The Second High-Level Retreat of the African Union (AU) on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa that took place in Cairo, Egypt, from 4 to 5 September 2011, ended with the adoption of the Cairo Declaration on “Strengthening Political Governance for Peace, Security and Stability in Africa”. The revolutions that occurred in North Africa since February 2011 and the weak governance systems and practices that have contributed in causing them, dominated the Retreat discussions over the two days. The 2011 Retreat was convened by the AU in collaboration with the host country, Egypt, with support from the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (aka the HD Centre), the Cairo Regional Center for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA), and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD).

The Retreat, which brought together over 150 high-level participants, including a wide range of actors involved in peacemaking in Africa, extensively discussed the various ways through which regional capacity can be supported to promote stronger governance and contribute towards preventing, managing and lasting resolving conflicts and crises on the continent. Now an annual event, the Retreat aimed at strengthen-
A word from the Editor

As we cast our eyes on the full spectrum of our beloved African continent, our thoughts and prayers converge on the people of Libya who are still grappling with the adverse effects of their popular uprising as they try to stabilize their country. Indeed, our prayers are dedicated to the Libyan people particularly those who lost their lives, limbs and relatives during the protracted conflict. The leadership of the African Union (AU) sincerely assures the people of Libya of its continued support in building a new democratic and stable Libya. The fundamental belief of the AU is that it is only by ensuring sustainable peace and security, that African countries can have a real chance of effectively addressing poverty, disease and improving the welfare of their citizens.

In the “Close-up With” part of this edition, you will hear from Mr. Mo Ibrahim, a leading African businessman, founder and head of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, about his insights on the critical positive role that Africa’s private sector, civil society and media should play in promoting democracy and good governance as well as in preventing violent conflicts and crisis situations on the continent.

The main feature focuses on the situation in Somalia from a different perspective. Essentially, it examines one of the often less-reported but nonetheless significantly prodigious AU interventions, namely, the AU’s Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) and its efforts in contributing towards complementing the AU’s peacekeeping efforts by working to restore regional and international trade in livestock products, as well as by rebuilding the livelihoods of the victims of the decades-long violent conflict and instability in this Horn of Africa country.

As our readership, we sincerely value your vision for peace and security in Africa. As such, we legitimately expect to integrate your vision in our efforts to build lasting peace, security and stability in Africa. We, therefore, invite you to kindly send us your comments regarding the work of the African Union.

Finally, we hope that you will enjoy this edition of Peace News as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you.

Admore Mupoki Kambudzi
Editor in Chief

High-Level Retreat Strengthening Political Governance for Peace

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ing cooperation and collaboration between the AU and its partners for peace, security and stability in Africa. It also serves as a reflection forum for both peacemakers and policy-makers alike.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the Retreat, the Chairperson of the AUC, Jean Ping, hoped that important lessons would be learned from the Egyptian experience in building new and strong democratic institutions. He under-
Department Holds Open Doors as World Commemorates Peace Day

By editorial team

On 21 September 2011, the Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the African Union Commission opened its doors to its partners, the United Nations Office to the African Union, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), members of the press and staff of the African Union Commission (AUC) as part of global activities to mark the International Day of Peace (or Peace Day). This celebration of Peace Day is one of the activities planned under the ongoing Make Peace Happen Campaign and pursuant to Decision 295(XV) of the Assembly adopted in January 2011 institutionalizing Peace Day.

Visitors were given a guided tour of the Department at the AUC headquarters in Addis Ababa including the Situation Room and received briefings on the AU Border Programme and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Visitors were given an opportunity to learn more about the AU’s role in promoting peace, security and stability on the continent. Staff and invited guests observed a minute of silence at 1 pm in honor of those who have lost their lives in various conflicts and to show solidarity with thousands of international and grassroots organizations that observed the same. Created in 1981 by a unanimous resolution of the United Nations, the observance of Peace Day has grown exponentially in recent years and now reaches every level of society.

