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**Minutes of the meeting of the
Organising Committee for the Celebration of Africa Day 2012
21 May 2012 à 3.00 P.M - AU Permanent Mission in Brussels**



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1. The Organising Committee for the celebration of Africa Day 2012 met on 21 May 2012 at 3.00 P.M at the Permanent Mission of the African Union in Brussels. The meeting was chaired by the Representative of the Ambassador of Sudan, Chairman of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels.

I. Logistic arrangements

2. The Permanent Mission briefed the meeting on the provisions made or to be finalised as follows:

- The 147th session of the African Group confirmed the choice of the Palais des Colonies to host the reception and the cultural show. It also endorsed the proposal to postpone the celebration to 6 June 2012 ;
- The invitation cards are being printed. As per the tradition, the invitation is jointly signed by the Chairman of the African Group of Ambassadors and the AU Permanent Representative in Brussels;
- As for the previous editions, the guests to be invited are : the members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited in Belgium and to the EU, including the Heads of United Nations Agencies and Representatives of IGOs ; the EU authorities and institutions (Commission, Council and Parliament) ; some Belgian institutions' authorities (Foreign Affairs ; Development Cooperation ; Regional and Community Institutions, etc.) ; private sector partners ; the medias ; civil society association movements ; African Diaspora members in Belgium, etc.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' public service has been contacted to provide security on the premises;
- An offer has come from Miss East Africa association for the cultural entertainment, on the margins of the reception;
- Notes Verbales have already been sent to Embassies about the statutory contributions to the budget of the African Group as well as voluntary contributions in kind (drinks, food) for the celebration of Africa Day, etc. .

II. Funding

3. As per the tradition the events organised to celebrate Africa Day in Brussels are jointly funded by the AU Permanent Mission and the Group of African Ambassadors in

Brussels. The Mission hence informed the Organising Committee that it had received an allocation of 23.500 US \$ (twenty three thousand five hundred) for the occasion. The amount should cover the cost of hiring the Palais des Colonies and part of the catering service, according to the quotation received.

4. The Organising Committee took note of the information and agreed to allocate funds from the budget of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels to cover all the additional costs for the organisation of the reception and cultural entertainment for the event;

III. Cultural entertainment

5. The Mission informed the Organising Committee that no Embassy had so far responded to its appeal to Embassies to kindly avail a cultural group to contribute to the cultural entertainment being organised on the margins of the reception. It added that an Association of the African Diaspora in Belgium called *Miss East Africa* had contacted the Mission and offered to contribute to the event. No payment was requested for the proposed show because as a member of the African Diaspora in Europe, *Miss East Africa* stated that she would rather be honoured to be given an opportunity to contribute to the celebration of Africa Day in Europe. The association would only ask for some financial support for the transportation costs that it would have to incur to bring the musical instruments and other equipment to the venue and also because many of its members (about twenty people) do not live in Brussels.
6. After an exchange of views the Organising Committee agreed on the following:
 - To accept *Miss East Africa* offer to contribute to the cultural entertainment being organised on the margins of the reception;
 - To allocate an amount of 1.500 € (one thousand five hundred euros) to *Miss East Africa* to cover the cost of transport to be incurred for the event.
7. The delegation of Cape Verde informed the meeting that the Embassy is looking into the possibility of having a Group from Cape Verde based in Europe participate in the event. Should an agreement be reached, the Organising Committee would have to provide an allocation of about 2.000 euros (2.000 euros) to the Group for its contribution. The Embassy will inform the Mission about the outcome of its contacts.

IV. Any other business

8. The following provisions were made:
 - **Four (04) invitation cards** to be sent to each Embassy, including (01) for the Ambassador and his spouse and three (03) for the other diplomats from the Embassy and/or their partners;
 - **The association of Ambassadors' spouses** should be closely associated to the preparations of the reception for the mobilisation of all Embassies to prepare national/regional dishes to be displayed;

- **The medias**, and in particular those of the African Diaspora should be mobilised for an optimal coverage of the event ;
- If necessary, the Organising Committee will meet again to follow-up on the provisions made.

2012

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