



JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE AFRICAN UNION (AU) **AND THE CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL (CAF)**

The 27th African Cup of Nations Orange (CAN) commenced on Sunday, 10 January 2010, in Luanda, Angola, following a spectacular opening ceremony and a match of high intensity between the host country Angola and her opponent of the day, Mali.

The 27th CAN has an even greater significance this year, taking place as it does only six months before the first World Cup to be held on the African continent, in the year designated by the African Union, in its Declaration on the Elimination of Conflicts in Africa and the Promotion of Sustainable Peace adopted by the Special Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Tripoli, Libya, on 31 August 2009, as the Year of Peace and Security in Africa.

As part of the Year of Peace and Security and on the occasion of the African Cup of Nations Orange, the African Union and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) have partnered to highlight efforts deployed to promote peace and security on the continent.

The CAF and the AU are currently identifying other activities which will take place throughout 2010, including broadcasting messages of peace, seminars on promoting peace and security through sport and a solidarity campaign.

The objectives of the Year of Peace and Security are to give new impetus to efforts for peace and security on the continent; give greater visibility to ongoing and past efforts by the AU on the ground; speed up the implementation of the commitments made by Member States in various relevant AU instruments; and harmonize all efforts to promote peace and security, including those undertaken at grassroots level.

In the hope that this partnership will strengthen brotherhood among peoples and promote peace and security on the continent, the coming weeks will make it possible to celebrate the African football through what is undoubtedly one of the largest sports and youth events in the world.

Addis Ababa and Cairo, 12 January 2010