

Message from the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union, H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye

Greetings to the Chair of ACCORD, Madame Graça Machel, the Founder and Executive Director of ACCORD, Dr Vasu Gounden & all our distinguished guests on this momentous occasion and celebration.

It is unfortunate that I could not attend the celebrations of ACCORD's 30th anniversary in person, an institution we hold so dear in the AU... but nonetheless, it is an honour that I embrace whole-heartedly, to be part of your celebration through this message.

I often remind Vasu, that although I am now on the Peace and Security side of our journey for a better Africa, I have known ACCORD when I was on the development side, that is, since my NEPAD days. This fact alone, is a sign that ACCORD's approach to peace and security has been comprehensive!

Indeed, ACCORD has shared a foundational journey with the AU, having been a close contributor to our transition from the OAU which it has worked with since 1993.

I can confidently express to you all that when I think of the AU's Peace & Security architecture - which turns 20 this year - and how it was shaped, and what it has done to date, one sees the contribution of ACCORD. Through your work, you have been an integral part of the AU's discourse on peace and security.

Within the Headquarters of the AU... ACCORD's contribution has been most significant in: the civilian dimension of our Peace Support Operations, in the shaping of our Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Frameworks, in the elaboration of our mediation responses, and in complementing our conflict resolution efforts in countries such as Burundi, DRC, Madagascar, Sudan, and Central African Republic, among many others.

Today's 30th commemoration of ACCORD is a visual and self-evident reminder of the institution's commitment to an idea we all hold dear of African solutions to Africa Challenges!

I sincerely hope that this principle will continue to steer ACCORD's efforts as we confront complex, multi-dimensional and violent conflicts in Africa and the world... Believing that, together and through collective and complimentary efforts, we will indeed silence the guns in Africa, and achieve the Africa We Want to see by 2063.

It is a great honour to be amongst you all today as we celebrate an African achievement beyond measure.... ACCORD's 30th Anniversary!