



AU-SARO BULLETIN

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AU ACCRA SUMMIT: TOWARDS A UNION GOVERNMENT

The 9th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union was held in Accra, Ghana from 1 to 3 July 2007. The Summit was preceded by the meetings of the Permanent Representatives Committee 14th Ordinary Session from 25 to 26 June 2007 and the Executive Council, 11th Ordinary Session from 26 to 28 June 2007.

The Summit was dedicated to the Grand Debate on the Union Government. The debate centred on the nature of the Union Government and how and when to attain it. Generally, there was agreement with the founding fathers of the organization on the need for the United States of Africa which was significantly echoed and underscored by African leaders before the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963. There was full acknowledgement that Africa in the present global dispensation must integrate and form a strong political entity in order to be more influential and meaningfully promote the political and economic interests of the people of Africa. However, in the context of this understanding there were reflections on how far the continent had advanced in integration including those of the regional economic communities. There were strong opinions on how we can incrementally build on this and the need to have a clearer picture of the end product on continental integration. Thus, the debate was concluded with a historic Accra Declaration that reiterated the ultimate objective of the African Union to be the United States of Africa and highlighted some practical steps, to attain the Union Government. The steps flagged the need to; “(a) rationalize and strengthen the Regional Economic Communities, and harmonize their activities, in conformity with our earlier decision, so as to lead to the creation of an African Common Market, through the stages set in the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty), with a reviewed and shorter timeframe to be agreed upon in order to accelerate the economic and, possible political integration; (b) conduct immediately, an Audit of the Executive Council, in terms of Article 10 of the Constitutive Act, the Commission as well as other organs of the African Union in accordance with the Terms of Reference adopted by the 10th Extraordinary Session

of [the] Executive Council held in Zimbali, South Africa on 10 May 2007; (c) establish a ministerial committee to examine the following, (i) identification of the contents of the Union Government concept and its relations with national governments, (ii) identification of domains of competence and the impact of the establishment of the Union Government on the sovereignty of member states, (iii) definition of the relationship between the Union Government and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), (iv) elaboration of the road map together with timeframes for establishing the Union Government; and (v) identification (cont. p. 5)

62nd SESSION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: DEVELOPMENT AGENDA OF AFRICA

The 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly holding in New York, 25 September to 3 October 2007 offers another opportunity to, among other things, reexamine the progress made in international cooperation for the development of Africa. There are several important issues such as international peace and security, economic growth and sustainable development, human rights, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, disarmament and drugs, crime, and international terrorism that (cont. p. 5)

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Heads of State and Government at the 9th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union



Editorial

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

It is not an over emphasis to restate that there continues to be strong relationship between population and development as most developing countries strive to attain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

The African Union (AU) recognized this strong symbolic relation hence the establishment of the African Population Commission (APC) in 1995 to provide policy guidance on African population and development issues.

The conclusions of the APC at its recent session in Johannesburg provide new and more imaginative ways to tackle the fundamental issues on the relationship between population and development in contemporary African, political and socio-economic environment.

The conclusions, importantly emphasize the need to increase investment in programs that deal with the health of youth, women and children in line with the African Health Strategy; including side up responses to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and the reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates. In other words a healthy population is a precondition for sustainable development.

The link between population and development was highlighted, especially the expansion of programs that ensure free accessibility to primary education in line with the Second Decade of Education for Africa 2006-2015. Solid primary education is key to adequate capacity building and enduring sustainable development.

Furthermore the conclusions indicated that the migration has emerged as critical problem. In particular the migration of youths should be halted by effectively addressing its root causes, especially the lack of job opportunities and search for greener pastures. In other words an uncontrolled brain drain would seriously militate against the attainment of sustainable development.

Thus, in our drive to achieve the targets of the MDGs it is imperative to pay more attention to health, education and migration; to work out and implement more result oriented and effective health and education as well as migration policies and programs for an authentic economic growth and development.

AU-SARO ACTIVITIES

The AU Regional Delegate to SADC, Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan attended the 6th Ministerial Conference on the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic held in Luanda, Angola from 18 to 19 June 2007. The Conference was convened to assess the level of cooperation among the member states and to map out the ways forward in the coming years. At the conclusion of the Conference, the 'Luanda Plan of Action and Luanda Final Declaration' was adopted. The Luanda Plan among other things, re-emphasized the need to preserve peace, stability and security within the South Atlantic region. The Declaration commended the African Union for the establishment of the standby force and welcome the need to fully implement the 10 year plan on capacity building of the African Union as stated in the UN 2005 World Summit Outcome.

