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PRESS RELEASE

AIR NIGERIA PARTNERS WITH AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION TO MAKE PEACE HAPPEN

- *Air Nigeria to support some communication and travel needs of campaign*
- *Announcement comes less than 6 days before continent marks day of peace*

Addis Ababa, 15 September 2010: Air Nigeria has partnered with the African Union (AU) Commission to **make peace happen**, adding its pledge to work with the African Union on the 2010 Year of Peace and Security programme to a growing list of businesses that are committed to making permanent peace a reality in Africa.

Air Nigeria is supporting Peace Day by creating awareness at airports across its route network, as well as making on-board announcements in all flights in the week leading to Peace Day, on 21 September. Air Nigeria will also provide support to some of the Year of Peace and Security travel needs. This pledge comes on the back of the recent call by Heads of State and Government of the African Union to all stakeholders, including those in the private sector, to come forward to make the Year of Peace and Security a success.

While announcing Air Nigeria's partnership with the African Union Commission, Chairman, Board of Directors, Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim, prayed that the implementation of the noble initiatives of the AU would help bring peace to the continent, especially as African countries unite to observe Peace Day.

"Our partnership is built on our desire to promote the African renaissance by encouraging nations and people to overcome the current challenges confronting them in order to achieve strong economic and socio-cultural ties, as all the African countries need unfettered cooperation to develop and excel amongst the community of nations", said Barrister Ibrahim, while also noting that peace and stability is needed to develop aviation in the continent.

Speaking further, Barrister Ibrahim said:

*"We are honoured to be a part of this initiative, which aims to bring permanent peace to our continent as the AU is approaching peace and security issues from a fresh and innovative perspective, which allows the private sector to play its rightful role in transforming our continent for good. We are happy to be a partner in this journey for peace, and we will sign and honour the principles in the **Make Peace Happen Industry Charter**".*

Peace and Security Commissioner, Ramtane Lamamra, said:

“This latest partnership for peace is a further demonstration of the importance of involving all stakeholders in the peace and security agenda of the continent. Air Nigeria’s support for the initiative and signing of the Industry Charter is a great step towards deeper participation of the private sector in making peace happen in Africa in 2010 and beyond.”

With less than 6 days to go to Peace Day, businesses and individuals alike are being invited to partner with the African Union to make peace happen in Africa in 2010 and beyond.

For more information, please visit www.makepeacehappen.com and www.myairnigeria.com

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Notes to Editors

Year of Peace and Security in Africa

On 31 August 2009, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting in Tripoli, on the occasion of the Special Session on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, declared 2010 to be the Year of Peace and Security on the continent, proclaiming in paragraph 9 of the Tripoli Declaration:

“We are determined to deal once and for all with the scourge of conflicts and violence on our continent, acknowledging our shortcomings and errors, committing our resources and our best people, and missing no opportunity to push forward the agenda of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. We, as leaders, simply cannot bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans”.

The convening of the Special Session and the decisions taken, including the adoption of a Plan of Action, bore testimony to African Leaders’ renewed determination to give further impetus to the implementation of relevant AU decisions and to promote lasting peace, security and stability on the continent, for without such an environment the vision of the political and economic integration and development of Africa will not materialise.

During the AU Summit held in Addis Ababa in January 2010, all 53 African Heads of State and Government, or their representatives, reaffirmed their commitment to the Tripoli Declaration and the objectives of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa.

The overarching message for the Year of Peace and Security in Africa is **Make Peace Happen**.

The 2010 Year of Peace and Security in Africa campaign will centre on a single day, the International Day of Peace on 21 September (Peace Day). All Year of Peace and Security activities will lead up to and follow on from Peace Day.

Established by a UN resolution in 1982, Peace Day provides a unified rallying point for Africa to show that peace is possible. The AU is working towards a day when all Africans can experience peace simultaneously; the cessation of hostilities in conflict zones will allow for humanitarian relief, such as vital food, water, mosquito nets and other emergency supplies, to be provided to people living in those areas. It will help to create an unprecedented moment of collective unity that will highlight further the objectives of the Year of Peace and Security and establish a stronger platform for a conflict-free Africa.

The Year of Peace and Security in Africa is not just about one day. It is about mobilising all stakeholders to commit to action that makes peace possible on at least one day. After Peace Day a programme of education and awareness-raising and empowerment will continue beyond 2010 to enable Africans to continue to **make peace happen** in all their communities and nations.

African Union, Peace & Security

The African Union is actively engaged in the promotion of peace in Africa. In 2002, it adopted a Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council (PSC) as a standing decision-making organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. The Protocol provides for the establishment of an African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), which, in addition to the PSC, includes the Continental Early Warning System, the African Standby Force, the Panel of the Wise, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and the Regional Economic Communities. The overall aim of the APSA is to enhance the institutional capacity of the AU to address peace and security issues on the continent.

In the past few years, the AU has been actively engaged in peace efforts on the continent, through preventive diplomacy, mediation, deployment of peace support operations, and post-conflict reconstruction and development, including mobilisation of support for countries emerging from conflicts.

The AU also monitors electoral processes to ensure these are carried out within the guidelines agreed upon by Member States and has developed the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. Efforts are underway towards the early ratification of the Charter, which is one of the objectives of the Year of Peace and Security.

