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**THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION CONCLUDED A YOUTH CONSULTATION
ON THE AFRICAN UNION TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE POLICY**



Nairobi, Kenya, 15 November 2016: The Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission (DPA/AUC) concluded a Youth Consultation on the Draft African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP). The Consultation was held in Nairobi, Kenya, with the support of the Centre for the Studies of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR).

H.E. Dr. Aisha L. Abdullahi, Commissioner for Political Affairs, represented by Amb. Salah S. Hammad, Sr. Human Rights Expert, addressed the Closing Ceremony of the Consultation and thanked CSVR for its efforts to support the African Union Commission to develop an African Union Transitional Justice Policy.

Amb. Hammad indicated that the African Union Executive Council in its 25th Ordinary Session, held from 20 to 24 June, 2014, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea decided to declare “**2016 as the African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the**

Rights of Women” in conformity with the Africa’s roadmap to development-Agenda 2063. He also indicated that Agenda 2063 recognizes that “good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law” were critical enablers and drivers of integration, prosperity, and sustainable development.

The Representative of the Commissioner for Political Affairs also stated that to ensure elements of the theme of this year have been achieved, the DPA in close collaboration and coordination with other AU Organs with a human rights mandate, has been carrying out a series of activities commencing in 2016 and spread across the next 10 years, which was declared by the Heads of State and Government in Kigali, Rwanda in July this year as the “**Human and Peoples’ Rights Decade in Africa**”.

He further added that this consultation seek to involve the African Youth in development process of an African Union Transitional Justice Policy. He also added that it is the wishes of the DPA/AUC that the African Youth will be part of an advocacy and coordinating campaign that generates increasing momentum, and reaches out to member states stakeholders and partners at all levels to advocate for the adoption and implementation of the said policy.

Amb. Hammad reminded the participants of the decision of the Heads of State and Government to silence the guns by 2020 and requested that African Youth should be part of the efforts aiming at promoting peace, accountability and justice on the continent.



The DPA/AUC and CSVR have been working together on the development of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP). This Youth Consultation was part

of a series of meetings organized by the DPA and CSVR to finalize the Draft AUTJP document. The Consultation brought together a number of Youth from all five regions of Africa to discuss the human rights situation in Africa and to make comments and inputs into the Draft AU Transitional Justice Policy.

The overall objective of the Consultation was to ensure the youth involvement in the process of developing the AUTJP. However, the specific objectives of meeting were:

- Offer a platform for the African Youth to review the draft AUTJP and to identify roles that could be played by the African youth in implementing the proposed Policy.
- Provide an opportunity for the African youth to engage through sharing of lessons and best practices in the field of transitional justice.
- Seek inputs and comments on the revised AUTJP.

The DPA/AUC and the CSVR discussed ways and means to enhance the existing working relationship between the two institutions based on the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and agreed on a number of activities and programmes to be jointly implemented in the last quarter of 2016 and throughout 2017. Both sides also agreed to strengthen this important partnership.

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