

AFRICAN UNION

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**CREATION OF A FORUM OF INTELLECTUALS FROM
AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA**

(Item proposed by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Great Jamahiriya)

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Based on the Declaration of the First Africa-South America Summit, held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 26 to 30 November 2006, and on its resolution on the Africa-South America Cooperative Forum, and in view of the importance of this Forum whose purpose is to strengthen contacts between creative persons on both continents for their mutual benefit and to raise awareness about the threat of globalisation to the identity, authenticity and heritage of peoples and nations with a History and Civilisation. It is also for the purpose of making that institution to serve as a window of Knowledge and culture which feeds present and future generations from the sources of our authentic culture, in a bid to preserve our sense of belonging and to safeguard the Latino-African identity. In addition, the strategic importance of this proposal in crystallizing a cultural vision and basis which will serve as the foundation of political action, whose cultural action is the extension and guarantee of a rapprochement between peoples and the expression of their aspirations, as the linkage between culture and Man is irrefutable. That is why we present the following:

Since Africa experienced, at the beginning of the 15th Century, a forced exodus to Europe and America and since the peoples of Latin America were subjected to collective repression and genocide, the two continents experienced the atrocities of unparalleled colonialism which uprooted peoples of both continents from their material and moral roots. The issue at hand is not to review the history of African slavery or the attempts to wipe out the identity of the Latin American peoples, but it is our duty to state that, after over four centuries of the catastrophic uprooting of African populations, the number of migrants to the Americas, a majority of whom are Africans, has reached about 190 million. With time, these migrants have become an integral part of the populations of the two continents, merging into the crucible of a common culture which may be described as Latino-African culture. Thus, the creation of a Latino-African forum does seem necessary to further strengthen historical, cultural, political and economic ties between the two continents for the purpose of jointly confronting the other blocs and form a south-south front.

The creation of such a cultural and intellectual front would constitute a solid bulwark against all attempts at interference in the internal affairs of the States of the two continents. Thus, the establishment of this institution would be of great importance for the consolidation of common cultural values, especially as other initiatives have been undertaken in this direction in the past, such as those initiated by UNESCO in collaboration with the Arab League or by the El-Babine Foundation and other entities such as the African House in Argentina.

Proposals

From this observation, we would like to propose the creation of a forum or structure that brings together all actors of the two continents involved in the cultural and intellectual domain, as that would constitute a real force for promoting cultural and intellectual values in the two continents and for propagating common values, as well as safeguarding the social fabric through the following:

- This Forum would be known as the “Latino-African Intellectuals’ Forum”.
- A group of intellectuals would also be chosen to set up a committee tasked with defining the rules of procedure of the Forum which will determine, inter alia, the legal aspect, the conditions of membership and the operating mechanism.
- Convening a meeting of all the actors in the intellectual and cultural domain of the two continents in order to draft a charter spelling out the objectives, programme of action and the timetable and venue of meetings.
- Possibility of choosing publishing houses to publish the works of writers emanating from emigrations and setting up communication companies aimed at promoting and broadcasting other artistic productions.
- Encouraging universities, in their choice of subjects for memoirs and theses, to develop an interest in the phenomenon of the enslavement of Africans and the collective genocide of Amerindians.
- Creating an arts collection and cultural heritage centre, as well as a fund for safeguarding them.

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