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PRAIA DECLARATION

Organized under the Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa initiative, the first edition of Annual Days for Governance in Africa (JAGA) with “Africa reinventing its governance” theme was held in Praia (Cap Vert Republic) from July 9 to July 12, 2012. This first edition has inaugurated a cycle of four prospective thinking conferences whose ambition is contributing to help Africa take its destiny into its hands by the symbolic horizon of 2060 corresponding to the century of first African independent states. It gathered participants from all social and professional backgrounds, from all Africa regions, the Diaspora and friends of Africa.

The conference objectives were: contributing to create a sustainable dialogue space, needed to give value and share experiences, reflections and most innovative ongoing public policies on governance in Africa; contributing to create better synergy between institutions initiatives and civil society ones; contributing to better governance public policies socialization; developing proposals and multi actor strategy and prospective enabling Africa to take back its destiny into its hands; contributing to effective governance rebuilding initiatives implementation. Debates did focus on fundamental governance themes: building the « living together » inside societies around shared principles and values; using the best of both tradition and modernity by recognizing judicial pluralism ; rebuilding postcolonial African state through decentralization and regional integration ; promoting adapted and inclusive public affairs management ; building security conditions and sustainable peace for all.

Debates enabled participants to sort out strong consensus on the following points:

- Greater account of governance as the source and the solution to multifaceted crises (political, social, economic) that African continent is experiencing;
- The need for the continent to have an endogenous, global and long term vision of its governance, and this vision translation into a shared and inclusive project of all society actors;
- The need for Africa not only to participate actively in the globalization process but also to share the related leadership by utilizing its numerous advantages (human resources, especially a well trained youth, huge natural resources, civil societies more and

more organizing and undertaking, institutions political willing, especially states and regional organizations to improve their functioning and services delivery to citizens empowerment);

- The need for African societies to define, formalize and better promote shared values and principles that would be at the relationships between individuals and between communities foundation, devolution, exercising and power controlling procedures for public interest and also equitable resources and welfare distribution procedures ; those public affairs regulation procedures should take into account social, institutional normative pluralism and include traditional regulation procedures not in a backward looking project but rather in well-handled modernity.
- The need to lean strategically on decentralization processes, not to be considered as simple administrative reforms but as meaningful political rebuilding project of states that strengthen their legitimacy and efficiency and ensure a better regulation of natural diversity in societies ;
- The need to strengthen regional integration processes through valuing complementarities between institutional and governmental dynamics and grassroots social dynamics to make integration be a key factor for development, peace and security, strengthening states and Africa integration into the world;
- The importance of African languages utilization in educational, institutional and administrative systems;
- The need to build a vision and an African governance project with Africa partners;

From these consensuses, participants convinced that their dream for Africa can be a reality:

- x Consider that multi actor partnership should be the engine for public policies development, implementation and evaluation and legal and institutional framework and citizenry mechanisms for participation and dialogue between all actors should be empowered at all level, local, national, sub-regional, continental and international;
- x Consider that education and citizenship values and consciousness strengthening should be the shifters to guarantee general interest primacy over particular or groups interests, democracy and peaceful cohabitation among human communities;
- x Consider that it is urgent and essential for measures to be taken to make states defense and security forces, republican forces, actors of

development who protect human security and to promote an approach and a shared security governance;

- x Consider that constitutional processes should be more inclusive; help emerge better political power regulation procedures and conflict prevention and resolution;
- x Urge regional integration institutions to continue their efforts toward building a vision and a regional integration project that promote effective regional citizenship, territorialize more community policies, strengthen capacities for anticipation and reactivity with other actors to prevent conflicts and ensure security ;
- x Urge states to value national languages utilization, strengthen and deepen decentralization in a shared vision with territorial collectivities and all other actors;
- x Urge African Diaspora to participate actively in the governance-rebuilding task in Africa.

Participants undertake after the conference to:

- Broaden and strengthen the network for exchanging experiences and sharing governance strengthening initiatives in Africa;
- Contribute to the advocacy, especially toward states and regional integration organizations, but also toward populations and civil society organizations to encourage them to take advantage of the conference works;
- Work for the continuation and contributions enrichment of the project « Africa Horizon 2060 »

The participants congratulate the Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa and all his partners, Africans and friends of Africa that enable this conference to be held and urge to carry on the conferences cycle.

Participants give warm thanks to Amilcar Cabral Foundation, Cap-Verdean authorities, especially the Republic presidency, the National Parliament, the government through the Exterior Affairs Ministry, The Praia City Mayor Office and urge them to be the “Africa Horizon 2060” project relays within their African peers.

Done in Praia July 12, 2012