



AU-SARO BULLETIN

**AU Southern Africa
Regional Office**



**Vol. 3. No. 2
September 2008**

Inside this issue:

<i>AU Summit: Sharm-El-Sheikh</i>	1
<i>AU-SARO Activities</i>	2
<i>Editorial</i>	2
<i>45th Anniversary of Africa Day</i>	3
<i>African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI)</i>	4
<i>Africa Day Celebrations in Pictures</i>	6

Summit of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and a summit meeting for the Organization of African First Ladies.

AU SUMMIT: SHARM-EL-SHEIKH EGYPT WATER AND SANITATION

The 11th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) was held in Sharm-El-Sheikh from 30 June-1 July 2008. The Summit was preceded by the meeting of the Permanent Representative Committee, 16th Ordinary Session from 24-25 June and the Executive Council, 13th Ordinary Session from 27-28 June 2008.

The theme of the session was “**Meeting the Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation**”. The theme reflects the importance of water and sanitation for the development in Africa. Also, African leaders recognised that the strengthening of co-operation was necessary to achieve the MDGs on water and sanitation. It was envisaged that the commitment of AU would result in improved socio-economic development of Africa.

The meeting also focused on the increase in food prices and agricultural commodities.

It was recommended that the AUC should seek the technical assistance and support of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and other partners to co-ordinate efforts at addressing the food crisis in Africa. The Summit also dealt with the reports relating to MDGs; Conference of African Ministers of Interior, Economy, Finance and Planning; European-African dialogue; Peace and Security Council and State of Peace and Security in Africa; Conflicts in the African region as well as reports of the Chairperson of NEPAD and report on the reform of the United Nations. Other reports were those on the 1st meeting of the Committee of Twelve Heads of State and Government on the African Union Government, 11th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council on the AU budget held in Arusha, Tanzania from 6-7 May 2008, and recommendations of the African Union Court on 22-23 May 2008.

Sharm-El-Sheikh, further hosted on 29 June 2008, the African Summit, namely the Summit of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD); the 9th



Heads of State and Government at the 11th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt



Editorial Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation continues to be an important issue in the socio-economic development of Africa. This is one of the reasons why the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government at its 11th Ordinary Session, 30 June to 1 July 2008 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, called for accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa as stated in MDGs.

There is an urgent need to develop water and sanitation infrastructure and institutions in the continent to help provide services, protection from risks of water related disaster, develop frameworks and programmes. The attainment of these require political leadership, policy direction and advocacy as stated in the last African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW).

There should be an increase in Africa's efforts in the implementation of past declarations on water and sanitation. We should show commitment and co-operation to effectively achieve the MDG on water and sanitation.



AU-SARO ACTIVITIES

The AU Regional Delegate to SADC, Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan, on 2 May 2008, delivered a Public Lecture on **“African Union (AU): A Vital Strategy for Africa’s Development in a Changing International Economic Environment”** at the Mzuzu University, Mzuzu, Malawi. The paper stressed the importance of collective continental approach to multilateral negotiations in World Trade Organization (WTO) in order to secure trade benefits. Also, that strengthened continental regional economic integration was vital in view of the lack lustre progress in the WTO Doha Round. A vibrant continental economic integration would enhance sustainable economic growth and development of AU Member States through intra-African trade expansion and industrialization.

The AU Regional Delegate to SADC represented the AUC at the **“2008 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group”**, held in Maputo, Mozambique, 13-15 May 2008. One of the events at the meetings was the Ministerial Symposium on the theme **“Fostering Shared Growth: Urbanization, Inequalities, and Poverty in Africa”**. It was acknowledged that many cities in Africa are in the throes of rapid urbanization, but that slums are the unacceptable concomitants of this development. The trend would be intensified in the coming years. African countries are encouraged to take appropriate

policy measures to address the related social infrastructure problems.

The Senior Policy Officer, Dr. Tarek A. Sharif represented the Office at the **“Regional Workshop on Land Administration”** organized by WBI and SADC in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 12-15 May 2008. The Workshop focused on international experience on land administration, formulation, implementation of land policies, using conventional and alternative approaches to provide land tenure and security. It was generally observed that land policy in Africa is a key issue facing many challenges such as colonialism that led to control of land by colonial masters, cultural practices, poor governance, corruption, discrimination of women and the poor and lack of access to information. Participants also agreed that there was need for support from governments, private sector and donor organizations in order to achieve successful land reform programs.

Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan, led an AU-SARO delegation consisting of the Finance and Administration Officer, Mr. Misbahu Ibrahim to attend the Southern Africa Development Forum on Progress and Prospects in the Implementation of Protocols in Southern Africa, organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Lusaka, Zambia, 29-31 May 2008. The Regional Delegate, Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan in his intervention highlighted the main challenges in achieving regional integration in Africa and the immediate solution to these challenges. Further, Prof. Olaniyan highlighted some of the general key challenges which have led to weak regional economic integration in Africa such as: sovereignty and nationalism; weak infrastruc-

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45th ANNIVERSARY OF AFRICA DAY

The African Union Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO) in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, marked the 45th Anniversary of Africa Day at the Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe, Malawi on 26 May 2008. The theme of the anniversary was **“Meeting the Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation”** reflecting the importance of the theme on the development of Africa.



*Guest on Honor, Hon. Joyce Banda,
M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs*

Hon. Joyce Banda, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs was the Guest of Honor at the celebration. Other important distinguished invited guests included, ministers, parliamentarians, heads of diplomatic missions, representatives of inter-governmental organizations and senior officials from the private sector, academics and civil society.

The Minister in her statement commended the AU for its leadership role in accelerating the process of Africa’s economic integration. She stated that the Malawi Government is strongly committed that Malawians have access to clean water. In effect, the Minister indicated that 74% of Malawians are supposed to have access to portable water by 2015. On sanitation, Hon. Banda said in 2000, about 81% households had access to improved sanitation which rose to 84% in 2006.

The Minister indicated that the Malawian Government embarked on the rehabilitation and construction of new dams to maintain and sustain ground water levels. She further paid gratitude to the former Chairperson of the AU Commission H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare for his leadership and achievements which the AU has made in the past few years. The Hon. Minister, also congratulated the newly elected Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Jean Ping.

Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan, AU Regional Delegate to SADC read a statement on behalf of H.E. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The statement highlighted the importance of the occasion to Africa and observed the persisting and emerging social issues such as water, sanitation and health in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In this connection, he stated that the AU is in the forefront to lead in the drive to re-invigorate the continent’s capacity to mitigate and adapt to the challenges of water and sanitation degradation aggravated by many environmental and socio-economic conditions.

H.E. Ms. Ntshadi M. Tsheole, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa in her statement as the current Chair of the African Group of Ambassadors in Malawi, further indicated the importance of Africa Day to all Africans. The High Commissioner stated that Africa Day is a reminder of the historical struggle for independence by the founding fathers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963.

Further, H.E. Ms. Tsheole, stressed that the African Union (AU) provided new dimension in the effort to find solutions to Africa’s problems and meet the UN Millennium development Goals. She further highlighted the importance of unity amongst African countries for rapid achievement of the MDGs.



*H.E. Ntshadi M. Tsheole
High Commissioner
Republic of South Africa*



AU-SARO ACTIVITIES

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tures and institutions; weak implementation of Protocols and multiplicity of RECs and integration. He then recommended the following measures to address these challenges in the continent such as: political stability; sovereignty; proper infrastructure and institutions; sound and adequate financial support amongst others. In his concluding remarks, Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan stressed the importance of finding urgent solutions to the challenges facing regional integration as the continent is confronted with uncertainties about future economic growth and development.

On 2 June 2008, the AU Regional Delegate to SADC, gave a statement at the 14th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa (ICE), organised by UNECA in Lusaka, Zambia. In his statement, Prof. Olaniyan commended UNECA for its commitment to the provision of robust technical support for the integration process in the region. He then emphasized on the importance of Free Trade Area (FTA) and Customs Union (CU) to the Southern Region of Africa and to the continental integration. Further, he pointed out the importance of effectively addressing the bottlenecks in the ratification of protocols, adequately addressing the issue of customs and immigration, harmonization of information technology sys-

tems, adequate funding and collective regional strategies to address the global rising oil and food prices to help non-oil producing countries in Africa. In his concluding remarks, Prof. Olaniyan emphasized that the trade and development benefits of integration are in the long-term. Also, a strong political will is vital to the attainment of lasting and sound integration. Furthermore, that there should be an understanding of the necessity for progressive surrender of sovereignty towards a shared destiny. Regional integration is a complex process, will require bold approaches and application of appropriate instruments for it to succeed.

The AU Regional Delegate to SADC was mandated by the AUC to represent H.E. Jean Ping, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission at the Partners Round Table in Antananarivo, Madagascar from 9-10 June 2008. The Regional Delegate in his brief intervention, recommended the Government of Madagascar and Africa's development partners in their efforts to advance development in Madagascar. He applauded the Government of Madagascar on its commitment to the implementation of economic sound policy that has led to significant transformation in governance of economic and social areas. These policies have resulted in significant decrease in poverty level, which fell to "about 69% from a peak of 80% in 2002." This improvement was in line with Africa's aspirations to attain the United Nations MDGs including the target growth rate of 7.5% per annum, a precondition to lead to the halving of poverty by 2015. He reiterated that it was his belief that at the close of the Round Table, strong recommendations would be made on the way forward in particular of new additional resources from development partners as successful growth and development in Madagascar is intricately linked to overall economic integration and development for Africa as a whole.