The Senior Policy Officer, Dr. Tarek A. Sharif attended the Workshop on Land Redistribution in Africa. The theme of the Workshop was 'Land Redistribution: Towards a Common Vision'. The Workshop was an outcome of joint efforts of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Southern Africa Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) and the World Bank Institute (WBI). The Workshop brought together a number of stakeholders and participants from Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe to discuss the history of land reforms, and the current programs for land reforms in the region. It was organized simultaneously in Lilongwe, Malawi and Pretoria, South Africa from 9 to 13 July, 2007, in which participants in Lilongwe and Pretoria engaged in open discussion through videoconference.

The Workshop attempted to answer a number of questions regarding land reforms. The first question was; what can be done to have successful land reform program? The second was, what was the perfect model to follow? It was acknowledged that land reform constitutes an old debate either as a government policy or as an imperative to enhance social development. The Workshop was very successful in highlighting these issues. It was a successful conference in terms of the level of participation, discussion, and the proposals generated to advance land policy reforms.

The Senior Policy Officer represented the Office at the 6th General Assembly Session of the African Population Commission (APC), held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 16

to 17 July 2007. The theme of the Session was 'Implications of the State of the African Population'. The theme was carefully selected by the APC Bureau after assessing the contents of the State of African Population Report 2006. The Conference brought to the fore the connection between population, development, integration, health and poverty in Africa and specific actions that should be addressed.

The Director of the Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA), Dr. Kenneth Hamwaka, led a delegation consisting of the Vice President of the American National Board of Certified Counselors, USA, Mr. Ted Iliff, and a Senior UNESCO Official, Ms. Ulla Kalha, to AU-SARO on 18 July 2007. The delegation had discussions with the AU Regional Delegate to SADC. At the discussions, the Director of the Center commended the support of the AU for the Center. Mr. Iliff welcomed the comments and requested for the support of the AU for future programs which his organization plans to initiate for the Center, including a proposal on Youth English Broadcast. Further discussions at the meeting stressed the importance of youth in the development of African countries; the need to create the right environment for their participation in development and building up their capacities to do so.

The Office participated at the 2nd Conference of Africa Ministers of Integration held in Kigali, Rwanda from 23 to 27 July 2007. The AU Regional Delegate represented the Office at the meeting. The central aim of the meeting was to map out the plan for rationalization and harmonization of the RECs, building on the declaration from the previous meeting in Burkina Faso. The Member States broadly acknowledged and supported the need to expedite action towards continental integration given the weak negotiating positions of individual African countries in the world economy. A number of issues surfaced during discussion, including the challenges, in the mobility of factor of production, especially of labor.

On August 17, 2007, the AU Regional Delegate to SADC made some remarks at the closing ceremony for the Regional Training on Peer Health Education, organized by the GCYDCA in Lilongwe, Malawi. He emphasized in his remarks that the training was within the context of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the African Union Decision and Declaration of preparing youths for greater role in development process. Peer review would ensure that the youths learn from each other in their operations in their different countries.



Zambia and Malawi Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defense and Security



H.E. Mr. Mweemba Joshua Simuyandi

Zambia and Malawi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Military Training and Co-operation on 22 August, 2007 at the Ministry of Defense Headquarters in Lilongwe.

His Excellency Mr. Mweemba Joshua Simuyandi, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia to Malawi signed the document for the Commander-in-Chief and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zambia, while Honorable Bob Khamisa, M.P., signed for and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Malawi.

The signed MoU aims at promoting co-operation between both Defense Forces in Military Training as well as identifying a framework for exchange of experience and expertise for mutual benefit and use. In order to achieve this, the MoU seeks to facilitate the conduct of military training and exercise. It provides for the sending of training teams, exchange of officers on advisory, instruction on monitoring role, exchange of military intelligence related to training exercises and sending or receiving each others' trainees.

The agreement also articulates the modalities of medical provisions for trainees, facilitation of good communication between the two defense forces, rules governing confidentiality, privileges and immunities, indemnity and amendments. This MoU is a brain child of the sub-committee on Defense and Security matters, under the main Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation between the two countries.

The Sub-Committee on Defense and Security meets on regular basis annually to review operations for the mutual benefit of each member state.

*H.E. Mr. Mweemba Joshua Simuyandi
High Commissioner
Republic of Zambia, Malawi*

Zambia Officially Launches the Construction of Chipata/Mchinji Railway

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, SC., accompanied by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Malawi, Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, on 24 August, 2007 officially launched the construction works of the Chipata/Mchinji Railway line.

