been poorly designed in a way that does not support multi-party democracy. In many African countries, the democratic system is 'Winner takes all' which engenders zero-sum politics, inhibits good governance, and makes it difficult for everyone to participate in the democratic system.
 - Political parties are ethnic in nature and orientation instead of representing a political ideology. This ethnic orientation has exacerbated tensions and excluded not just young people but also women and vulnerable people including minor ethnic groups, particularly in countries that lack national identity. As a result, democracy is not delivering the dividend to the people in the form of public goods and services, particularly in terms of security on the continent from the Horn of Africa to the Sahel to different parts of the continent.
21. She further indicated that all of these contribute to the growing frustration of the people with democracy, which explains the repetitive Coup d'Etat among many countries causing insecurity and tensions that frustrate citizens.
22. **Dr. Roba Sharamo**, invited by the facilitator to share his perspective on the decade of democratic governance in Africa, began by acknowledging that the continent has recorded some changes when it comes to democracy, as more Africans yearn for it. Political parties, he observed, have been key players in setting the foundation for democracy, with greater recognition of the change of government through elections, and fifteen elections have taken place in 2021 despite the Covid-19 pandemic.
23. Touching on the role of women, he noted that there are few women who have emerged in taking the mantle of leadership, however, the numbers are not enough. According to a study conducted by International IDEA, only 24% of parliamentarians in Africa are women.
24. Again, Dr. Roba indicated the unconstitutional change of government and the creative way of extending the tenure of presidential term limits occurred in 13 African countries over the last 5 years. The Continent has also witnessed the proliferation of military coups and

military-led transitions which is affecting the progress Africa has chalked when it comes to promoting good democratic governance and human rights in Africa.

25. Dr. Roba further stated that there is recognition and acceptance of the importance of the role of the African Union as a continental body. However, it is important to examine the synergies between what happens at the level of the AU and the Regional Economic Communities. Usually, there are gaps. For instance, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance is almost fully ratified but no actions are put in place to enforce it. Dr. Roba, therefore, recommended that the AU adopts tough sanctions regimes that may help in bridging some of the gaps, adding that there's a need to enhance the implementation capacity of the policy frameworks and instruments AU & RECs have adopted and encouraged MS to support amplifying AU instruments at the national level.
26. In response to how Africa can reduce its economic dependence on the West, Dr. Roba mentioned that the Africa Continental Free Trade Area is a great pillar for integration that can open Africa for prosperity. This means opening up African borders for trade, movement, and opening up African skies so that we're able to easily travel within the continent. He also reiterated the need to deal with corruption and block illicit financial flow including the outward flow of funds. To address these challenges, he recommended strengthening our macro-economic policies, dealing with corruption, and increasing accountability. This will ensure that we actually stimulate economic growth.
27. During the discussions, the speakers were unanimous on the fact that unemployment and violent conflicts emanate from poverty, as many African countries are unable to provide meaningful employment. They also noted that despite the available normative instruments it's the African people who continue to fight for democratic governance and the people still remain a huge asset for the future of democracy in Africa. In view of these factors, there was consensus on the need to examine and take stock of a decade of implementation of the AU's progress towards Agenda 2063.

INTERLUDE – Chief Moomen – A Ghanaian Poet

SESSION 2: AU SHARED VALUES INSTRUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

28. The session explored the existing normative and legal frameworks of the AU specifically focusing on the AU Shared Values instruments on Human Rights, Democracy, and Governance. The session also addressed the question of whether the AU shared value instruments have indeed achieved their purpose. The session was moderated by Mr. Kagwe Mutahi, IGAD liaison to the AU and Vice-Chair of the AGA Platform with the following as speakers:
 - **Dr. David Omozuafah**, Regional Governance, and Rule of Law Advisory, UNDP
 - **Mme. Lindiwe Khumalo**, Ag. Executive Secretary, ACHPR

- **Dr. Khabele Matlosa**, Former Director for Political Affairs of AUC and an ACDEG Specialist

29. **Dr. David Omozuafah** defined AU shared values as norms, practices, and principles that have been developed or acquired which provide the basis for collective actions and solutions in addressing the political, economic, and social challenges that impede Africa's integration and development. He added that the AU has been progressive by adopting normative frameworks that promote these shared values. These include:

- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- The African Charter on the Rights and the welfare of the Child
- The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption
- The Protocol to the Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- The African Peer Review Mechanism
- The African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance

30. Dr. David Omozuafah offered the following recommendations to strengthen democracy and governance in Africa:

- MS should commit to the ideals of the AU shared values by bringing national laws, policies, and legal frameworks to conform to AU's instruments on democracy and governance.
- MS should put in efforts to disseminate the shared values instruments to ensure ownership while strengthening democratic institutions to implement the shared values.
- Following the adoption of the APRM (Africa Peer Review Mechanism), MS should commit fully to the ideals of the APRM, be available for the review and commit to the implementation of national plans of action.
- MS must strengthen the AGA platform to enhance information sharing, coordinate, monitor, and evaluate compliance with governance and democracy codes and standards that have been adopted by MS.