The popular uprisings in North Africa have opened up new prospects for democracy and respect for human rights in that region. The AU will continue to do all in its power to support the ongoing transitions in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, and to ensure that the legitimate aspirations of the people of the region for democracy, human rights, good governance and prosperity are indeed fulfilled.”

Message by H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson AUC

observed a minute of silence at 1 pm in honor of those who have lost their lives in various conflicts and to show solidarity with thousands of international and grassroots organizations that observed the same. Created in 1981 by a unanimous resolution of the United Nations, the observance of Peace Day has grown exponentially in recent years and now reaches every level of society.

For the AU, this was an opportunity to show solidarity with the International Community and demonstrate its commitment to creating an Africa at peace with herself and the rest of the world.
Everyday many people across Africa are killed, injured, raped, and forced to flee their homes as a result of the poorly regulated global arms trade. African Union (AU) Member States Experts met in Lomé, Togo on 26 September 2011 for four days and adopted the Draft AU Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons. In addition, the meeting recommended a further review of the Draft Implementation Plan of Action before it can be considered by the Executive Council in January 2012.

The meeting was held within the context of the Bamako Declaration that was adopted in December 2000, as Africa’s input to the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA).

The delegates also recommended a further review of the Draft African Common Position on the proposed Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) based on the inputs made during the meeting and cross-checking by the experts within one month, before its final submission to the Executive Council. The proposed Global Arms Trade Treaty is scheduled for negotiation during the UN Conference on the establishment of an Arms Trade Treaty in July 2012.

The meeting was jointly organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), the Republic of Togo and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC).

Approximately 160 delegates from AU Member States, the
Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA), the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), and Civil Society Organizations attended the meeting.

Speaking with one voice

The Chairperson of the Togo National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NATCOM), Colonel Ali Nadjombé, thanked the AUC for choosing Togo as the venue of the meeting. The Guest of Honor, Togolese Minister for Public Service and Administrative Reforms, Hon. Solitoki Esso, in his keynote speech, called on participants to ensure that, Africa speaks with one voice at the July 2012 UN negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty.

Dr. Tarek A. Sharif, Head of Defense and Security Division of the AUC Peace and Security Department, also highlighted the importance of the draft AU Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ammunition, Explosives and Related Materials in contributing towards the full operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). On behalf of the AUC, he thanked the Government and people of the Republic of Togo for hosting the meeting and for their solid commitment in the fight against the illicit proliferation, trafficking and circulation of small arms and light weapons.

An African Strategy

This Strategy is a first step towards establishing a legally binding instrument to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Africa, and is developed in light of existing regional instruments, such as the SADC Protocol on Firearms, Ammunition, and related materials and the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

The African Common Position aims to regulate the international legal trade in conventional arms, and particularly small arms and light weapons. The poor regulation of such trade has had an undermining effect on the economic, social and political stability of African States, including fuelling conflict and armed violence. The Draft Common Position also aims to prevent the diversion of these weapons from the legal to the illicit market.

The meeting adopted the draft AU strategy on SALW and the draft African Common position, after making both substantive and editorial observations to the two documents. It was agreed that the commission will forward both documents to the African Union Executive Council for consideration and adoption. The meeting also expressed its sincere appreciation to the government of Togo for its hospitality.
Peace and Security

Close-up with
Mo Ibrahim

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was set up in 2006 by Mr. Mo Ibrahim, a very successful Sudanese business tycoon, to support good governance and good leadership in Africa. Peace and Security News caught up with Mo Ibrahim on the sidelines of the Second High-Level Retreat of the African Union (AU) on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa that was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 4 to 5 September 2011 and was afforded the following interview:

PSN: In your opinion, Mr. Mo Ibrahim, what is the relationship, if any, between governance, peace and security in Africa?
Mo I: The mismanagement of national resources is one of the major causes of conflicts on the African continent. If we strengthen political governance structures in our countries, we can go a long way towards preventing the escalation of conflicts in Africa. Furthermore, we must promote transparency and accountability in national decision and policy-making processes as well as ensure equitable distribution of natural resources, power and wealth if we have any chance of lifting the heavy burden of conflict and insecurity from our shoulders. I really commend the African Union for organizing this High Level Retreat and facilitating this high-level debate on quality of governance and I hope that it will, in some measure, significantly contribute towards strengthening African peacemaking efforts.

PSN: What is the role of media in strengthening political governance in Africa?
A: Mo I: The role of mass media in African countries is critical in holding governments to be accountable to the people and in playing an instrumental role in strengthening governance structures. We are very delighted to witness the rise of Civil Society in the last few years, which can be attributed to major advances in education as well as the emergence and resurgence of media. The growth and expansion of Social Media in particular, that is, the internet, mobile phones, and television, has significantly increased citizens’ participation in governance processes. There is a huge flow of information and it is now virtually impossible for any government to successfully try to hide information from the people.

The Media has also brought pressure to bear on African governments for political reforms. In fact, the Media is like a bright light shining on all of us, illuminating the issues and putting governments under close scrutiny. People know what’s going on, and when people know, they act, as we have witnessed in the Arab uprisings.

PSN: Do you think that Civil Society has any significant role to play in strengthening political governance in Africa?
Mo I: Absolutely, with the rise of Civil Society and with the media spotlight now shimmering over all of us, the rulers and the ruled or the governors and the governed as well as the private and public sector, we can now legitimately hope and move towards improved governance systems, processes and practices in Africa.

The significant advances made in education, coupled with the resurgent Media, have all led to a more enlightened citizenry. A vibrant Civil Society plays a vital role in representing and giving a voice to the needs and aspirations of these enlightened citizens. Because people are now more aware of the issues and it is now easier for them to connect with each other, Civil Society is better placed to act.

Furthermore, this vigilant public glare has made it increasingly difficult for African leaders to steal from the public purse. It has also made it tough for corrupt government officials to conceal stolen funds and much harder for multinational companies to sign secret contracts for oil and other natural resources. I

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There is need to promote peace, security and stability as a prerequisite for the implementation of our development and integration agenda.

Declaration; African Heads of State, 2000
From 05 to 16 September 2011, the African Union Commission (AUC) hosted a team of Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) experts from the United Nations (UN) and from the World Bank who were on a joint scoping and planning mission for an African continent-wide DDR programme. The mission was a follow up to ongoing consultations between the AU Peace and Security Department, the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program (TDRP) of the World Bank, the DDR Section of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) as well as the UN Office at the African Union (UNOAU) which started way back in May 2011.

These consultations were informed by the African Union's earlier involvement in the DDR programmes and rehabilitation of former child soldiers in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and the DRC from 2006 to 2008, the World Bank's involvement in DDR in the Great Lakes region through its Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Programme (MDRP), TDRP projects, and the UN’s global experience and leadership in DDR processes. The common interest to foster peace-building activities on the African continent inspired the three organizations to seek to harness their rich experiences by harmonizing their DDR activities.

On 7 September, the mission conducted a half-day workshop on DDR. The workshop was held at the PSD Conference Room and was attended by more than 20 participants from various AU Departments.

- The mission conducted one-on-one interviews with a number of AU officers who shared their own DDR experiences and suggested possible focus areas for a joint AU-UN-World Bank continental DDR programme.
- From 14 to 15 September, the mission conducted a two-day seminar at Jupiter International Hotel focusing on “Strengthening Nationally Owned DDR Programmes”. The seminar brought together more than 50 DDR practitioners from the African continent who shared their experiences and discussed ways of strengthening national ownership in DDR processes.
- The mission gave a joint briefing to the European Union Delegation to the African Union which was essentially to inform AU partners about the emerging AU-UN-World Bank partnership on DDR, and also to coordinate possible future funding of the DDR programme.

