

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: 00251-115-517-700 Fax: 00251-115-517844
Website: www.africa-union.org

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Twenty-First Ordinary Session

9 - 13 July 2012

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

EX.CL/735(XXI)
Original: English

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION ASSEMBLY/AU/DEC.412(XVIII)
ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAU**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION
ASSEMBLY/AU/DEC. 412 (XVIII) ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAU**

I. Introduction

1. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, with the signing of the OAU Charter by representatives of 32 Member States. A further 22 Member States gradually joined the organization over the years, with the Republic of South Sudan becoming the 54th member *on 9th July 2011*???. The OAU aimed to promote the unity and solidarity of African States; co-ordinate and intensify their co-operation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa; defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence; eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa; promote international co-operation, giving due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and co-ordinate and harmonize members' political, diplomatic, economic, educational, cultural, health, welfare, scientific, technical and defense policies.

2. 25th May 2013 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the OAU/AU and to this end, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union decided that the celebration of this event be held at national, regional and continental levels with the aim of paying tribute to the generations of the Pan Africanists and the founding fathers of the continental organization as well as popularizing the African Union.

3. In cognizance of this historic milestone, the 16th ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union (Assembly/AU/Dec. **361(XVI)**) decided that the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the OAU/AU shall be celebrated in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the 25th May 2013. In this regard, the Assembly requested the African Union Commission to make the necessary arrangements for the celebration in close collaboration with Ethiopia and member States of the African Union. Similarly, the 18th ordinary session of the Assembly (Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. **412(XVIII)**) also declared 2013 as the Year of Pan Africanism and African Renaissance. The Assembly also encouraged member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to organize various events in close coordination with the African Union Commission to celebrate the Year of Pan Africanism and African Renaissance and to enhance the awareness of the new generation of Africans about the ideals of Pan Africanism and African Renaissance.

II. Organizational structures

4. Within its internal structures, the African Union Commission mandated the Conference and Event Organizing Committee (CEOC) to come up with detailed proposals on the activities to be carried out to celebrate this important event. In so doing, the Commission resolved to work closely with the Host Country, Ethiopia, and to sensitize all Member States to be fully involved in the celebrations both at the AU Headquarters and at regional and national levels. In compliance with the directive of the Commission, the Conference and Event Organizing Committee met on several

occasions to deliberate on the preparations for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the OAU/AU slated for 25th May 2013.

5. On its part, Ethiopia as a host to the then OAU/now the AU has attached great importance to the celebration of the 50th anniversary. The Ethiopia Government, has established a National Organizing Committee (NOC) in July 2010, tasked with the responsibility of organizing the celebration event. The NOC is composed of all relevant stakeholders including sectoral ministries, state owned enterprises, Chambers of Commerce, Labor Union and a number of other professional associations. The NOC has set up seven (7) Sub-committees in charge of coordinating the major tasks to be undertaken to colorfully celebrate the event. The NOC has so far held 10 sessions and has managed to lay down the ground work for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary.

III. Progress attained to date

6. The Ethiopian National Organizing Committee, under the chairpersonship of Ambassador Kongit Sinegeorgis, Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the African Union and UNECA, and the AUC Conference and Event Management Committee, under the leadership of Ambassador Jean Mfasoni, Secretary-General of the Commission, have exchange views on several occasions on how best the celebration events could be organized.

7. Upon the invitation of the Ethiopian side, the CEOC and NOC held their first joint meeting on 8 June 2012, at the Meeting Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. During the meeting, the two sides briefed each other on the activities that they have so far carried out to mark the 50th Anniversary. The CEOC indicated that it has come up with a proposal of activities and a draft budget as well as formed working groups to celebrate this important event.

8. On the other hand, the NOC has indicated that it has prepared a draft Action Plan and budget to mark the celebration event, which have been submitted to higher authorities of the Ethiopian government for consideration and approval. The NOC has informed the CEOC that it has proposed the establishment of a Secretariat, which will run the day to day activities of the Committee. Once the Secretariat becomes operational, the NOC indicated that it will work closely together with the African Union Commission with a view to colourfully celebrating the event.