31. Dr. David Omozuafah touched on the APRM as a platform that brings together government and non-state actors to examine their own nation. MS should adhere to the APRM, and it should become compulsory. He also called for awareness creation by including elements contained in the African Charter into school curricula, so that citizens can know the ideals that are cherished and promote the call for accountability.

32. In conclusion, Dr. Omozuafah remarked that shared values are very important and a formidable tool for the African Union Heads of State and Government to pursue a collective agenda for accelerating continental integration and building a solid foundation by promoting the vision of Agenda 2063. The shared values set standards for measuring performance as it provides an opportunity for cooperative analysis of achievements and compliance.

33. **Mme. Lindiwe Khumalo, Ag. Executive Secretary, ACHPR** lauded the HLD as a platform that galvanizes the efforts of stakeholders and actors and ensures that initiatives are focused on specific objectives. She centered her presentation on the instruments of the ACHPR and the gains that have been made.
34. She began by reminding participants that the ACHPR has been ratified by 54 MS. She further stated that there is no argument about the importance of human rights to the people of Africa and the pledge under the African Charter deepens collaboration among MS. She noted that the African Charter was developed shortly after a critical number of countries had attained independence. Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity came together and agreed that after having succeeded as a Continent to drive out colonialism in all its manifestations, oppression, and abuse of the African people, the next step was to establish a Magna Carta for Africa.
35. Mme. Lindiwe Khumalo stated that the ACHPR rights must fulfill two key roles. The first is its capacity to oversee the process of the progressive realization of the shared values, and through its promotion, protection, and advisory mandates, assist MS to move toward the ideal set out in the Charter. The second role of the Commission is to interpret the content of the Charter to produce meaning.
36. In terms of the opportunities available to advance human rights and democracy on the continent, she called for an increase in advocacy and reaching out to the 55th MS to join and ratify the charter, and the need to establish an annual index on the state of human rights in Africa.
37. **Dr. Khabele Matlosa, Former Director for Political Affairs of AUC and an ACDEG Specialist** commenced by stating that when African countries achieved independence about 55 years ago, expectations were high. There was a wave of democratization which made Africa's democratic prospects very promising. However, in 2005, Africa started to experience retrogression in democratic governance and that was when the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance was born.
38. Dr. Matlosa further stated that the major challenge to Africa's democratic governance is unconstitutional changes of government and it mostly takes two main forms: manipulation of constitutions to prolong the tenure of incumbents and military coup. Dr. Matlosa emphasized the need for reimagining, re-engineering, and recalibrating democratic governance in Africa. He offered the following specific recommendations in that regard:
- Strengthening institutions and building an engaged citizenry that will hold the state to account.
 - Forging transformative leadership at all levels: national, regional, and continental.
 - In terms of normative frameworks, we need to move away from making the APRM a voluntary mechanism to a mandatory and compulsory normative framework.

- Ensuring that the African Union is sufficiently empowered such that its normative frameworks are implemented and become compulsory.
39. Dr. Khabele Matlosa stated that there's a need to open the civic space wide enough to even allow for popular protests. He recalled that the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted in 2013 recognized popular uprisings. This, he added, means that the AU acknowledges popular uprisings as a legitimate form of peaceful protest. He also stressed that the continent will not make much progress unless political parties are democratized internally, as some of these parties engage in destructive actions during election periods.
40. In conclusion, Dr. Matlosa called for an interrogation of the type of democracy Africa is implementing, adding that it's time to deliberately move away from the current Eurocentric model of electoral democracy to a developmental democracy.

