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Partners Engage in Dialogue with AU on Shared Values - Democracy and Governance



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 09 June 2011 – The African Union Commission (AUC) and Partners Group on Shared Values (Democracy and governance) engaged today, 09 June 2011, in a fruitful consultative dialogue, aiming at encouraging collective understanding of the strategies and parameters within which the African Union (AU) functions to achieve the positive development result.

The meeting at the headquarters of the AU was co-chaired by Mrs. Julia Dolly Joiner, Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union and Ambassador Norman Ling of the British Embassy.

Commissioner Joiner in her opening statement said: “As partners within the process of establishing and promoting shared values in Africa and indeed within the globe, we share a common perspective and desire to seek a better life for all the peoples of the Continent” when emphasizing on the importance of the partnership and its shared objectives.

She underlined that the call for “African solutions to African problems” reflects the need for greater African responsibility and autonomy in developing indigenous solutions and capacities. She also added: “...cognizant of the capacity constraints of the evolving African Governance Architecture however, the need for partnerships based on collective but differentiated responsibilities can not be overemphasized.” (The complete speech of the Commissioner is posted on the AU website: <http://www.au.int/>)

It was noted that in facilitating the development of African solutions to African problems, the activities of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) are directed at consolidating and strengthening the African Governance Architecture as the overall political and institutional framework for the promotion of governance in Africa.

One of the two presentations made this day is on Africa's evolving governance challenges and the role of the AUC in fostering African solutions to African problems. The presentation was done by Dr. Dia Mamadou, Head of Division -Democracy, Governance, Human Rights and Elections in the Political Affairs Department. He said, AU's intervention is targeted at addressing governance challenges namely institutional weakness, culture of democracy, structural challenges/socio-economic. He further explained that, the goal of the various projects of the DPA within the realm of democracy, governance is to promote and facilitate implementation of existing and agreed-upon shared values across the Continent at individual, national, regional and continental levels.



He added that the Department of Political Affairs seeks to accelerate Africa's integration through programme and policy

convergence and institutional homogeneity amongst Member States in the realm of Shared Values.

Mr. Olabisi Dare, Head of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons on his part, presented the issues of Humanitarian Crises. He underlined the importance policy to respond to humanitarian crisis. On challenges, he emphasized that the department lacked adequate resources such as human power and stressed on the need to link up with Peace and Security department and build synergy with PSOD and African Stand by force.

It is worth recalling that the meeting was the first consultative engagement with the Shared Values Cluster since the signing of the Joint Programme Agreement 2011-2012 between the African Union Commission and the Shared Values Programme Funding Partners on Support to the Implementation of the Pillar III Program of the Strategic Plan: Shared Values.

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