I - Preamble

INSPIRED by the will to develop and build on the good neighbourly relations among the Gulf of Guinea States and RESOLVED to remove the obstacles that may hamper their cooperation and the maintenance of the conditions of peace and security among them, the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Gabon, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, signed on 3 July 2001, in Libreville, a Treaty establishing the Gulf of Guinea Commission as a permanent framework for collective action, with a view to ensure peace, security and stability as key conditions for economic development and social progress of its peoples.

Within this framework,

We, the participants to the Luanda Conference on Peace and Security in the Gulf of Guinea region, meet on 27-29 November 2012 at Talatona Convention Centre in Luanda, Republic of Angola;

1. Considering that under Article 1 of the United Nations Charter, the Organization’s main purpose is to maintain world peace and security;
2. Considering that Article 2 of the United Nations Charter provides that Member States shall settle their disputes by peaceful means so as not to endanger international peace and security, as well as justice;

3. Recognizing as valid the concept that states that "peace is more than strict absence of armed conflict" and that peace is related to the suppression of all kinds of violence directly or otherwise, including political, economic, social and cultural.

4. Aware that peace is inseparable from ability of the human being to satisfy their needs as well as to observe human rights and dignity;


6. Reaffirming the principles and objectives of the Treaty on the Gulf of Guinea Commission of 3 July 2001;

7. Convinced that without peace and security, it is not possible the harmonized development of regional states.

8. Concerned over the recurrence of armed conflicts in some states in the Gulf of Guinea Commission region, which endanger peace and security throughout the region and the continent;

9. Convinced that the deterioration of the natural environment of the region can contribute to the degeneration of the conditions of welfare of the people of the region and thus create situations that affect peace and security;
10. Convinced that immigration out of the national standards set by each country can generate conflicts that may affect the environment of peace and security in the region;

11. Concerned with the increasing inclusion of the region, on the route of drug trafficking and transnational organized crime of another kind;

12. Concerned with the increase in frequency and territorial extension of cases of piracy and armed robberies on the coastal seas of the region;

13. Convinced that respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, interests and objectives of the regional states is a prerequisite for the establishment, maintenance and development of an environment of peace and security, to facilitate economic and social progress of the region;

14. Convinced of the linkage between the theft of oil resources and the increase in the number and violent nature of piracy attacks in the region aided by international syndicates that facilitate the sale thereof;

15. Considering the provisions of UNSC Resolutions 2018 (2011) and 2039 (2012);

16. Convinced that building a future of peace and security in the region requires the establishment of relations among member states, based on trust, solidarity, cooperation and integration within the framework of a comprehensive regional vision, as well as the promotion of a culture of peace among its citizens;
II. We urge the States of the Gulf of Guinea, international partners, both States and relevant international organizations, to

17. Support fully, and in all circumstances, the processes leading to the establishment of peace in the region, encourage actions towards deepening these processes and refrain from any attitude that may affect them negatively.

18. Develop concrete actions towards the materialization in the region, the “AU Pact of Non-Aggression and Common Defence”, with the aim of promoting cooperation and non-aggression between states, the common defence, promote peaceful coexistence, prevention of both inter-state and intra-state conflicts and ensure that disputes are resolved through peaceful means, meaning dialogue and negotiations.

19. Promote trust among regional states and between these regional states with those of other regions, through the establishment of policies, measures and mechanisms that strengthen good neighbourly relations and multilateral cooperation, based on the perception of absence of military threat, pressure, political coercion or other acts against the region or any of its members and that could jeopardize the lives of its citizens, the cultural values of the community, as well as its sustained development and the ability to promote the region as an international actor.

20. Initiate and canvass for an international framework against the purchase of stolen crude oil and develop national framework to prosecute and punish perpetrators of these illegal acts;

21. Develop common policies to prevent the proliferation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and ensure implementation of agreements and other existing mechanisms.
22. Promote the development of concerted migration policies and measures that will encourage legal migration that guarantees the rights of migrants and the security of states.

23. Intensify the fight against cross-border crime and international terrorism, by harmonizing and/or establishing common policies and laws on the subject.

24. Promote a political, economic and social environment in the region, based on the values of democracy, respect for human rights and good governance, by combating any ideology, policy or practice that promotes racism, ethnicity, or any other form of segregation and/or violence, and to ensure an improved efficiency of judicial services, consolidation of the rule of law and transparency of electoral processes.

25. Promote an effective participation of the civil society in strengthening democracy and good governance of the states in the region, particularly through the promotion of their participation at the local level and the implementation of policies for the development of a free, pluralistic and responsible media.

26. Engage in promoting policies that, apart from strengthening the national unity of States in the region in the context of multiculturalism, develop a culture of peace, dialogue and tolerance between people of the region.

27. Promote economic cooperation and integration among the states in the region, by establishing an environment in which mutually beneficial activities can be realized by citizens (private sector); harmonize the exploration of natural resources of the Gulf of Guinea, especially those related to fishing, oil and gas, and put in place strategies to improve access to international markets for local products; cooperate in the field of maritime communications, integration of ground and air transport networks, as well as cooperating in the field of new information and communication technologies.
28. Promote common policies and strategies for the sustainable management of mineral resources and others, as well as the sound management of the environment and ecosystem of the region.

29. Develop common policies and strategies for the region aimed at combating the production and consumption of psychotropic substances, as well as the use of its territory as a trafficking route to other regions.

30. Observe strictly the norms and principles of International Humanitarian Law and relevant conventions, particularly the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on the protection of civilians in conflict areas.

31. Be open to international cooperation at the global level, with all states and organizations concerned in maintaining and consolidating peace, security, democracy and good governance in the Gulf of Guinea.

32. Work together to develop and implement a comprehensive (long term) strategy for peace, security and development of the Gulf of Guinea region, on both sea and land, by the sub-regional organizations of ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC, in close collaboration with AU, ZOPACAS and UN.

33. Consider the possibility of establishing a permanent mechanism to monitor and enforce peace and security in the region.
Done in Luanda the 29th day of November 2012.

Note: The original versions in Spanish, French, English and Portuguese all have equal validity.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE GULF OF GUINEA COMMISSION

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE GULF OF GUINEA COMMISSION

Dr. GEORGES REBELO PINTO CHICOTI

Dr. MIGUEL ÂNJOS C. L. TROVOADA