AFRICA TALKS: INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATION

41. **Africa Talks focused on the role of creative art to strengthen the African Renaissance with Ms. Tsitsi Dangarembga**, award-winning Author, Film Maker, and Cultural Activist. This session was moderated by **Dr. Rama Salla Dieng**, a feminist, author, and Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh.
42. Ms. Tsitsi spoke about her love for storytelling and writing and shared her reflections about the African Renaissance. She was of the view that African Renaissance does not mean simply having power, it has to mean having the power to do something, and it's important to determine whether we use this power in a good way, or in a self-defeating way. African renaissance, she explained, entails understanding our commonalities and our common heritage as much as we have differences. Differences are historical because the further back we go, the further we go towards a single point of origin. But our strength also lies in the similarities that we can use to leverage the positives in our differences, if we only see differences, we cannot leverage the positives.
43. Speaking on myths about the incompatibility of African cultures with social, economic development, and good governance, she noted that history has moved in such a way that it has made Africa part of a global economy and a global society. As such, when we talk about leveraging our heritage, we need to do it in a way that acts as capital for our membership in this global society, economy, and community. However, if we do it in ways that are isolating and which make our participation in this global community more different and more difficult, the continent will not benefit.
44. With regards to investment in the creative arts industry, Ms. Tsitsi mentioned the need for a safe space to push boundaries. The creative industry is a perfect laboratory for ideas that can move society along so really the creative industry is the laboratory for creating a better Africa and deserves much attention.

DAY 2: December 10, 2021

V. AFRICA TALKS: LAUNCHING OF THE AFRICAN UNION MANUAL ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL PROCESSES IN AFRICA

Handover Ceremony

45. **Ms. Makda Tessema, Democracy and Governance Expert, African Governance Architecture** welcomed participants to the handing over ceremony of the AU Manual on Youth Participation in Political and Electoral Processes in Africa. She introduced the Africa talks session, which is meant to spotlight exceptional individuals and initiatives that have brought a significant contribution to the continent. She expressed the hope that users will find the manual useful, adding that AGA was ready to engage with users of the manual. She invited Amb. Salah Hammad to make an initial statement.
46. **Statement by Amb. Salah Hammad, Ag. Head, AGA-APSA, GCPD, PAPS, AUC** commenced by stating that in recognition of the crucial role that youth play in democracy and governance, the African Union's legal and normative frameworks are clear on the need for the inclusion of young people in governance and other processes. Apart from the African Youth Charter adopted in 2016, youth participation in electoral processes is also enshrined in the African Charter on Democracy, Election and Governance, known as ACDEC, which encourages MS to promote the participation of the Youth in governance affairs.
47. As a background to the development of the AU Manual on Youth Participation in Political and Electoral Processes in Africa, he recalled that in 2017, the AGA Secretariat organized on behalf of the African Governance Platform, the Annual Youth Consultation. The Consultation was part of the HLD on Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights under the theme "enhancing youth participation in electoral processes in Africa." As an outcome of this engagement, the youth called for the establishment of a capacity-building program for meaningful youth engagement in electoral processes in Africa. It is upon this strong-willed recommendation that the idea of creating a continental training of trainers program was born.
48. In October 2020 the AGA through its Youth Engagement Strategy, known as YES, and in collaboration with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and with the support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the African governance platform commissioned a user-friendly training for trainers' manual for youth participation in the political and electoral process in Africa.
49. Amb. Salah Hammad informed participants that the manual was developed through youth-focused and participatory processes. Data collection, research studies, and online reviews, and interviews were conducted with young people and youth organizations from

across the continent who are leading experts on the subject matter. He revealed that the manual is a three-in-one document that includes a comprehensive continental Manual on Youth participation in Electoral and Political Processes, accompanied by a Facilitators' Manual and a Participants' manual. He added that based on this manual, the AGA-APSA Secretariat is planning to launch a continental training program and also work with the Regional Economic Communities to launch regional training programs and support national-based training of trainers in several countries starting in 2022.

50. Amb. Salah invited Ms. Nerima Wako Ojiwa, CEO of Siasa Place, Deputy Chairperson of Youth Coordination Committee, IEBC Kenya to officially hand over the manual on behalf of the AUC, and on behalf of all Members of the African Governance Platform.

51. **Ms. Nerima Wako Ojiwa** expressed her pride with regard to the progress that is being made to include young people meaningfully. She revealed that she was part of the review process of the manual, and she was also among the youth invited to the first AGA Secretariat meetings in 2017 during the Annual Regional Youth Consultations as part of the HLD on Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights. She thanked all the individuals and parties that worked tirelessly to bring this document into existence and called on fellow youth to internalize this document and bring it to reality to realize the Africa We Want.

SESSION 3: POSITIONING CULTURE TO USHER A RENEWED AFRICAN RENAISSANCE

52. This thematic area assessed the contribution of culture, heritage, and Pan-Africanism in reinvigorating Africa's renewal. Experts, advocates, and industry players discussed the role of the creative industry in promoting a democratic and peaceful Africa. It was moderated by Ms. Sindy Zemura Bernard, Founder, and CEO of SAE Foundation, Gender equality advocate. The panelists were the following:

- **Ms. Coumba Toure**, Movement Coordinator, Africans Rising;
- **Mr. Brian Kagoro**, Speaker and Pan Africanist;
- **Ms. Karimi Wandiri**, Director, Kenyan Conservatoire of Music, Musician, Lawyer, and Intellectual property advocate.

