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**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. MONIQUE NSANZABAGANWA
THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

**LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN NETWORK OF THINK TANKS FOR PEACE
(NETT4PEACE)**

**8TH FEBRUARY 2023
ADDIS ABABA**

- **Your Excellency, Bankole Adeoye,**
- **Excellencies, Representatives of Member States and RECs.**
- **Heads of Think Tanks and Research Institutes,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

You are well aware of the times in which we live. There are boundless opportunities that exist and the challenges that our countries must surmount to create the enabling environments for our people to harness the prospects of our times. Our shared aspirations contained in our blueprint document for development, Agenda 2063, provide us with a roadmap for sustainable development.

However, the effective and efficient implementation of the roadmap depends on practical, context-specific knowledge, multi-stakeholder cooperation from positions of comparative advantage and subsidiarity, as well as effective co-ownership. The ongoing AU institutional reforms are therefore designed with these in mind.

Initiatives such as the recently launched Inter-Regional Knowledge Platform for Knowledge Exchange (IRECKE), Tangiers Conference on Peace, Security and Development Nexus, and the Abuja maiden Lessons Learning Forum on AU PSOs, are examples of knowledge approaches PAPS department has led the AU to begin to leverage in the reforms.

The African Union has over the years adopted various initiatives. The African Union-supported Regional Stabilisation Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin Countries has received widespread commendation; should we replicate it elsewhere on the continent? African problems, African solutions, how exactly have the successful and transformational peace process in Kenya post-2008 and more recently in Ethiopia, responded to this principle and what critical lessons arise therefrom? How do we reorganize AGA-APSA to get better value for time and money expended? Are the current content and application of concepts of democracy delivering inclusive development?

What must change? How do we refine and refocus our strategic partnerships in line with the AU Aspiration 7: Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner, driven by the spirit of Ubuntu?

Answers to these questions, among others, have to emanate from rigorous research that can stand the test of time and impact assessments, with the wellbeing of our peoples at the centre of it all.

The establishment of NeTT4Peace to provide a comprehensive and structured partnership with the AU, is yet another innovative agenda-setting initiative of the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security to increase the AU's ecosystem for knowledge generation and, more importantly, utilization. I therefore commend Commissioner Bankole Adeoye and his team for this. In that vein, I also wish to appreciate the partnership of GIZ as well as the keen interest shown by similar networks in sister continents, here represented today.

Indeed, NeTT4Peace provides a veritable multilevel governance platform of mobilization and cooperation to produce politically relevant and useful knowledge products. These would help enrich policy making and programme impact, towards the actualization of our collective aspirations of the Africa We Want and Deserve; in a World we Want and Deserve.

To that end , I deeply appreciate the early commitment of the NeTT4Peace members and assure you of the AU's readiness to cooperate in this shared agenda.

It is on this note, that I declare the African Network of Think Tanks for Peace, duly launched.

I Thank you for your kind attention.