

**REMARKS BY PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL AMBASSADOR  
NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE DURING THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
ACCORD AND WELCOME DINNER FOR AU DELEGATES HELD  
AT THE INKOSI ALBERT LUTHULI INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION CENTRE ON SUNDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2022**

**Programme Director;**

**President of the Republic Mr Cyril Ramaphosa (in absentia);**

**Chairperson of the ACCORD Board of Trustees Mrs Graca  
Machel;**

**Executive Director and Founder of ACCORD, Dr Vasu Gounden;**

**Members of the Executive Council;**

**Mayors and Councillors;**

**Members of the Diplomatic Community:**

**Former Minister Lina Ekomo from the Central African Republic,  
representing H.E. Catherine Samba-Panza, Co-Chair, FEMWISE;**

**Chair of the Africa Peace and Security Council of the African  
Union H.E. Emilia Ndiaye;**

**Commissioner of the Economic Community of Central African  
States Yvette Ngandu;**

**CEO of the African Peer Review Mechanism Dr Eddy Maloka;**

**African Youth Ambassador for Peace Ms Diana Chando;**

**Delegates to the Second Joint High-Level Retreat of the African  
Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Union (AU)  
Peace and Security Council (PSC);**

**Leaders of the Inter-Faith Community;**

**Traditional and Community Leaders;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**Good Evening!**

Allow me to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the organisers of this prestigious gathering for the great work that you do.

You are all most welcome to our beautiful province of KwaZulu-Natal, the home of our continent's first Nobel Laureate, Inkosi Albert Luthuli, a peacemaker and African revolutionary.

We are immensely proud of the peacebuilding and other interventions that the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) facilitates across our continent and indeed on the wider reaches of our planet.

We once again extend our felicitations to Her Excellency Madame Graca Machel and the Board she chairs and Dr Vasu Gounden and his team.

Distinguished Guests, for 30 years ACCORD has been a permanent presence in the lives of not only South Africans, but of Africans on the continent.

As African countries became liberated starting with Ghana in 1957, leading up to South Africa in 1994, many realised how much they had underestimated the efforts required to nurture the democratic dividend and to be unshackled completely from colonialism.

The dire warning by President Oliver Tambo in 1977 to the African National Congress he was leading at the time, looms large across the whole of Africa today.

President OR Tambo said, and I quote: *“Comrades, you might think that it is very difficult to wage a liberation struggle. Wait until you are in power..... At that stage, you will realise that it is actually more difficult to keep the power than to wage a liberation war”*.

President OR Tambo may as well have said: *“Wait until you are in power, and see how much you will need the intervention of the Africa Union and ACCORD.”*

Distinguished guests, ACCORD’s role has not been to keep parties in perpetual power. Its role, which remains undervalued,

has been to facilitate conditions for peaceful dialogue, recognising that economic growth and delivering to the masses cannot succeed in conditions of unending war.

The task of the African Union and ACCORD is ultimately to help manage the post-liberation conundrum of unmet expectations by the masses on one side, and several contending forces on the other.

Today, ladies and gentlemen climate change is opening a new frontier for conflict globally, and is a threat multiplier in Africa, a nexus identified in 2021 by our very own African Union's Peace and Security Council.

With these multiple threats, each day your work reminds us not only to be committed to institutionalising peace, but to become activists, agents and peacebuilders in our provinces, municipalities, communities and homes.

We congratulate ACCORD on reaching this significant milestone, and for having become the largest conflict management organization in Africa and one of the best in the world.

We are proud that even as you spread your wings, you remain rooted in KwaZulu-Natal where you sharpened your teeth in conflict management when we too battled political violence in the 80s and 90s.

May God continue to grant you as the Board, Executive and Staff the wisdom of Solomon to grow even stronger over the next 30-years.

### **Warm welcome to AU Delegates**

In closing, may I extend a special warm welcome on behalf of the people of KwaZulu-Natal to the delegates attending the Second Joint High-Level Retreat of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) which takes place in our beautiful City of Durban from 14-15 November 2022.

We welcome in particular the Honourable Permanent Representatives of the PSC, the Commissioner for Political Affairs, the Panel of the Wise, the APRM Focal Points, the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons, Members of the National Governing Councils and Strategic Partners.

Welcome to our province, and welcome back home to Durban, the birthplace of the African Union and ACCORD.

This is your home, and we hope to see more of you in our province soon.

Let us also extend our greetings of peace and goodwill among all during the festive season celebrations.

Nkosi sikelel' i-Afrika. May God Bless Africa!

I Thank you!