DECLARATION OF NETPEACE

WE, members of NetPeace, having in Dakar, Senegal from 19 to 21 December 2012, on the occasion of the second edition of the High Level Workshop on the African of Peace and Security Architecture (APSA):

CONSCIOUS OF

- The issues and challenges of sustainable development as well as those of stability and peace on our continent,
- The role and responsibility of African populations, governments and institutions in general, and African media in particular, in the promotion of peace, citizenship and democratic governance,
- The importance of the synergy of the efforts of our common organization and African media professionals to portray a different image of our continent,

RECALLING the conclusions of the first High Level Media Workshop on the APSA held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 2 to 4 November 2011,

CONCERNED about the situations prevailing in some African countries, including Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and in the Sahel Region (in particular in Mali), and by the manifestations of terrorism in West Africa

WELCOMING the Second High Level Media Workshop on the APSA

WELCOMING the actions undertaken by the African Union Commission to support the Network of Journalists for Peace and Security in Africa (NetPeace)

CALLING for increased collaboration between NetPeace, the AU Commission and other AU organs and bodies

URGING to seize all opportunities for dialogue, including systematic interface between officials of the AU and African media to pursue the shared goal of promoting peace on our continent.
CALLING UPON journalists and the media which have not yet done so to join the Network of Journalists for Peace and Security in Africa (NetPeace)

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the assistance provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Network on Peace Operations (NPO) and the Institute of Security Studies (ISS).

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

REAFFIRM our collective commitment to the Addis Ababa Declaration to work for the entrenchment of a culture of peace in Africa and urge all media to contribute thereto;

REDEDICATE ourselves to the promotion of the objectives of NetPeace;

ENHANCE the flow of information between the African Union and the media, particularly in the area of peace and security across NetPeace members, and to strengthen a mechanism for information access and sharing;

REAFFIRM our resolve to promote the network’s activities as well as synergise with existing media networks working for peace and security on the continent;

REQUEST the Bureau of NetPeace to rededicate itself in monitoring events on the continent to give more visibility to African initiatives aimed at promoting peace and stability;

CONTINUE to give the world an African objective account and perspective of events that occur on the continent;

CALL UPON NETPEACE to be a strategic partner of Member States of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms in the overall effort to ensure positive change on the continent;

FURTHER re-dedicate ourselves to continue to inform the public on the functioning and various actions of the African Union in the field of peace and security;

URGE African Union Member States to support NetPeace activities.