

Excellency Honourable Dr, Mammadou Tangara
Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians
abroad of the Republic of the Gambia.

Excellency Julia Dolly Joiner, Commissioner of Political Affairs of the
African Union

Distinguished Colleagues

Excellencies

As we wrap our brainstorming session, I would like to reiterate my deepest appreciation for the people and the government of the Republic of the Gambia for their generous hospitality. Special thanks go to H.E Ambassador Jallow who has been a marvelous host to us as well as a gifted tour guide.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the department of political affairs headed by our able commissioner H.E Julia Dolly Joiner For the excellent organization of this important retreat.

Dear colleagues

I believe all of you share my conviction that our brainstorming session that lasted for the past two days captured a number of crucially important issues that feature high on the agenda of our council.

The conceptualization of the interlinkage between peace and security on one hand and endeavors to enhance democracy, good governance and the rule of law is pivotal for the council to adopt the efficient preventive diplomacy approach, that we all agree is the most effective method in addressing peace and security problems, in order to tackle the root causes of conflicts in our continent.

Our brainstorming session provided us with the chance to interact and exchange views not only amongst ourselves as representatives of our countries at the PSC but also with experts from the commission, representatives of RECs, UN agencies and the civil society.

This indeed has broaden our scope and deepen our understanding of the concept of "shared values" and their evolutionary character responding

to our peoples' aspirations and changing priorities in response to the directive of our heads of state and government's declaration in their summit held in January 2011 under the theme "Towards Greater Unity and Integration through Shared Values".

We were also privileged to be briefed by the department of political affairs about various instruments of the "African Governance Architecture" and we reflected on the different mechanisms to achieve synergy between its components and those of the African Peace and Security Structure as per the task entrusted upon us by our heads of state and government. Furthermore, we were briefed about the work of the department in the areas of humanitarian crises, human rights as well as transitional justice. All are critically important to enable us to accomplish that synergy we strive for.

Excellencies

Dear Colleagues,

The communique we adopted today defines the way forward for our council in internalizing the concept of "shared values" in its work as the continental mechanism charged with addressing different aspects of peace and security questions in our continent.

I am most confident that our discussion and the communique we adopted will enhance our council's capacity to discharge its mandate as

The principal continental mechanism trusts with addressing different aspects of peace and security issues in our continent.

I Thank you all and wish you a bonne voyage.