When completed, the Chipata/Mchinji Railway line will effectively link Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique along the Nacala Corridor and through to the deep sea Port of Nacala on the Indian Ocean.

For Zambia, this railway line should provide eastern Zambia the shortest route to a sea port with the potential to reduce by 40-60 percent inland freight costs on imports and exports. The three countries are currently involved in the Triangle of Hope that seeks to promote development in various fields along this corridor for the benefit of its peoples.

It was therefore befitting that His Excellency Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, SC., of the Republic of Zambia who only a few days previously, on 16 August, 2007 assumed the Chair of SADC for the ensuing twelve months to August, 2008, launched this infrastructure development project which will connect Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. It will be recalled that this SADC Summit, urged the deepening of Regional integration through infrastructure development.

The Chipata/Mchinji Railway line project is one of the regional infrastructure projects supported under the NEPAD framework. All things being equal completion of this project is earmarked for the end of 2007.

*H.E. Mr. Mweemba Joshua Simuyandi
High Commissioner
Republic of Zambia, Malawi*

Libya Donates Tractors to Malawi



Mr. Abubaker Khalifa Sheleq

In the context of the principle to consolidate friendship and strengthen the co-operation with African countries, the Libyan People and its Leader Col. Muammar Gaddafi, on Thursday 23 August, 2007 delivered at the Kamuzu International Airport, five agricultural tractors together with their attachments (see p.6), to the government and the people of Malawi. The objective of this delivery was to support the advancement of the development of the agriculture sector. This donation comes in the midst of the celebration of the Libyan People of the 38th Anniversary of the Great 1st September Revolution in 1969.

The delivery was received at Kamuzu International Airport by Mr. Patrick Kabambe, Principal Secretary for Agriculture; Mr. Ahmed Alhudhiri, the Secretary Designate of the Libyan People's Bureau and members of the Libyan People's Bureau in the Republic of Malawi. In a short acceptance message, the Principal Secretary of Agriculture, reassured that the tractors would be used for the intended purpose, and that the donation would go a long way at the strengthening of the love between the peoples of Libya and Malawi.

*Mr. Abubaker Khalifa Sheleq
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Libyan People's Bureau, Malawi*



ZIMBABWE: AN UPDATE

His Excellency President Robert Gabriel Mugabe has asserted that "Putting Zimbabwe first ahead of parochial interests remains the best approach in efforts to turn around the Zimbabwe economy. Government is committed



H.E. Ms. Thandiwe Dumbutshena

to restore price stability and normalcy to the economy. Zimbabwe is gratified by successful developments diplomatically as illustrated in its appointment to chair of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development and election as Vice Chair of COMESA in 2007.

The SADC Lusaka Summit: At the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Heads of State commended President Thabo Mbeki on progress made in his mediation role on negotiations between the Zimbabwe African National Union—Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and the two factions of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

The Executive Secretary's Report on the economic situation in Zimbabwe was referred to the SADC Ministers responsible for finance to be utilized for consultation with the Government of Zimbabwe. In this regard the concerns and support expressed by the Heads of State were commendable. The Summit thus encouraged the parties to conclude negotiations to ensure that next elections are held in an atmosphere of peace to enable the people of Zimbabwe elect leaders of their own choice.

Recently, a group of eight journalists visited Zimbabwe from Malawi. On return they came to the conclusion that the negative reports on Zimbabwe were grossly exaggerated. From their observations Zimbabwe registered re-

markable developments that were often not highlighted. Furthermore, they came to the conclusion that inflation rate is apparently a mismatch to economic progress on the ground.

Price Control: Measures have been employed by the Government to ensure that the poor are not exploited through exorbitant prices. The passing of the National Incomes and Pricing Commission Act by the Parliament had proved useful by tracking goods from source to the retailer. Besides, the Zimbabwe Government has further implemented other measures aimed at turning around the national economy and minimize the adverse impacts of illegal sanctions. Notably, the Government established the National Incomes and Pricing Commission to balance population's income with prices, especially those of basic commodities.

Mechanization of Land Reform Program: Agricultural mechanization has received prime attention since agriculture is the focal point of economic activities in the country. The government of the Republic of Zimbabwe is promoting the national tillage capacity. Farming equipment in many farms had been destroyed or exported to some neighboring countries by previous farm owners with the aim to cripple the land reform program. To redress this problem, the Ministry of Agricultural Engineering and Mechanization procured equipment to enhance mechanization of farming. This was achieved through partnership with the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. Thus agricultural production could improve with sufficient rainfall.

