

**Address by the President of the Constitution Council  
Mr. Mourad MEDELICI**

**at the opening session of the inaugural meeting of Algiers of the  
two working groups of the African Platform of Governance  
(Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law – Human Rights and  
Transitional Justice)**

Remaining true to its tradition, Algeria, who has responded favorably to the request of the African Union Commission, is honored to be associated with the organization of this inaugural meeting. It is with great pride that the Constitutional Council opens its doors to host this important meeting, devoted to constitutionalism and transitional justice, in Algiers, permanent headquarters of the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa.

Indeed, the establishment of a democratic rule of law, a *sine qua non* condition for the development of our Continent, is the big issue that the African Union has to face through its organs, its specialized agencies and the mechanisms provided for this purpose.

The opportunity will be given to us to underscore the importance of the African Architecture of Governance, along with the other spaces for dialogue, consultation and coordination, aims to harmonize action and to optimize the performance of the African institutions, whose principal objectives are to reinforce the effectiveness of the Rule of Law, at constitutional, sub-regional and national levels.

Africa, who is in search for a path that spouses its specificities and matches the expectations of its peoples, has created its own mechanisms compatible with the sovereignty of States such as NEPAD and African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Africa who repudiates the unconstitutional change, records today another singular achievement through the African Platform of Governance.

Through consultation and consent, African States have now agreed upon “common values” which constitute the basic pillars of the Rule of Law and

governance in Africa. The main goal is to meet the aspirations of peoples, satisfy their expectations and meet citizens' needs for public services.

Africa is strongly committed to promote democracy and popular participation as modes of political governance and strongly rejects unconstitutional changes. Access to power is now possible solely by peaceful means. Election is still the best way for the expression of the popular will and the best method to guarantee the alternation of power.

The two working groups meeting today at Algiers have to diagnose, evaluate, theorize and propose suitable solutions, in order to sustain an evolving system established through the African Architecture of Governance.

The reflection process that will be put on rails, at the outcome of the meeting, aims at improving the efficiency of our governance instruments in the countries that adhered to the common values, by reinforcing the coordination between the different mechanisms in place.

Indeed, the values shared by the African countries on democracy and governance are enshrined in the different inter-African commitments, particularly the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

Therefore, the mission of the working groups on “**Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law**” and “**Human Rights and Transitional Justice**” is to identify the best ways to fulfill the objectives of the African Platform of Governance, which are unique to Africa. With respect to the progress achieved and the age-old wisdom of our Continent, I am both confident and convinced that we have the necessary capacity and the required pedagogy to provide the best remedies to the problems of Africa. This conviction has been illustrated by the Conference of Algiers, held on November 2014 at the occasion of the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Council.

I single out among you certain African eminent personalities, who participated in that Conference, please allow me to salute them. The materials of the Conference, now available, is a rich source of useful documentation to your studies and researches, as it concerns “the advances of the Constitutional Law in Africa”.

I am particularly pleased to have this opportunity today to contribute, once again, to the current momentum and efforts to implement the African Platform of Governance. I would like to extend my sincere wishes that your proceedings will trace a path tuned to the ambition we have for Africa.

I declare this meeting open and I wish you the best of success.