9. In their exchange of views, the two sides agreed on the need to identify the following:

- **Category I:** Activities to be undertaken by AUC;
- **Category II:** Activities to be undertaken by Host Country;
- **Category III:** Activities to be undertaken jointly by AUC/Host country through their respective committees;

- **Category IV:** Activities to be undertaken at regional and national levels.

10. During their meeting, the CEOC and NOC further decided as follows:

- i) The relevant Sub-Committees from both sides to meet and harmonize the activities which could be implemented together and come up with a joint Action Plan;
- ii) Each side also to develop an Action Plan of activities which would be carried and implemented separately;
- iii) Agreed to hold joint meetings on regular basis to review progress attained;
- iv) Agreed to produce joint reports for the information of the AUC and the Ethiopian Authorities as well as the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC);
- v) Also agreed to report together to the Executive Council and the Assembly;
- vi) Prepare jointly a Draft Decision to be considered by AU Policy Organs.

11. In line with the Decision of the Assembly, the two sides have agreed to involve African Embassies accredited to the African Union in Addis Ababa at an early stage so as to mark this historic event with the wider participation and contribution of all stakeholders.

IV. Recommendations

12. The two sides agreed to submit the following recommendations to the Council:

- i) To strengthen the good working relationship between the Ethiopian National Organizing Committee and the AUC Conference and Event Organizing Committee;
- ii) The two parties should start mobilizing resources for financing the activities for celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the OAU/AU as outlined in the Joint Action Plan and in addition mobilize necessary financial, human and material resources that would enable the Commission run a series of media campaign for the promotion of Peace and Stability as well as economic development throughout the continent;
- iii) The Commission and the Ethiopian side should endeavour to work together with all the Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as other AU Organs to organize various activities, including media events, debates and competitions in schools and universities, public opinion surveys, sessions in local and national legislatures, and other activities to celebrate the Year of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance

and enhance the awareness of the new generations of Africans about the ideals of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance;

- iv) AU Policy Organs to authorize the Commission to fund at least half of the planned and agreed activities, through arrears of contributions as they have not been catered for in the 2013 Budget;
- v) AU Policy Organs to authorize the Commission to mobilize extra-budgetary resources from potential donors, such as voluntary contributions from Member States, International Partners of the African Union, private sector and other partners;
- vi) Member States to provide voluntary contributions for the financing of the various activities planned for the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary and organize in their respective countries activities and events in this respect.

V. Funding Mechanisms

13. The funding of the celebration activities will be borne by African Union Commission, the Ethiopian Government and member States of the AU as follows:

a) Activities identified to be undertaken by AUC

14. The AUC will fund these activities. The estimated cost related to these activities is USD 1,354,000.00. It is proposed that this budget be met through:

- Arrears from Assessed Contributions (PRC to be consulted on the issue);
- Member States Voluntary Contributions;
- Mobilizing resources from partners, private sector and other interested parties.

b) Activities identified to be undertaken by Host Country

15. These activities will be funded by the Ethiopian Government to the tune of ETB 94,278,653.76 (approximately US \$5.3 million).

c) Activities identified to be undertaken jointly by AUC/Host country through their respective committees

16. The activities under this category will be sponsored by both the African Union Commission and the Ethiopian Authorities. The discussions are ongoing between the two sides to identify joint activities. The beautification of the Surroundings of the AU Compound which will be implemented in phases will cost USD 500,000

d) Activities identified to be undertaken at regional and national levels

17. The activities under this category will be sponsored by individual Member States to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of OAU/AU. Discussions should commence with Member States to identify such activities.