*H.E. Ms. Thandiwe Dumbutshena
Ambassador, Republic of Zimbabwe,
Lilongwe, Malawi*

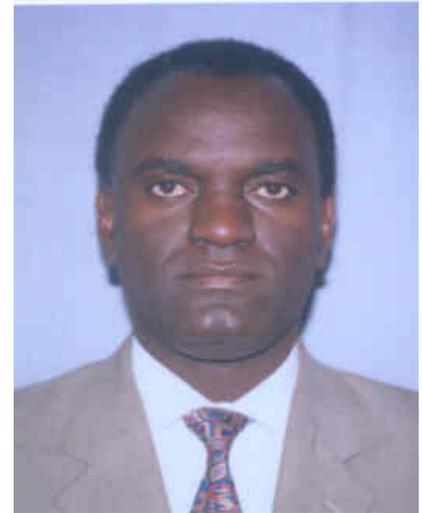
AU-CTTBD: ROLE IN SLIP

The AU Center for Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases (AU-CTTBD) was recently invited to witness the launch of the US\$15 million Smallholder Livestock Investment Program (SLIP) in Lusaka, Zambia. The Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MACO), honorable Ben Kapita officiated at the launch of the 7-year program that aims at uplifting the living standards of smallholder livestock farmers in Zambia. The program will focus on disease control, livestock marketing and restocking. The disease focus would be on control of East Coast Fever (ECF) and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), two livestock diseases that cause widespread mortality and morbidity across the country. The CTTBD is

proud to be associated with the production and provision of the ECF vaccine to the program.

Apart from Zambia and Malawi, the CTTBD has in the past provided ECF vaccine to Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. This year, inquiries to provide vaccine have been received from Uganda, Tanzania and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Currently, the CTTBD is conducting an eight-week training course in epidemiology with emphasis on Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis control. Ten veterinarians from the DRC



Dr. Misheck Mulumba,

are attending the course that is being conducted in French. A course on High Impact Diseases for SADC countries will be conducted in English at the CTTBD from 5 to 17 November 2007 and will be attended by 18 participants from SADC countries. Another eight-week epidemiology course in French is scheduled to start from mid January 2008. Applications are still open for this course and should be addressed to: The Director, CTTBD, Private Bag A-130, Lilongwe, Malawi. Closing date for receiving applications is 14 December 2007.

Other activities currently taking place include drug development trials for an international pharmaceutical company and diagnostic support to local farmers.

*Dr. Misheck Mulumba,
Director CTTBD, Lilongwe,
Malawi*



62nd Session of UN General Assembly

(cont. from p.1)

attract the attention of national leaders. What the member states have done individually or collectively to address the unresolved problems in these key issues in the effort to promote international peace and stability. In recent months, continued crisis in the middle east and the US housing mortgage financial crisis have combined to create more uneasiness in world economy prospects and development. However, in the midst of all these considerations, the development in Africa should continue to take the center stage, it should remain a major concern in view of the fact that development in the continent vis-à-vis growth and development in other continents remains largely unsatisfactory as we are half way through to 2015.

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had stipulated growth and development targets through which developing countries could effectively address economic growth and development and poverty reduction. But in view of the lack luster performance in African countries, as described in most reports, this is the time for renewed international efforts to tackle the critical bottlenecks in the development process in the continent. For example, according to the report of the UN Secretary General "New Partnership for Africa's Development: fifth consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support" of 3 August 2007, Africa's share in global foreign direct investment remained low, at about 3 percent, notwithstanding a rise from US\$17 billion in 2004 to US\$31 billion in 2005. In UNCTAD "Trade and Development Report 2007", the export from Africa to the world rose from 1 percent in 2001 to 9 percent in 2004 but fell to 1 percent in 2006. Import of Africa from the world was 7 percent of world's import in 2001, it rose to 14 percent in 2004 but fell to 10 and 5 percent in 2005 and 2006 respectively. In the Doha Round, little progress has been made on acceptable agreement on issues affecting Africa, including in particular, agricultural market access and greater reduction in trade-distorting agricultural subsidies.

Improvement in the inflow of foreign direct investment and expansion in the global trade of African countries are key to sustainable development and the attainment of the targets of the MDGs in Africa. This is also necessary to assist in the sustenance of the current economic growth rate of 6 percent and the attainment of 7 percent in the conti-

ment. Thus, this is the moment in which stronger appeal is necessary at the international community. The Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development requires full commitment from development partners while African countries are consolidating democratic process and implementing sound macroeconomic policies. The consolidation of democracy is promoting political stability and sound investment environment. Sound macroeconomic policies in many countries address question of acceptable rate of inflation and exchange rate as well as encouraging higher rates of domestic savings. Added to these are sound investment policies which most countries have already adopted in order to attract foreign direct investment. Investments are particularly required in the transformation of the agricultural sector of most African countries, the plans for which were laid out in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program. Investments are necessary in the development of infrastructure both with and among African countries, roads, railways, waterways air transportation and telecommunications to facilitate and reduce the cost of the movement of goods and services both with and between countries. This is also a prerequisite for enhanced regional and continental integration. Besides more appeals should be made for further unloading of debt burden of the least developed countries and middle income countries in order to release resources for development.