53. **Speaking on developments in the creative arts industry, Mr. Kagoro** mentioned that the Continent is witnessing young artists beginning to sing conscious music, not simply to portray Africa as a fetish or esoteric place to entertain the white world. African artists are starting to question dominant narratives, including definitions of beauty, success, quality, and of capacity.

54. He, however, warned that through the commodification of culture, and the commercialization of arts, culture, and heritage, we destroy not only the historical-cultural heritage but also the future, because culture is dynamic. Culture must be portrayed in a meaningful way. However, this is not possible when governments continue to behave as though there's no need for a cultural industry and no need to regulate the ripping off of

artists. He noted that preserving our culture is the responsibility of the youth, governments, and the African Union. Mr. Brian Kagoro made the assertion that beyond having a year of art, culture, and heritage, there is the need to deliberately position art and culture in everyday investment decisions. He stressed that if children continue to imagine and reflect in western, cultural, artistic, and heritage terms, then we risk a whole future that embraces white supremacy not out of military domination, but conscious mimicry and acculturation.

55. Mr. Kagoro explained that if arts, culture, and heritage is about our ways of life, beliefs, institutions, ideas, imaginations, expressions, and economies, then these cannot be left to chance. These spheres are created consciously and deliberately. Culture is a key factor of resistance to foreign domination and African emasculation by comprador elites.

56. **Responding to the moderator's question on what has been done in terms of the democratic structures and policies that are affected by our culture that might need to be revised to ensure that we truly attain African Renaissance, Ms. Coumba Toure** stated that Africa currently deals with art and art production the same way we deal with gold, copper and other precious natural resources. We are still at a point where we just export our art and we don't always take the time to refine it. In addition, we do not have the rights to our arts, which is an unfortunate situation. The AU and government need to lead and invest to capture the imagination of our children to be able to deal with the culture war that has been going on with the rest of the world.

57. **Ms. Karimi Wandiri**, on her part, opined that when dealing with issues of arts and culture, we need to make efforts to change people's minds and be deliberate as Africans in how we build the new generation. She emphasized that capacity building is required for creative artists within the continent. She also noted the need to break down regional barriers and ensure that governments are budgeting enough for the arts sector. The AU, she stated, should leverage art and culture to solve our current threats; Political instability, foster dialogue, and extend economic opportunities.

INTERLUDE – A musical performance by Ms. Doris A. Mbuoben,

SESSION 4: THE NEXT 10 YEARS OF MEGATRENDS FOR THE AFRICA WE WANT

58. This session provided space for discussants to prognosticate the salient issues for the next decade of conversation and action. Speakers discussed megatrends like trade, technology, climate change/green deal, and inclusion into the forefront for knowledge and early action. The session was moderated by Dr. Fonteh Akum, Executive Director, Institute of Security Studies. The Speakers were the following:

- **Dr. Joy Kategekwa**, Regional Strategy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary-General and Director, UNDP Africa;
- **Ms. Nanjira Sambuli**, Fellow, Technology, and International Affairs Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace;

- **Mr. Saliem Fakir**, Executive Director, African Climate Foundation.

59. **Dr. Joy Kategekwa** shed light on the big megatrends that Africa can be looking forward to over the next decade. She explained that the next 10 years are going to coincide with the target reduction process of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and we're aiming for 97% of tariff lines. With this will come the promise of structural economic transformation, value addition, and extension. This will come with a doubling of intra-African trade. Second, there will be a democratization of space in the African market. Countries will be exchanging between and amongst each other, with the growth of value chains in many sectors.

60. **Mr. Saliem Fakir**, on his part, touched on the state of the climate in Africa 10 years from now. According to him, climate should not just be perceived as an environmental issue but linked to Africa's economic security, which is fundamental. To achieve this, he advised that it's necessary to change the nature of climate diplomacy to be not only limited to the discussions in Paris but really draw inter-linkages with trade, our geopolitical partners and diplomacy has to be a broader economic development engagement. He recommended to the African Union, RECs, and governments on the continent to take a whole economy approach.

