

REMARKS BY H.E MME BINETA DIOP
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STABILITY CHALLENGES IN AFRICA: RETHINKING EFFORTS
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- Thank you **Mr Yonas Adeto**, our moderator for giving me the floor.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

- I thank the organizers of the Atlantic Dialogue for inviting me again to the Dialogue, this time focusing on the Stability Challenges in Africa. This is timely as last week the leaders of Africa, gathered in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss the same topic.
- Before I proceed let me bring you greetings from H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, who is very committed to a peaceful and prosperous Africa.

On the question of stability challenges in Africa:

- The issues are complex and dynamic.
- Core among them is the issue of deficiency of good governance and leadership, for instance in recent times we have seen the rise of coup d'état eg in Guinea, Mali and Sudan.
- Closely connected to this is the deterioration of democracy where we observe unconstitutional extension of one's power through **change of constitutions**. Also, our electoral processes are weak, they are inadequate in making provisions of those who lose an election, especially because the winner has it all. In situations where many elections are won with a small margin, this becomes problematic because a huge group is marginalised from state power and resources.
- Additionally, is the complex issue of managing natural resources, intertwined with climate change and their ripple effect on livelihoods and poverty. The cycle of poverty leaves the insurgents and the bulging unemployed youth with minimal option apart from holding the gun as is the case in the lake Chad basin.

- The inadequacies in post conflict reconstruction processes such as disarmament and security sector reform, including disarming the mind, provision of restorative justice, community rehabilitation, reconciliation and cohesion are factor we need to address.
- Human security, development and supporting the capacity of post conflict states to deliver services is core, otherwise the states will relapse to crisis.

Having noted these challenges, I would like to share perspectives from the African Union on how we are innovating to address some of the concerns.

- **First and importantly** is that Africa has adequate frameworks and institutions, including the African Governance Architecture borne out of the AU Shared Values agenda as well as The Africa Peace and Security Architecture and the African Peer Review Mechanism. Which are now expected to complement each other much more deeply. It is for this reason that the APSA Pillars and AGA Platform are now establishing joint working methods and implementation plan. However, it is important that we review these tools to allow efficient implementation of recommendations by addressing the blockage caused by the notion of respect **for state sovereignty** and **non-interference** in each other's internal affairs.
- **Secondly**, is that under agenda 2063, the African Union has a flagship project on silencing the guns through an array of political, economic, environmental and legal success factors to ending violence in Africa.
- In December 2020, the African Union Assembly agreed to extend the implementation of the roadmap from 2020 till 2030 with a stronger impetus towards zero tolerance for escalation of conflict on the continent.
- Some of the uniqueness of this extension is the emphasis on accountability, including through naming and shaming.
- As I conclude, I wish to emphasise that above all we need accountability at all levels, we need to create an ecosystem of shared values, accountability and

amend our mechanisms to enable the continental body to act when regional mechanisms are failing.

I thank you very much.