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Opening Remarks

on the occasion of

**The African Regional Consultation on
Peacebuilding and Statebuilding**

by

**Ambassador John K. Shinkaiye
Chief of Staff, Bureau of the Chairperson**

8th September 2011

ECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

balance sheet of what has been accomplished since the Aid Effectiveness Conference in 2008 in Accra, Ghana, in view of achieving the Millennium Development Goals in 2015.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Of the many challenges facing the African continent, the quest for peace and security is undoubtedly the most pressing. Over the past two decades, Africa has witnessed a number of long-term, severe and, in some cases, inter-related crises and violent conflicts. While interstate wars and anti-colonial liberation struggles dominated the 1970s and 1980s, the 1990s were characterized by intra-state conflicts. Until the first quarters of 2011, one could have confidently said that the number of violent conflicts has been significantly reduced, and that important advances, while still fragile, had been made, thanks to the collective determination and efforts of Africa, with the support of its international partners.

However, the Arab Spring and the events in Cote d'Ivoire again highlighted the magnitude of the challenge of the vicious cycle of conflict and its deadly consequences. That Africa is host to seven United Nations operations and that our continent constitutes over

agreements. As a result there has been an increasing demand for the consolidation of peace, reconstruction and development. We also have to note that responses to post-conflict situations have, in the past, remained fragmented and largely ineffectual and uncoordinated. Many partners from many countries and institutions are all assisting affected countries in doing post-conflict reconstruction, peacebuilding, and/or statebuilding, in one way or the other.

The AU policy framework seeks to go beyond limited interventions, with the understanding that post-conflict reconstruction and development activities do not stop with stabilization but must of necessity, seek to achieve long-term sustainable development as underpinned by the African vision of regeneration and growth. In this regard, the African Union is focusing more attention on measures that consolidate peace and prevent the resurgence of violence and thus pave the way for economic growth and regeneration.

In this regard, the AU Commission through its various Departments, has put in place a good number of policy decisions and measures to the areas of economic, political and social

and the need for accountability in governance, should not elude our strategies.

I will thus conclude by saying that the time has come to concretely bring to the fore innovative ways of mobilising African resources and enhancing partnership between the UN Peacebuilding Commission and the AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). This would be an important key to the unlocking of African development potentials through the involvement of all stakeholders, including the African Diaspora.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me, in conclusion, to express the gratitude of the Commission to the co-organizers, the AfDB and the ECA leadership, for the coordination between the three Institutions and the ECA for the facilities put at the disposal of this meeting, as well as the AU/ECA/AfDB Joint Secretariat for their planning and coordinating role.

I wish us all successful deliberations and I thank you for your kind attention.