AFRICAN REHABILITATION INSTITUTE



*Dr. Papa Malick Fall
Executive Director
African Rehabilitation Institute*

The African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) is a specialized Agency of the African Union dealing with disability issues and issues related to persons with disabilities in Africa. The Institute collaborates with African Governments, African and International Non-Governmental Organizations and the United Nations Specialized agencies, for the purpose of developing a concept of African self-reliance in various fields of disability prevention, medical rehabilitation, special education, equalization of employment opportunities for disabled persons, giving priority in the area of training professional personnel, and evaluate programmes in these specialized fields.

The idea of the Institute was conceived and nourished during the African Regional Conference on

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AFRICAN REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

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the International Year of the Disabled Persons in 1980. The conference was organized jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The conference adopted a resolution that called for the development of Regional Programmes for Africa, concerning the socio-economic integration of disabled persons. The ARI Headquarters and the Southern Regional Office is located in the City of Harare, Zimbabwe. The Institute was officially launched in 1987 and the headquarters was inaugurated on 11th May 1988 when it was officially handed over to the Chairman of the ARI Governing Board.

The Institute has regional offices in Dakar, Senegal for the ARI West Africa region, and in Brazzaville for the Central Africa region.

Other regional offices will be operational soon in Tripoli, Libya for the North Africa region and either in Kampala, Uganda or Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania for the East Africa region.

The mandate and objectives of ARI are based upon those originally formulated in 1981 and include new society demands and developments, taking into consideration governments capacity building and the concerns of disabled people's organizations.

ARI mandate is, to name but a

few :-

- a) To assist Member States to enhance disability prevention and rehabilitation services and to ensure Human Rights for persons with disabilities and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life.
- b) To promote and encourage the implementation of the Continental Plan of Action for the African Decade of People with Disabilities, UN Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities among the Member States of the AU and other conventions that might restore and uplift the lives of persons with disabilities.
- c) To implement active participating collaboration with disabled people's organizations, to ensure the understanding of disability concerns and thereby strengthening ARI's policies and programmes.

The Institute is composed of three main organs, namely the Labor and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC), the Governing Board (GB) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Two other organs are the General Secretariat of ARI and the Regional Offices and other organs as may be established by the Labor and Social Affairs Commission.

Membership of the Institute is open to all AU Member States, International and Non-Governmental Organizations. The countries which have signed

and ratified the ARI General Agreement to date are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Benin | 2. Botswana |
| 3. Burkina Faso | 4. Cameroon |
| 5. Chad | 6. Congo |
| 7. Ghana | 8. Guinea Conakry |
| 9. Equatorial Guinea | 10. Lesotho |
| 11. Libya | 12. Malawi |
| 13. Mali | 14. Mauritania |
| 15. Mozambique | 16. Namibia |
| 17. Niger | 18. Nigeria |
| 19. Senegal | 20. Swaziland |
| 20. Tanzania | 22. Togo |
| 22. Uganda | 24. Zambia |
| 25. Zimbabwe | 26. Kenya |

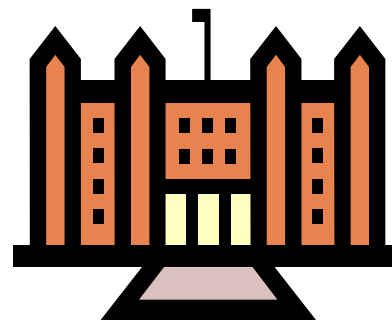
Countries that have signed but not yet ratified the ARI General Agreement are as follows:

1. Comoros
2. Cote d'Ivoire
3. Egypt
4. Gabon

Countries that have promised to sign and ratify the Agreement are as follows:

1. Gabon
2. Rwanda
3. South Africa
4. The Gambia

Dr. Papa Malick Fall
Executive Director
African Rehabilitation Institute





45th ANNIVERSARY OF AFRICA DAY COMMEMORATION IN PICTURES



The AU Regional Delegate to SADC, Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan, welcomes the Guest of Honor, Hon. Joyce Banda, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs to the 45th Anniversary of Africa Day



Hon. Joyce Banda, M.P. and Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan follow proceedings of the events at the 45th Anniversary Celebrations of Africa Day



A cross-section of some of the guests at the Reception of the 45th Anniversary of Africa Day

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NOTE

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