EX.CL/735(XXI)

ANNEXES

Annex I: Activities identified to be undertaken by AUC

No.	Activities	Budget (USD)	Remarks	Responsibility
1	50 th Anniversary booklets	7,500.00		AUC
2	Visit to the Less Privileged persons' home (Motherless Babies, Handicapped persons, etc.), in few countries, where AU has Offices, namely: Ethiopia, DRC, Malawi, etc. (Jubilee celebration in orphanages, handicap centers etc.)	20,000.00		AUC
3	Approach all the Member Countries to fly the AU Flag in major Government Offices, National Universities, etc., for at least one week before the 50 th Anniversary (hosting AU Flag)	No cost implications		AUC
4	Clips on the Founding Fathers	10,000.00		AUC
5	50 th Anniversary OAU/AU documentary Video production of the AU Compound	40,000.00		AUC
6	Exhibition of major publications of the OAU/AU	10,000.00		AUC
7	Revive the monthly TV programme "Inside AU" with personalities. Focus will be on the main achievements of the OAU	10,000.00		AUC
8	Creation of the 50 th Anniversary logo	No cost implications		AUC
9	Boxed Set including speeches and pictures of May 1963			AUC
10	50 th Anniversary Gala night	130,000.00		AUC
11	Story telling by OAU Staff (history of OAU)	No cost implications		AUC

No.	Activities	Budget (USD)	Remarks	Responsibility
12	Youth forum	20,000.00		AUC
13	50 th Anniversary pins	7,500.00		AUC
14	AU Postcards	15,000.00		AUC
15	Flash displaying logo	No cost		AUC
16	50 th Anniversary Jubilee Book	33,000.00		AUC
17	Package of lessons on the OAU for primary school children	13,000.00		AUC
18	International Football Match in Ethiopia	500,000.00		AUC
19	Awareness Campaign during the 2013 African Cup of Nation	200,000.00		AUC
20	Electronic Billboards and normal billboards on 50 th anniversary adverts	15,000.00		AUC
21	Fashion African cultural Show in the host country	30,000.00		AUC
22	Identifying potential sponsors and holding discussions	No cost implications		AUC
23	Calendar- Almanac on founding fathers (2013)	10,000.00		AUC
24	The 2013 earmarked as year of 50 th OAU/AU Gold Jubilee			AUC
25	Organize press conferences marking the 50 th Anniversary of OAU/AU	10,000.00		AUC
26	Football match between a selection of AU/ECA / International Organizations Vs. Ex-Internationals of Ethiopia (National Stadium			AUC

No.	Activities	Budget (USD)	Remarks	Responsibility
27	Tennis Tournament			AUC
28	Basket Ball Tournament			AUC
29	Walk			AUC
	Short videos promoting the achievements of the OAU to be broadcast on African airlines and African National Televisions	20,000.00		
	Organization of Miss OAU/AU 50 th Anniversary	213,300.00		
	Painting competition on the OAU/AU by continent wide artists	50,000.00		
Grand total		1,354,000.00		

Annex II: Activities identified to be undertaken by Host Country

No.	Activities	Budget (ETB)	Remarks	Responsibility
1	Safety and security	39,407,206.80	Work in collaboration with AUC security	Host country
2	Arts and culture	29,618,758.00		
3	Resource Mobilization	3,522,038.00		
4	Logistics and transportation	2,307,769.10		Host country
5	State Protocol	15,917,457.66	Work in collaboration with AUC security	Host country
6	Workshops and conference organization	1,792,425.72		Host country
7	Media and Communication	1,713,000.00		
Grand total		94,278,653.79		

Annex III: Activities identified to be undertaken jointly by AUC/Host country through their respective committees.

No.	Activities	Budget (USD)	Remarks	Responsibility
1	Beautification of the surroundings around the African Union Compound	500,000.00	This project will be implemented in phases by AUC and Addis Ababa Municipal Authority. Discussions yet to be conducted.	

Annex IV: Activities identified to be undertaken at regional and national levels.

No.	Activities	Budget (USD)	Remarks	Responsibility
1	Approach all the Member Countries to fly the AU Flag in major Government Offices, National Universities, etc., for at least one week before the 50 th Anniversary (hosting AU Flag)	No cost implications		
2	Contribution towards the 50 th Anniversary Gala Night in the 54 member states			
3	Organization of symposia/ seminars in Member States on the OAU/AU			
4	Sports competitions for under privileges (Basketball, volleyball, Football,)			

2012

Progress report of the commission on the implementation of decision assembly/Au/Dec.412(Xviii) on the preparations for the 50th anniversary of the OAU

African Union

African Union

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/4234>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository