

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 5130 36

website: www.africa-union.org

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JACQUES DIOUF PRIZE FOR FOOD SECURITY

***(Item proposed by the Republic of Mali and co-sponsored
by the Republic of Malawi)***

JACQUES DIOUF PRIZE FOR FOOD SECURITY
*(Item proposed by the Republic of Mali and co-sponsored
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BACKGROUND

1. Africa undoubtedly appreciates the commitment by Dr. Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), to Africa's agriculture agenda during his three consecutive terms of office since 1994.

2. At its 2nd Ordinary Session, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Union held in Maputo, Mozambique from 10 to 12 July 2003, adopted a Declaration commending Dr. Jacques Diouf for pioneering concrete actions towards the development and improvement of Agriculture, enhancement of food security and eradication of poverty in Africa.

3. Similarly, at its 26th Session, the United Nations food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Regional Conference for Africa that was held in Luanda, Angola, from 4 to 7 July 2010, the Ministers of Agriculture unanimously expressed their appreciation to Dr. Jacques Diouf for his services to Africa during his tenure of office as Director-General of the FAO and sought assistance of the Angolan leadership to request the African Union to create a Jacques Diouf Prize for Food and Security at the African Union.

RATIONALE

4. Agriculture is the backbone of many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and over 30% of the African population is chronically and severely undernourished. Mindful of this situation, African Leaders have recognized the importance of agriculture to Africa's growth, poverty reduction and improvement in food and nutrition status and therefore committed themselves to address sustainable agricultural development, economic growth, and food and nutrition security.

5. This recognition is evident from the number of decisions on agriculture and food security that the African Union has adopted since its inception in 2000, notably:

- the launch of the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in 2003 as a framework to give a new impetus to food security and agriculture development in the continent and to make African countries more responsible for their own destiny in food security and their economic development;

- the 2004 Sirte decision which recommended, *inter alia*, expediting the implementation of the CAADP commitment to allocate at least 10% of national budgetary resources to agriculture and assessing the feasibility of establishing an African Agriculture Development Fund;
- the outcomes of the 2006 Abuja Fertilizer Summit which proposed measures for reducing the cost of fertilizer to farmers and the 2006 Abuja Food Security Summit that focused on promoting intra-African trade; and
- the 2010 recommitment to a vision of a Food-Secure Africa within the next five years.

6. Despite the foregoing, implementation on the ground has not always been commensurate with declared commitments by the African Leaders. In this regard, more efforts to implement previous initiatives as well as new initiatives that would help boost food security and economic development in Africa cannot be over-emphasized. It is believed that the proposed food security prize, which has in the past been established for previous FAO Director-Generals, will not only commemorate the services of an African son and intellectual, but will also immensely contribute towards entrenching Africa's commitment to implement food security initiatives.

ELIGIBILITY

7. Member States of the African Union or institutions that have implemented, with particular efficiency, an activity in the areas mentioned in paragraph 8 below, will be eligible to compete for the award.

BASIC CRITERIA

8. The winning country or institution must have an outstanding contribution towards achieving food security, in particular, through the improvement of small-scale irrigation or the prevention and elimination of posts-harvest losses in rural communities.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PRIZE

9. The Prize shall comprise the following:

- a) A medal engraved with the name of the country or institution;
- b) A scroll describing the achievements;
- c) A cash prize of US\$10,000.00;

- d) One return economy air ticket and Daily Subsistence Allowance (AU rates) for 4 days payable to the recipient.

FINANCING

- 10. The Prize shall be financed from voluntary contributions of African Union Member States and other partners.

PROCEDURES AND GENERAL GUIDELINES

Timeframe

- 11. The Prize shall be awarded every two years.

Submission of Nominations

- 12. Proposals for nominations shall be submitted twelve months before the Award Ceremony by any AU Member State or institution to the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture whose office shall serve as the Award Secretariat.

SCREENING COMMITTEE

- 13. There shall be a Screening Committee composed of:

- a) AU Ambassadors of countries holding the chairs of the recognised Regional Economic Communities;
- b) The Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture;
- c) Head of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA).

- 14. The Screening Committee shall review the list of nominations submitted by the Award Secretariat and shall prepare a short list of three nominated countries or institutions.

- 15. The Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture shall ensure that the short list is submitted to the Chairperson of the Selection Committee six months before the Award Ceremony.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

- 16. There shall be a Selection Committee comprising the Chairperson of the African Union, who shall also serve as the chair of the Committee; the Chairperson of the

African Union Commission and two other personalities selected by the sitting Chairperson of the African Union. The Selection Committee shall make a final decision on the basis of the short list submitted by the Screening Committee.

CONFERMENT OF THE AWARD

17. The Prize shall be conferred and presented during a special ceremony, to the President or representative of the selected country or institution by the sitting Chairperson of the African Union during the Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union.

2011-06-30

Jacques Diouf prize for food security (Item proposed by the Republic of Mali and co-sponsored by the Republic of Malawi)

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