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Closing Remarks by H.E. Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas, African Union High Representative for Silencing the Guns

Excellencies,

Honourable Members of the Judiciary,

Distinguished Traditional and Religious Leaders,

Esteemed Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with a deep sense of reflection and renewed hope that I address you at the conclusion of this important Dialogue. As we bring this Inaugural Continental Dialogue to a close, I wish, on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, to express my sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana for their generous hospitality and for successfully hosting this important meeting. I also extend my profound gratitude to all participants for your commitment, active engagement, and valuable contributions to our deliberations.

Over the course of our discussions, we have been reminded that **silencing the guns is not merely an end goal; it is a process** that requires sustained commitment, inclusive engagement, and collective responsibility.

We have heard clearly that peace cannot be imposed from above. It must be built from within communities, through trust, dialogue, justice, and reconciliation. In this regard, the roles of traditional leaders, religious actors, and judicial institutions are indispensable. They are the custodians of values, the mediators of grievances, and the anchors of social cohesion across our societies.

A key message emerging from this Dialogue is that **peace must be people-centred**. It must reflect the voices, aspirations, and lived realities of

communities, particularly women and youth, who are too often excluded from decision-making processes despite being the most affected by conflict.

We have also recognised that achieving durable peace requires confronting difficult truths, addressing historical grievances, promoting reconciliation, and rebuilding trust between citizens and institutions. Without justice, there can be no lasting peace; without inclusion, there can be no legitimacy.

Excellencies,

The Silencing the Guns Agenda challenges us to think beyond short-term responses and to invest in prevention, resilience, and long-term transformation. It calls on us to strengthen the connections between community-level action and continental frameworks, ensuring that our strategies are grounded in local realities and informed by shared experience.

The proposal for a structured continental platform for engagement is therefore both timely and necessary. It offers a pathway to sustain the partnerships forged here and to ensure that this Dialogue is not a one-off event, but the beginning of a continuous process of collaboration and accountability.

As we conclude, let us leave with a renewed commitment; not only to silence the guns, but to build societies defined by justice, dignity, and opportunity for all.

The journey ahead is challenging, but it is achievable if we act together, with purpose and determination.

I thank you all and wish you safe travels.