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BRAINSTORMING ON THE YEAR OF SHARED VALUES (2012)

Nazareth, 22 August 2011- From 22- 24 August, the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission, in close collaboration with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), is holding a brainstorming session on the year of Shared Values (2012). The workshop is taking place in Nazareth, Ethiopia.

The focus of the year of Shared Values is to strengthen the commitment of AU member states in areas of democracy and governance, accountability, transparency, rule of law, elections, human rights and free movement of persons in Africa, as some of the values shared, while enhancing the role of the African Union Commission in this regard.

In this respect, the objective of the retreat is to translate the Shared Values of the African Union into concrete actions that will facilitate the establishment of a common understanding and identity amongst Africans.

Dr. Mamadou Dia, Head of the Division of Governance, Human Rights and Elections (DGHRE) at the AUC underlined the importance of the collaboration of all partners to achieve expected results of the year of Shared Values.

“I have always maintained that a more inclusive approach and reflective engagement with experts and stakeholders would facilitate consensus on the future policy path of the AU in shared values and in particular on governance and democracy” said Dr. Dia. He also emphasised the Commission’s and his own commitment to sustain interaction and work with all partners.

During the workshop, participants deliberated on the following thematic areas:

1. Consolidating Shared Values of the African Union;
2. Implementing Shared Values of the African Union;
3. Monitoring and Evaluating Implementation of Shared Values of the African Union.

The thematic areas are in line with the Declaration of the Assembly of the Union, adopted at its Sixteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30-31 January 2011.