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**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**PLANING WORKSHOP OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FIRST CROSS BORDER  
LANGUAGE COMMISSIONS OF THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES (ACALAN)**

**January 2010**

## I- CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION:

Since 2006, the year of the adoption of the Statutes of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), the specialized Institution of the African Union, UNESCO and other partners such as OIF, the Swiss Cooperation and the Spanish Embassy have decided to put together their efforts in order to reinforce the process of development and of promotion of African languages in organizing a series of conferences in the various regions in Africa, on the theme : « **National Policies: the role of cross border languages and the place of lesser used languages** ».

After the Conference in West Africa, in Central Africa, in Southern Africa, in Eastern Africa and in North Africa, the synthesis Conference, held in Addis-Ababa at the headquarter of the African Union in February 5 – 7, 2009, validated the recommendations of the regional conferences, identified throughout the continent, 41 vehicular cross border languages on which ACALAN is going to focus in the next 10-15 years, and more specifically on the first 12 languages selected for the establishment of Cross Border Language Commissions. They are: **Standard modern Arabe and Berbere** for North Africa ; **Hausa, Mandenkan Fulfulde** for West Africa; **Kiswahili, Somali Malagasy** for Eastern Africa; **Chichewa/chinyanja and Setswana** for Southern Africa, and **Lingala and Beti-fang** for Central Africa. The put in place in each region identified the potential members of the Vehicular Cross Border Language Commissions.

Twelve (12 objectives have been worked out for the Vehicular Cross Border Language Commissions, that is.

1. To encourage sponsor and undertake research on the language.
2. To harmonise differences in orthographic practices.
3. The Language Commissions are to work towards the evolution of the standard form of the language.
4. To engage in language promotion activities so as to increase the domain which the language is used.
5. To undertake terminology creation in order to facilitate the use of the language in wider domain, particularly in education and specifically in science and technology.
6. To sponsor and encourage research in the use of the language as a medium of instruction.
7. To encourage production of literary, pedagogic and technical material for the language.
8. To encourage the training of younger researchers.
9. To advocate the use of the language as a working language in some public domains.
10. Co-opt and enlist the interest of groups and individuals interested in the promotion of the language.
11. To exchange experiences with other Language Commissions, particularly in the adoption of new technologies for African languages.

12. To seek and raise funds for the activities of the Commissions,

The launching of the first Cross Border Vehicular Language Commissions that the Synthesis Conference recommended through the Regional Operational Workshops has just started with the establishment in Southern Africa of the *Chichewa/chinyanja and Setswana* Commissions, and in West Africa those of *Hausa, Mandenkan and Fulfulde*.

### **Global Objectives**

The current planning workshops will identify, analyze, prioritize and plan the priority activities to be implemented by the Vehicular Cross Border Language Commissions for the coming three years.

### **Specific Objectives**

These planning workshops aim at the following objectives:

- To plan the priority activities of the Vehicular Cross Border Languages for the next three (03) years.
- To agree on the modalities of operation of the Cross Border Vehicular Language Commissions and of the National Languages Structures;
- To make clear the role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), of the Regional Languages Centres (RLC), Universities, Civil Society Organizations and the regional focal points in the operation of the Cross Border Vehicular Language Commissions (VCBLC);
- Discuss any other issue pertinent to the operation of the VCBLC.

### **METHODOLOGY :**

The workshop sessions will be carried out in forms of presentations and sharing among the participants, of plenary sessions and group works, with the assistance of the members of the Assembly of the Academicians and of resource persons (Focal Points, University departments concerned) with an in-depth knowledge on the issue.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- A Plan of action for the priority activities of each CBVLC is elaborated;
- The modalities of operation of the CBVLC and of national Structures of languages are stated out;
- The role of the RECs, RLCs, the regional Focal Points (etc) is clearly defined;
- Any other question related to the operation of the CBVLC is made clear.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Will participate in these workshops the members of the CBVLC, the member of the Assembly of the Academicians of ACALAN in the region concerned, the representative of the Regional Economic Community (REC), the representative of the Regional Languages Centre (RLC) such as CELTHO, CERDOTOLA, CICIBA, AECROTANAL, etc, resource persons (Focal Points, University departments concerned) and the representative from ACALAN, one or two representative(s) from the host country.

### **BUDGET**

ACALAN/AUC – Spanish Government – Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – Host  
Countries, Regional Language/Cultural Centres, etc

**PLANNING MEETINGS OF THE PRIORITY ACTIVITIES OF THE VEHICULAR CROSS-BORDER LANGUAGE COMMISSIONS**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**14.03.2010**

**Arrival of Participants and Registration**

**Day 1**

**9:00– 10:30**

Opening of the Session:

- Welcoming remarks and presentation of ACALAN by the Executive Secretary of ACALAN
- Speech by the Hon. Minister for Education or his Representative
- Opening Speech by the Chairperson of the Commission

**10:30-11.00**

- **Coffee Break**

**11:00-11:30**

Introduction of the Participants

**11:30-11:45**

Adoption of the program by the participants and other Administrative matters

**11.45-12.30**

Questions and Answers on ACALAN

**12:30-13:00**

Presentation of the context of the planning meeting by the Executive Secretary or by the ACALAN representative  
Discussions

**13:00-14:00**

**Lunch Break**

**14:00-15:00**

Identification of priority areas based on the ACALAN vision, missions and objectives

**15:00-18:00**

Constitution of working groups and beginning of the Commissions work

**18:00**

Closing of the Day

## **Day 2**

### *Plenary session :*

**9:00– 11:00** Adoption of the minute of the first day  
Working sessions in the working groups

**11:00- 11:30** **Coffee break**

### *Plenary session:*

**11:30- 13:00** Presentation of the outcomes of the sessions by the working groups

**13:00- 14:00** **Lunch break**

**14:00- 16:00** - Discussion on the Plan of Action  
- Strategies: discussion on the operation of the Commissions: links with the « National Structures », role of the RECs, RLCs, Universities, Focal Points, Civil society organizations, etc

**16:00- 16:30** **Coffee break**

**16:30- 17:30** Adoption of the Report

**17:30- 18:** **Closing Session**

### **Documents :**

1. Reports : Synthesis (recommendations) and VCBLC establishment
2. Statutes and Rules of Procedure
3. TORs of the Planning Workshop

2010

# Draft Terms of Reference and Draft Programme. Planning workshop of the activities of the first Cross Border Language Commissions of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN)

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