At the end of the scoping and planning mission, the team produced an agreed Aide Memoire outlining the areas in which joint DDR activities can be implemented. It also contained the following jointly agreed activities:

- A short term DDR capacity-building programme for the AU Commission with support from UNOAU and the World Bank.
- DDR pilot projects and support for national DDR processes in select AU Member States.
- Establishment of a DDR Resource Centre at the AU Commission to house both print and electronic libraries.
- Seminars, training workshops and guidance notes on DDR best practices.
- Developing a Project Document for a 3-year African Union DDR Programme that will run from January 2013 to December 2015.
The China-African Union (AU) Seminar on Non-Traditional Security was held at the Ministry of National Defense, Foreign Affairs Office, in Beijing, China from 13 to 18 September 2011. The AU delegation was composed of participants from both the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the Peace and Security Department (PSD).

The aim of the seminar was to enhance cooperation between the AU and the People’s Republic of China in the area of peace and security. The seminar was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Cherif Mahamat Zene, Ambassador of Chad to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the AU, in his capacity as Chair of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for the month of September 2011, and Major General Jia Xiaoning, Deputy Chief of Foreign Affairs Office, Ministry of National Defense of the People’s Republic of China.

The Seminar enabled the AU and the People’s Republic of China to exchange views on the key elements of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Presentations made by the AU side covered the PSC, the Continental Early Warning System, the African Standby Force (ASF), Relations with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs), the Popular Uprisings in North Africa and their implications for peace and security on the African continent, and the AU strategy for combating piracy, dumping of toxic wastes and illegal fishing.

In turn, presenters from the People’s Republic of China briefed the Seminar on China’s policy for Africa and China-Africa relations, China’s national defense, China-Africa military exchanges and cooperation, China’s national security environment, Asia-Pacific security, China’s navy’s fleet escort operations in the Gulf of Aden and off Somalia’s coast, China’s military participation in emergency rescue and disaster relief and China’s participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

Both sides commended the AU-China cooperation and the progress made in the field of peace and security. The seminar presentations and the exchanges promoted mutual understanding of Africa’s and China’s security environment.

At the end of the seminar, both sides expressed readiness to maintain exchange visits and conduct personnel training to enhance cooperation between the two sides. The Chinese side expressed its readiness to continue to provide assistance to the AU within the realm of its capabilities in order to support AU’s efforts in the promotion of peace and security on the continent. The AU delegation expressed sincere appreciation to the People’s Republic of China for the invitation to participate at the Seminar that was described by both sides as mutually beneficial and for the warm and friendly reception that was extended to its delegation. The People’s Republic of China also expressed gratitude to the AU side for honoring the invitation to participate at the seminar.

Finally, both sides expressed the desire to regularize the seminar and perhaps make it an annual event to the extent that it provides a very invaluable reflection forum for both sides to share knowledge and experience in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security.
Livestock is a major part of the African agricultural sector and it plays an important role in sustaining African livelihoods, particularly in food and economic security. In fact, the sector accounts for 40-50% of the GDP of Somalia.

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), together with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia troops, known as TFG Forces, have made significant gains over the last few months in restoring peace and security in most districts of the country. However beyond this military intervention in Somalia, the African Union, through its Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) has also been undertaking a number of projects in the livestock sector, aimed at enhancing its post-conflict reconstruction and development. These often less-reported but nonetheless significantly awesome AU interventions are making a tremendous impact on the livelihoods of not only ordinary Somalis but also of the people in the Horn of Africa region.

The devastating famine currently ravaging the Horn of Africa, is the most severe humanitarian crisis in the recent history of the region. The Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Mr. Erastus Mwencha, during a recent visit to Somalia, stressed the severity of the drought crisis saying, “this is one of the most challenging environments for humanitarian assistance intervention.”