Additionally, the cooperation and increased commitment are also required from development partners on the issues of health; implementation of the African Union Health Strategy 2007-2015. There is need to strengthen health systems in particular the human capacity crisis and stemming down of the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, malaria and other infectious diseases.

Environmental issues also require support where most handicapped countries would be required to meaningfully address the question of desertification and deforestation. Other key issues would include information and communications technology, science and technology and gender mainstreaming. Thus, there is need for call at this session for renewed commitment of development partners for full implementation of United Nations resolutions, decisions and declarations on international cooperation for development, including those on Africa.

R. Omotayo Olaniyan
AU-SARO

Accra Summit

(cont. from p. 1)

of additional sources of financing the activities of the Union".

Thus, the declaration has identified issues and laid out the actions that should be taken in order to move in the direction of Union Government. The declaration is addressing the key issues that are fundamental to successful political integration. For example, the clarification of the form or contents of Union Government, given the varying forms of government that exist worldwide; should it be unitary, federal or confederal etc? The decision on any choice could largely be informed and influenced by the history, geographic and political as well as socio-economic diversity of the continent. We must in this context talk about a practical and enduring political arrangement that fits the special situation of our continent. Clarification has been sought on the relations of the Union Government. The link in this issue is the question of sovereignty. This is very important since this is an important attribute of a nation state. The term sovereignty as generally used today implies totality of international rights which is recognized by international law as residing in an independent territorial unit—the state. The sovereignty of states is, among other things, largely tied to the provisions of security and control of macroeconomic policies of the member states, including the fiscal and monetary policies. The later are harmonized in market integration in the process of economic integration and in effect the erosion of national sovereignty. Thus, some form of sharing of sovereignty between the supranational authority and the member states would seem inevitable in any process of successful integration.

Also, in this context, it would be understood that the Union Government should have sufficient powers to execute common competencies. The clarification of the relationships of the Union Government and the RECs is vital since the RECs are the building blocs. There should be more ideas on possible greater or limited role for the RECs. Whatever choice is made should be informed by the necessity of their contributions to a vibrant Union Government.

Furthermore, and very important too is the question of clarity on the issue of resources for the Union Government; that an autonomous and predictable sources of funding to ensure sustainability and consolidation of the Union Government.



Activities of the Regional Office (cont. from p.2.)

The Regional Delegate represented H.E. Ms. Rosebud Kurwijila, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the Opening Session of the Regional Consultative Workshop on Land Policy in Southern Africa in Windhoek, Namibia, 29—31 August 2007. The objective of the workshop was to move in the direction of a regional consensus that would serve as input into the continental land policy.

Speaking on behalf of Commissioner Kurwijila, Prof. Olaniyan, the AU Regional Delegate to SADC, commended the SADC Secretariat, especially the SADC Regional Land Reform Technical Support Facility, for its efforts at addressing national and regional land issues. He highlighted that the outcome of this workshop would contribute to the development of the envisaged continental Land Policy that would in the near future be endorsed by the African Ministers responsible for land.

The AU Regional Delegate to SADC addressed the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Assessment of Macroeconomic Policy and Institutional Convergence in member states of SADC, in Johannesburg, South Africa, 4-5 September 2007. In his statement, he stressed the relevance of macroeconomic policy convergence as a vital step towards the deepening of regionalism: macroeconomic convergence is key to the establishment of financial, macroeconomic, price stability and creation of employment opportunities in the integrating countries.

Taking into consideration the complex nature of the issues and their links to national economic policies, he enjoined participants to be dispassionate in the prescription of solutions: to make bold recommendations that would procure macroeconomic convergence and the strengthening of regional economic integration. For example there should be a strong recommendation on the harmonization of national statistics to ensure meaningful comparison of target attainment.



AU Regional Delegate to SADC, Prof. R. Omatayo Olaniyan (left) at the Regional Consultative Workshop on Land Policy in Southern Africa, Windhoek, Namibia



One of the agricultural tractors donated by the Libyan Arab Jamahriya to the Government of the Republic of Malawi

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NOTE

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