



**REPORT OF AFRICA REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE
BAMAKO, NOVEMBER 16, 2007
FOURTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMMUNITY OF
DEMOCRACIES.**

On Friday November 16, 2007, the Africa regional roundtable was held at International Convention Center of Bamako in margin of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies. Professor Serigne DIOP, State Minister of Senegal presided over this meeting which was facilitated by Mr. Joseph Mugore of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

During the discussions, participants highlighted advances made in Africa in terms of democracy promotion, which resulted from democratic transition processes undertaken by the majority of the continent States for certain number of years.

Acknowledging the importance of democracy as a system in which the whole society can participate at all levels in the decision-making process and the exercise of control, the Africa region roundtable is convinced of the necessity to prioritize fundamental individual rights as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Therefore, to promote and consolidate democratic ideals, the Africa region roundtable encourages the strengthening of the process underway on the continent by overcoming some challenges and achieving the following milestones:

1. Strengthening of the legitimacy of the State by:

- Improving stakeholders participation in the democratic process through decentralization which is considered to be a system of grassroots ownership of populations in the management of their own affairs and also through a more significant participation in elections;
- Fostering economic and social development, since consolidating political or institutional democracy must be an extension of economic and social measures. To this effect, the improvement of economic conditions is a factor of States legitimization and has the capacity to bring resolution to the problems within populations, especially by allowing access to basic social services (education, health, drinking water, food security);
- Encouraging political and economic good governance in order to promote transparency at all levels as sine qua none condition for more efficient anti-corruption policies.

2. Strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders such as political parties, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

For the political parties, encouraging multiparty system while adopting ethical behavior and exemplary moral values must be the primary concern in order to protect the interests of populations, embark on democratization, and give women their rightful place in these institutions.

As for the civil society and NGOs, they must be considered as key partners of the State which will allow them to play their role in a democratic framework. So, governments should support them by means of participative mechanisms that take into account their opinions and expertise on public policy issues.

3. Raising awareness of all the continent States on the ratification of all appropriate instruments relating to human rights and democracy, especially the African Charter on Human rights, Elections and Democracy.

To overcome these different challenges, the Africa region roundtable recommends that the Community of Democracies:

- Support efforts undertaken to strengthen democracy on the continent;
- Support the strengthening of different bodies of the Union African such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, which mandate is to encourage conformity in regard to political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards, among African countries;
- Use regional organizations such as ECOWAS, SADEC, CEMAC and UEMOA to support the continent's development. In fact, regional integration is a reference framework for the implementation of sectorial strategies such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development. (NEPAD) which are more difficult to implement on a national scale and which also needs to be supported;
- Support countries that experience recent crisis or the "fragile" States through strengthening peacekeeping mechanisms and financing development projects;
- Have some of its participant countries influence the establishment and financing of strategic poverty reduction frameworks such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- And finally support a globalization regulation policy which can constitute a true asset for democracy and development as it will not only increase access and transmission of information and intensify exchanges but also help fill the deepening divide between poor countries and developed countries.

Done in Bamako, November 16, 2007