That drought is a recurrent phenomenon in the Horn of Africa is an undeniable fact, yet the traditional pattern of responses has always been conservatively focused on the immediate provision of food, often at the expense of seeking permanent solutions to the problem. As humanitarian aid agencies rush in to assist an estimated 3.7 million Somalis affected by the drought, many of them children, there is a growing need to look beyond the immediate food crisis, to long term solutions to improve the livelihoods of millions of really look to a vibrant Civil Society as the alternative salvation for Africa and the world at large.

PSN: What is your parting shot for fellow business leaders in Africa?

Mo I: To business leaders across Africa, I say, peace is in our best interest. It goes without saying that, as the business community, we cannot successfully do business in areas of conflict. That is a fact. We have a stake in the peace and stability of the continent. Therefore, we need to play our role in ensuring the success of African Solutions to African problems so as to make peace happen in Africa.
**Promoting Peace and Security in Pictures**

**Peace Day:** Young Maasai warrior holds up a ‘Make Peace Happen’ campaign poster; The Department is committed to educating and sensitizing African Governments and citizens on the need to promote peace and security efforts on the continent.

**Trained AMISOM explosive experts sweep a section of a Mogadishu highway to detect possible bomb materials.**

**September 5:** Participants during the opening ceremony of the High-Level Retreat of the AU on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa held from 4-5 September 2011, in Cairo, Egypt.

**21 September:** AU partners, representatives from the UN, Civil Society Organisations and AU staff during the Department’s ‘Open Doors’ in commemoration of Peace Day.

**18 September:** Mr. Cherif Mahamat Zene, Amb. of Chad to Ethiopia and Chair of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for September 2011, and Major General Jia Xiaoning, Deputy Chief of Foreign Affairs Office, Ministry of National Defense of the People’s Republic of China during the China-AU Seminar on Non-Traditional Security held in Beijing.

**AMISOM doctors come to the aid of Somali IDPS:** As well as improving the security situation on the ground in Somalia through their military presence, AMISOM extends its activities to the humanitarian sector as well, providing free medical treatment at a camp erected for displaced victims of the drought, many of them children.

**Photo courtesy of Peace Journey**
people in the war-ravaged country. While critical for immediate survival, emergency food aid should not supersede strategic interventions in livestock production, which is the main source of livelihood for most households in Somalia. The sector accounts for 40-50% of the GDP of Somalia.

One of the major activities undertaken by AU-IBAR to improve the productivity of livestock farming in Somalia targeted the control and eradication of rinderpest disease (also known as cattle plague) that if uncontrolled can have a devastating effect on livestock. The rinderpest project, which is now completed, managed to significantly reduce livestock mortalities as well as monitor and containing the spread of the disease. Also, as an outcome of the project, animal health experts in the greater Horn of Africa region are now better prepared to effectively deal with any emergencies related to rinderpest and other livestock diseases.

Like in many other African countries, the problem is not the lack of sufficient knowledge on animal health, but rather, the availability of the necessary resources to put this knowledge into use by thousands of livestock farmers in the region. With this view in mind, another project, “Livestock Emergency Interventions to Mitigate Food Crisis in Somalia,” is currently providing extension services and infrastructure support, with the aim of also improving the health and productivity of livestock in the region.

As a direct outcome, around 400,000 animals have been vaccinated, 2 million have been treated for endemic diseases and 100 water troughs, vaccination crushes, animal sheds as well as other types of livestock-handling facilities have been renovated or constructed from the ground up in Somalia.

The flow of Somali livestock exports has been periodically interrupted by trade bans imposed as a result of outbreaks of trans-boundary animal diseases especially Rift Valley fever. AU-IBAR’s Livestock Certification project was introduced as a credible health certification system to avoid future bans.

Another key pillar of AU-IBAR’s activities in Somalia involves rehabilitation of livestock marketing infrastructure, which will go a long way towards enhancing export trade in live animals to the Gulf States.

All these efforts go a long way towards enhancing food security and complementing the peace and security building efforts of the African Union.

Peace begins when the poor and hungry are fed.

Anonymous