61. With regards to climate's future, he explained that actions are at two levels. The first is to reduce the risk of climate vulnerability in key export sectors like agriculture, for example, the livestock industry. Second, exploring the opportunity to increase and diversify the energy mix to bring in new kinds of clean energy technologies that are aligned with our natural resource which is solar, wind hydro geothermal with our mineral space. If we can work at a regional level, with very clear diplomacy that links to our trade policy in a more integrated way, we will be able to champion a very different kind of climate and development diplomacy

62. The continent, he observed, ought to change the debate of climate as simply just a risk and a story of aid into a story about opportunity and investment in new technology infrastructure that enables us to diversify the economic opportunity, with the first port of call is accelerating the expansion of our electrification. There's also a need to ensure that intellectual property is accessible around critical technologies.

63. **Ms. Nanjira Sambuli, Fellow, Technology and International Affairs Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**, responded to the moderator's question about Africa's place in the race to a technological future and key trends for the next 10 years. She stated with regards to the extractive industry, even as we're moving from fossil fuels and extraction of natural resources in that way, the race we're seeing now is for rare earth minerals that our continent is still very blessed with. Congo, for example, is a major supplier of some of the rare earth minerals that create the semiconductors in our phones and in the gadgets created for artificial intelligence. We, therefore, need to renegotiate our place in technology because Africa has a place in the technology value chain.

64. Ms. Nanjira Sambuli further spoke about how Africa can leverage opportunities that exist in digitalization to ensure access to technological platforms. She recalled that in 2014 the African Union ratified the Malabo Convention, which was supposed to be a continental-wide cyber security and data protection Convention. Ideally, every country was then to ratify it in the national contexts to bring about universality about online security of data. The failure to ratify this Convention, she noted, has led to a fragmentation at the political level.

PRESENTATION OF THE OUTCOME STATEMENT OF THE 10th HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

- **Lead Rapporteur – Ms. Ady Namaran Coulibaly**

ILLUSTRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE DELIBERATIONS

- **Digital Graphic Recording Artist – Ms. Lulu Kitotolo**

CLOSING SESSION

65. The closing session was moderated by Amb. Salah Hammad, Ag. Head, AGA-APSA, GCPD, PAPS, AUC. He expressed gratitude to all those who participated in the High-Level Dialogue and invited H.E. Remy Ngoy Lumbu, Chairperson, ACHPR, and Chair of the AGA Platform for his closing remark.
66. **H.E. Remy Ngoy Lumbu** expressed satisfaction about the HLD and the rich discussions that were held. He emphasized that human rights, governance, and democracy are the tools that governments must use to ensure the well-being of the populations. He noted satisfactorily that the HLD has shown the efficiency of democratic governance and the urgency to speed up the consolidation of democracy for the full enjoyment of human rights. Participants, he observed, were unanimous on the fact that the AU has made great strides in the field of African Renaissance by developing a rich body of progressive norms and jurisprudence on democratic governance, human rights, peace, and security.
67. He however remarked that the issue of political transitions in Africa remains volatile, marked by military coups and other ills. The dialogue, therefore, demonstrated the challenges with regard to the effective implementation of democracy in Africa, the urgent need for African leaders to highlight the need for free and fair elections, good governance, and the rule of law in order to practice democratic governance.
68. The ACHPR, he stressed, will commit to ensure that Member States respect the freedom of expression and access to information and other basic human rights in order to strengthen democracy within African States. In addition, the ACHPR will continuously encourage MS to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good

Governance in Africa, and to popularize the Charter as part of its jurisprudence and promotion mission.

69. **Mr. Mbari Calixte, Ag. Director, Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate, PAPS, AUC** delivered the official closing remark on behalf of H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, AUC.
70. Africa, he noted, continues to face challenges of democracy and governance. The resurgence of trends linked to the violation of human rights, rule of law, unconstitutional change of government and many other ills recorded over the years calls for a review of our strategies and greater commitment to the promotion of democratic culture, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.
71. He noted the need to renew our commitment to building the Africa We Want by implementing policies of the AU relating to human rights and democracy. To achieve this, greater investment in youth is required, as well as ensuring that youth uphold the values and principles of democracy, good governance, and rule of law through the shared values instruments of the AU.
72. He expressed satisfaction that during the HLD, the Manual on Youth Participation in Electoral Processes was launched to promote youth engagement. The manual, the facilitators' guide, and the participants' guide are key tools for governance, and will allow youth to be well informed and actively engaged in electoral processes. He called upon Member States, RECs and CSOs to utilize these manuals when engaging the youth.
73. In conclusion, he congratulated the AGA-APSA Secretariat and organizers of the HLD for the great coordination and hoped for continued partnership to reaffirm commitments to build the Africa We want.