Furthermore, to address the root causes of conflicts in a holistic and systematic manner, the AU has adopted a number of instruments on human rights, governance, the rule of law, democracy, elections, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, terrorism, and good neighbourliness. These represent a consolidated framework of norms and principles, whose observance will considerably reduce the risk of conflict and violence on the continent and support the consolidation of peace.

Year of Peace and Security activities (highlights of some events)

-ECOWAS (March 2010)

Conference in Monrovia, Liberia, celebrating *“Two Decades of Peace Processes in West Africa: 1989 – 2009”*.

-EAC and Burundi (April 2010)

Ceremony for the destruction of arms in Burundi as part of commitments made to reduce small arms and light weapons.

-Swaziland (April 2010)

Flame of Peace lighting ceremony, as part of celebrations of King Mswatii III's birthday.

-Cameroon (May 2010)

Flame of Peace lighting ceremony, as part of 50th anniversary of independence celebrations.

-Ghana (May 2010)

Flame of Peace lighting ceremony, as part of celebrations of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's 100th birthday.

-Burkina Faso (May 2010)

Flame of Peace lighting ceremony, as part of Africa Day celebrations and launch of Flame of Peace journey across Burkina Faso which will last until 11 December 2010, the 50th independence anniversary.

-Angola (May 2010)

Flame of Peace lighting ceremony, as part of Africa Day celebrations.

-South Africa (May 2010)

Flame of Peace lighting ceremony, as part of Africa Day celebrations.

-EAC in Tanzania (May 2010)

Ceremony for the destruction of instruments of violence in Bukoba, Tanzania, as part of Africa Day celebrations.

- Western Sahara, AU/MINURSO (May 2010)

Football tournament, as part of Year of Peace and Security/Africa Day celebrations.

-AU Permanent Missions in Geneva and New York, and AU Liaison Office in Sudan (May 2010)

Workshops on peace and security and other events, as part of Africa Day celebrations.

-Panel of the Wise and Democratic Republic of Congo (May 2010)

Flame of Peace Ceremony as part of Experts' Workshop and 8th Panel of the Wise meeting.

-Zimbabwe (May 2010)

Flame of Peace lighting ceremony, as part of Africa Day celebrations.

-Tunisia

Hosted a television debate on the Year of Peace and Security on Africa Day, has held a Flame of Peace lighting ceremony, and has developed a commemorative stamp for the Year of Peace and Security.

-Algeria

Has developed a commemorative stamp for the Year of Peace and Security.

Other Year of Peace and Security partners

GTZ is providing financial and technical support towards the implementation of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa.

Oxfam International Liaison Office, Addis Ababa, has lent its support to the make peace happen campaign, by aiding various communications efforts for the Year of Peace and Security.

Institute for Security Studies (ISS) has partnered with the AU Commission to make peace happen in 2010 and beyond, by supporting various outreach initiatives.

Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) has committed to support the communication and other 2010 Year of Peace and Security activities.

Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) has committed to work with the AU to commemorate the 2010 Year of Peace and Security in Africa.

Kenya Airways is providing communication and financial support to the implementation of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa.

The Government of Italy is providing financial support towards the implementation of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa.

The African Editors' Forum is partnering with the AU to make peace happen in 2010 and beyond, by supporting the communication needs of the campaign.

Ethiopian Airlines is providing transport and communication support to the Year of Peace and Security in Africa.

A24 Media is providing communication support to the Year of Peace and Security in Africa.

African Airlines Association is working with the African Union on the 2010 Year of Peace and Security in Africa through communication and galvanising the support of its members for the make peace happen campaign.

Advisory Council and Peace Ambassadors

In order to mobilize the broadest support possible for the efforts being made, the Chairperson of the Commission decided to put in place a High Level Advisory Council made up of eminent African personalities from various sectors, to facilitate the mobilization of the required resources and political support, as well as assist in the implementation of specific activities.

In addition, the Chairperson also decided to appoint Peace Ambassadors, who are popular personalities drawn from various sectors, to galvanise popular support for the Year of Peace and Security and mobilize additional resources.

The Chairperson approached all African Nobel Laureates as well as former Organisation of African Unity Secretaries-General and African Union Commission Chairpersons and other eminent Africans to support the Year of Peace and Security in the capacity of Advisory Council members. Those who have accepted to serve to date are:

1. Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu
2. H.E. F.W. de Klerk
3. H.E. Salim A. Salim
4. Hon. Amara Essy
5. H.E. Alpha Oumar Konaré
6. H.E. Edem Kodjo
7. H.E. Henri Lopes
8. Dr. Graça Machel

9. H.E. Bethuel Kiplagat
10. Dr. Luisa Diogo
11. Dr. Mo Ibrahim
12. Prof. Wangari Maathai

The Chairperson approached notable African personalities in the area of sports, culture, music and the arts to support the Year of Peace and Security programme in the role of Peace Ambassador. Those who have accepted to serve to date are:

1. Manu Dibango
2. Sadok Sassi
3. Angelique Kidjo
4. Paulina Chiziane
5. Paul Tergat
6. Michael Essien
7. Oliver Mtukudzi
8. Waris Dirie
9. Abedi Pele
10. Teshaynesh Hewak Teka Legesse
11. Rabah Madjer
12. Youssou N'Dour
13. Salif Keita