



## CSOs' Consultation on the Year of Peace and Security in Africa Addis Ababa, 20-21 January 2010

On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009, on the occasion of the Special Session on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting in Tripoli, Libya, have adopted a strong declaration and a comprehensive plan of action on the elimination of conflicts in Africa and the promotion of sustainable peace'. The Assembly has also declared the year 2010 to be the "Year of Peace and Security on the continent" and expressly called on the African civil society to continue to play its role in promoting peace, security and stability as partners of Governments and the AU.

Even though the official theme of the upcoming AU Summit is on the ICT, other issues such as peace, security and related issues will be widely discussed. So, along side the official theme of the Summit the Heads of States will be then launching the Year for Peace and Security in Africa.

There is a need for African citizens and civil society groups to be familiarized with the *Tripoli Declaration and Plan of Action* and to respond to AU Assembly's call in making concrete proposals to support the AU and its member states towards a safer and more peaceful Africa. While peace, security and stability on the continent cannot be achieved within a period of one year the aim is to create an impetus so that by the end of the year 2010, concrete results would have materialized, particularly, creating a more enabling political and social environment. It is expected that from 2010 onwards, peace efforts will be boosted, and will generate more effective results on the ground and make peace on the entire continent a reality in the near future.

Objective and outcomes of the CSOs' consultation:

- Familiarization with the Tripoli Declaration and Plan of Action of the AU Assembly on the "elimination of conflicts in Africa and the promotion of sustainable peace".
- In-depth discussion and analysis of the state of Peace and Security and related issues in the continent and formulation of concrete recommendations to summit
- Brainstorming and planning of CSOs' activities for 2010 to mark the year of Peace and Security in Africa
- Recommendations will be systematically given the PRC during a policy Dialogue on the 21 January 2010, all member states delegations to the summit as well as to the AU-PSD
- CSOs will organize a press conference following the consultation.

Dates and venue: Addis Ababa 20, 21 January 2010.



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Participants: 20 - 25 CSO leaders from Africa and the Diaspora on working on peace and Security including the following organizations and other entities:

- West Africa Network for Peace Building - WANEP
- Africa peace forum
- Amani Forum
- Darfur Consortium
- Nobel Women's Initiative
- Wildaf – GF2D
- Femme Africa Solidarite - FAS
- International Refugee Rights Initiatives,
- Institute for Security Studies,
- University for Peace
- Crisis Action,
- International Crisis Group
- International Federation of Human Rights - FIDH
- Arab Coalition for Darfur
- Save Darfur Coalition
- Peace Journey in Africa
- Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
- ECOSOCC Peace and Security Cluster
- CIDO, AU PSD
- IANSA
- R2P Project (WFM)
- Centre For Peace Building And Socio-economic Development

Draft Programme:

Presentations and Discussions

- Current Challenges to Peace and Security in Africa and related issues: WANEP, ISS
- The AU peace and Security Architecture: Opportunities and Challenges: AU Commission
- The Tripoli Declaration, Plan of Actions and planned activities by the AU Commission

Small group works (2)

- Concrete CSOs' contributions/activities in the year for Peace and Security in Africa (short and long terms)
- CSOs' Communiqué to the AU Summit on Peace and Security in Africa including recommendations for urgent actions to be taken by the AU.

Partners: OSI, Trust Africa, Oxfam, FIDH, ISS, IRRI, AU-PSD, ECOSOCC Peace and Security Cluster, CIDO