Opening Statement
Consultative workshop to review the Prevention-Focused Human Rights Analytical Framework (PHRAF), AMM, and CEWS Human Rights indicators
Dates: 29 April to 2nd May 2024
Venue: Nairobi - Kenya

Statement by
Mr. Issaka Garba Abdou
Head of Governance and Human Rights Governance and Conflicts Prevention Directorate Political Affairs, Peace and Security African Union Commission
Madam Maymuchka Lauriston, Deputy Regional Representative · UNOHCHR Representative to the AU and East Africa Regional Office;

Col. David Ngare, Head of Peace and Security Research of the International Peace Support Training Center

H.E. Mr. Jean-Jacques Demafouth, ECCAS Representative to the AU;

Distinguished Representatives of IGAD, COMESA

Madam Abiola Rasidat Idowu Ojo, A.g. Executive Secretary of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights;

Representative of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights;

Representative of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

Distinguished Representatives of the NANHRI Secretariat and National Human Rights Commissions;

Distinguished Representatives of Civil Society Organizations;

Dear Colleagues from AUC and UNOHCHR

All protocols duly observed.

On behalf of the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, His Excellency Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciate the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR-EARO) for collaborating with the AUC – DPAPS in organizing this Consultative workshop to review the Human Rights Based Approach to Conflict Prevention Framework (HRBA-CPF), the CEWS Tools and to Review and identify Human Rights Indicators for the AU Continental Early Warning System (CEWS).

I would like to thank IPSTC for hosting the event and I am pleased to thank you all for making time out of your busy schedules to attend this Workshop that will take place from 29 April 2024 to 2 May 2024 here at the International Peacekeeping Support Training Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. This workshop marks a significant milestone in our collective efforts to enhance conflict prevention strategies in Africa by integrating human rights principles. The alignment of human rights considerations with conflict prevention mechanisms is crucial for promoting peace, stability, and sustainable development across the continent.

Mainstreaming human rights into the CEWS and developing a Human Rights-Based Conflict Prevention Framework signifies a pivotal shift toward proactive and preventive approaches to addressing conflicts in Africa. Human rights violations are not only symptomatic but often serve as underlying causes of conflicts, making their early identification and addressing paramount in preventing violent outbreaks. By integrating human rights indicators into our early warning systems, we aim to
anticipate better and mitigate potential conflicts, thus contributing to lasting peace on the continent and realizing our aspirations set by the AU Agenda 2063.

**Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Through collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships, we seek to operationalize a comprehensive list of human rights indicators that will enhance our regional and national early warning mechanisms. This initiative underscores our commitment to upholding human rights standards, promoting equality, non-discrimination, and meaningful participation, all of which are essential elements in building sustainable peace.

As we embark on this workshop, let us engage in constructive dialogue, share insights, and work towards concrete recommendations that will strengthen our capacity to utilize human rights data for early warning and conflict prevention. Together, we can make significant strides in promoting a culture of respect for human rights and preventing conflicts before they escalate.

Thank you for your attention.