FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

At the initiative of the Government of Angola, in its capacity as current Chairman of the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC), in partnership with the Executive Secretariat of the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) organised a Conference on "Peace and Security in the Gulf of Guinea Region", from 27–29 November 2012, at the Talatona Conference Centre (CCTA), Luanda.

The Opening ceremony was chaired by His Excellency, Mr Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Minister of External Relations, representing His Excellency Engineer José Eduardo dos Santos, President of Angola, was supported by His Excellency, Dr Abou Moussa, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Dr Miguel Anjos da Cunha Lisboa Trovoada, Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission, Mr Samuel Kame-Domguia, representing the African Union and Mr Sean Doyle, on behalf of the European Union.

The 'Luanda Conference on Peace and Security in the Gulf of Guinea ", with the theme "NO PEACE AND SECURITY NO DEVELOPMENT”, had the following objectives:

- To assess the state of global peace and security in the region and appreciate its prospective development, emphasizing the factors that may influence it;
• to Assess the state of maritime security and its importance for the region's development. And in prospective manner develop effective policies and actions to achieve them;
• To Assess the factors that influence environmental security in the region and suggest ideas that may evolve into policy and action to ensure it.

In his opening speech, His Excellency the Minister of External Relations, stressed the purpose of the Conference "contribute to the transformation of the Gulf of Guinea region into a Zone of peace and security" and regretted the fact that the prevalence of armed conflicts in Africa continues to threaten peace and security, which imposes the need to strengthen regional organizations for them to be able to guarantee the effective fulfilment of their respective objectives."

His Excellency, the Minister of External Relations, emphasized that the enormous potentials of the region, such as having the third largest river basin and the second largest forest in the world, without forgetting the important reserves of oil and gas, "make the Gulf of Guinea region a vital zone of interest of the global economy".

Referring to international terrorism, drug trafficking, sea piracy, armed robbery at sea and marine pollution from industrial sources, the Minister of External Relations, as “some of the main factors that have an impact on security and development in the region and calls on the Member States to give them appropriate answers.”
In addition to the Government of Angola, as co-organizer and current Chairman of the CGG, the following countries and organisations also participated:

- Representatives of Member States of the Gulf of Guinea Commission with the exception of Cameroon.
- United Nations.
- African Union.
- European Union.
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).
- Southern African Development Community (SADC).
- Government of the United States of America.
- Government of the People's Republic of China.
- Government of the Federal Republic of Brazil.
- Government of the Republic of South Africa.
- Government of Portugal.
- Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Several sub-themes were discussed by participants who were, organised in panels, with key speakers and moderators from various regional and international institutions and representatives of Member States of the Gulf of Guinea Commission.

Thematic panels addressed the following issues:

- **The Gulf of Guinea, Zone of Peace and Security (Central Panel).**

This panel discussed the environment of peace and security in the region and the factors that influence it as well as analysed the mechanism for the management of peace and security in the region.
• **The influence of peace and security in the Gulf of Guinea for the stability and development of the continent.**

This panel examined the integration of the CGG in the architecture of peace and security defined by the 'Protocol on the Council for Peace and Security', under the 'Common African Defence and Security Policy'.

• **The Extension of the Continental Shelf, need and challenge for the Gulf of Guinea.**

This panel examined the benefits to the region of the extension of the Continental Shelf of the Member States of the GGC, as well as the challenges to be faced for its realization.

• **The state and the consequences of illegal immigration to peace and security in the Gulf of Guinea region.**

This panel examined the evolution of immigration in the region and its character. On the other hand, it evaluated the influence that this phenomenon has had on the peace and security of the region.

• **The importance of security in the Gulf of Guinea region as a maritime transport route.**

This panel also determined essentially the current level of use of the sea in the region as an international trade route, as well as the dangers to which this navigation is subject.

• **The contribution of the mechanism for maintenance of peace and security in Central Africa (COPAX) to the security of the Gulf of Guinea region.**

This panel evaluated from the experience of operating COPAX, the potential framework for cooperation between ECCAS and CGG in matters of safety,
both in continental and maritime environment, which clarifies any difficulties, that may be brought about by the fact that some Member States are members of other of regional security systems.

- **The South Atlantic as Zone of Peace and Cooperation: Partnerships and Opportunities.**

  This panel emphasized the importance of the South Atlantic area not only in the aspects of peace and security but also of cooperation and development. It also presented the partnership that Brazil has developed with African countries in the Gulf of Guinea and the initiatives and project proposals that could be adopted. It also seized the occasion to inform the completion of the 7th Ministerial meeting of South Atlantic Zone of Peace and Cooperation (ZOPACAS) from 15 to 16 January 2013, in Montevideo, capital city of Uruguay.

- **The ecosystem of the Gulf of Guinea region as part of its security environment.**

  This panel assessed the risks hanging over the ecosystem (forests and river basin), as well as on the marine environment of the region, both highlighted by both the industrial players, and by domestic agents or others and how these may affect peace and security in the region, the continent and the world at large.

And finally, the theme of:

**The Gulf of Guinea region in the production and international trade of drugs**, which analyzed the influence of production and international drug trafficking on peace and security in the Gulf of Guinea region and in the continent in general.
The conference adopted the "Luanda Declaration on Peace and Security in the Gulf of Guinea region" which was signed by H.E. Dr Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola and by His Excellency Dr Miguel Anjos da Cunha Lisboa Trovoada, Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission, on behalf of the Conference participants.

The Closing Session held on 29 November 2012 at the Talatona Conference centre was chaired by H.E. Dr Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, supported by H.E. Dr Miguel Anjos da Cunha Lisboa Trovoada, Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission.

Done at Luanda on 29 November 2012.

LUANDA CONFERENCE ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE GULF OF GUINEA REGION