

AFRICAN UNION

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THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC)

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

(Item proposed by the Republic of South Africa)

The ANC Centenary Celebrations
(Item proposed by the Republic of South Africa)

I. Rationale

1. On 8 January 2012, the African National Congress will be a hundred years old. This is historic achievement for our movement, our people, our continent and the world.

2. The centenary is at first and foremost a milestone achievement of the ANC, as a liberation movement. It should therefore seek to celebrate our proud traditions, values and principles that earned our movement an indelible place in the hearts, psyche and soul of our people and all over the world. It should reflect the ANC in all its facets and dimensions – for example, mass mobilization, the underground, armed struggle and international solidarity.

3. The formation of the ANC in 1912 was a culmination of our people's struggles against colonialism, and a bringing together of tribal resistance into a common, national struggle against international imperialism and national oppression. At the core of this struggle being our people's right to choose their own destiny as a united, non-racial, non-sexist nation. The centenary should therefore celebrate all our people and their various formations – for example, men, women, youth, students, religious, traditional, workers, etc. the mission of the ANC has always been to unite all South Africans – black and white – towards the attainment of freedom and a better life for all. Therein lay, at the core, the liberation of Africans, in particular, and blacks in general.

4. The African National Congress emerged out of African's battles for liberation and self-determination. The liberation movements in our continent acted as an inspiration to the ANC and the people of our country, both in their resistance and their attainment of freedom for their people, respectively. Liberated Africa served as a home to exiled South Africans, not limited to those who were ANC members. Our vision of a free, united and prosperous people refers to us as it does to the continent as a whole. The ANC is Africa's oldest, living, national liberation movement, with much to share with and to learn from the continent. This should be linked to our proclamation that this is the African Century.

5. The centenary is a world celebration. It is a recollection of the contribution of the world to the eradication of the draconian system of apartheid. It is a celebration of humanity and friendship across boundaries of race, creed and geographical location. It is a celebration of unity among people of the world, from all walks of life against evil, because never has the world united in one resolute manner as it did during the struggle of freedom in South Africa.

6. We celebrate as Africans knowing very well where we come from. In the past year, 17 African countries celebrate 50 years of independence and other countries will join them in doing so this year and the year ahead. The independence of these countries

gave momentum and provided impetus to the fight against colonialism and apartheid on the continent. The increase number of elections during the 1990s in Africa bear testimony that the continent has indeed been moving forward in consolidating and entrenching democracy.

7. It should be underscored that the dawn of democracy on the continent also brought about its own challenges, especially in areas of governance and socio-economic development. In some parts of our continent there has been undemocratic transfer or continued procurement of political power. These practices have not only undermined the continent's efforts in pursuit of peace and stability but also reverse gains registered in the promotion of socio-economic development. It is therefore a matter of concern to witness, after the 90s, re-emergence of unconstitutional changes of government. In certain situations, it has been impossible for the African Union to respond adequately to sign of unconstitutional changes of government. In this regard there is a need to ensure that all components of the African Peace and Security Architecture operate effectively, particularly the Early Warning System so that conflicts are preventable.

II. Elements of the decision being sought from AU Summit:

- Endorse the ANC centenary celebrations;
- Recognise the achievements of the ANC;
- Own the ANC as an African liberation movement;
- Recognize the contribution of Africa, including the OAU through its Liberation Committee, to the liberation of Africa;
- Link the centenary of the ANC to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of South Africa's independence;
- Direct the AU Commission to work with South African Government in the celebration of the ANC centenary;
- Call on Member States to engage in activities in solidarity with South Africa;
- Call on the international community to observe the centenary of the ANC.

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The African National Congress (ANC) centenary celebrations (Item proposed by the Republic of South Africa)

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