

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

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MISSION PERMANENTE DE L'UNION AFRICAINE

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Réf. UA.BRU/E/RET.GAAB/283.11

The Permanent Mission of the African Union in Brussels presents its compliments to all the Embassies of Member States of the African Union in Brussels and referring to its Note Verbale AU.BRU/E/RET.GAAB/150.00 dated 17 October 2011, has the honor to inform them that as the ACP Committee of Ambassadors has meetings scheduled on the 7th, 8th and 9th of October 2011, **the Retreat of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels on Climate Change which was to take place on the 9th and 10th of November 2011 has been postponed to Thursday 10 and Friday 11 November 2011, in Liege** (Hotel Ramada Plaza, Liege City Centre – Quai Léonard, 36 – 4000 Liege), according to the hereto annexed Program and Concept Note.

The Mission kindly invites Embassies which have not yet done so to inform it of their respective participation in the Retreat on **Friday 4 November 2011** at the latest, to enable it to make the necessary logistic arrangements (hotel rooms booking, **01 night per Embassy**, transportation, etc.)

The Mission will shortly communicate to Embassies the departure place and time of the bus which will be available for the transportation of participants to the venue in Liege.

The Permanent Mission of the African Union in Brussels avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all the Embassies of Member States of the African Union in Brussels the assurances of its highest consideration.



Brussels, 3 November 2011

TO ALL EMBASSIES OF MEMBER STATES
OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN BRUSSELS



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RETREAT OF THE GROUP OF AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN BRUSSELS ON
AFRICA AND THE DURBAN CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE:
POSITIONS AND STRATEGY

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PROVISIONS FOR A BETTER INVOLVEMENT OF THE GROUP
OF AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN BRUSSELS IN THE FOLLOW-UP OF
AFRICA-EU COOPERATION

Thursday 10 to Friday 11 November 2011, Liège

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Day 1: Thursday 10 November 2011

- 13H00** : **Arrival of participants – Buffet lunch**
- 14H30-14H45** : *Welcome address*
- AU Permanent Representative in Brussels
 - H.E. M. Paul Badji, Ambassador of Senegal, Chairman of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels and Moderator of the debate
- 14H45-15H15** : *Presentation of the report of the Working Group on the involvement of The Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels in Africa-Europe cooperation*
- Speaker:** H.E.Mr. Hanno Rumpf, Ambassador of Namibia
- 15H15-16H15** : Consideration and adoption of the report
- 16H15-16H30** : Coffee break
- 16H30-17H00** : *Africa-EU cooperation: challenges, constraints and prospects*
- Speakers:** H.E.Mr. Ibrahim Bocar Bâ, Ambassador of Mali
- 17H -18H00** : Exchange of views/questions-answers
- 18H00-18H15** : *Summary and closing.*
- 19H30** : Dinner at the Hotel

Day 2: Friday 11 November 2011

9H00-9H15 : *Introductory Remarks.*

AU Permanent Representative in Brussels

H.E. Ambassador Paul Badji, Ambassador of Senegal, Chairman of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels and Moderator of the Conference

9H15-10H00 : *The evolution in international negotiations on Climate Change: concerns regarding the post 2012 international climate change regime*

Speaker: Seth Osafo, Legal Advisor of the Africa Group of Negotiator on Climate Change

10H00-10H30 : *The African Common Position for the negotiations at the Durban Conference (COP 17)*

Speaker: Dr. Mohamed Khalil Timamy, Head, Environment Division, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission

10H30-11H30 : Exchange of views/ questions-answers

11H30-11H45 : Coffee break

11H45-12H15 : *The « Clim Dev Africa » programme: climate for Africa's development.*

Speaker: Dr. Mohamed Khalil Timamy, Head, Environment Division, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission

12H15-13H00 : Exchange of views/ questions-answers

13H00-14H30 : Buffet lunch

14H30-15H00 : *Summary and closing*

15H15 : Group photo

16H00 : *Departure to Brussels*

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**RETREAT OF THE GROUP OF AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN BRUSSELS ON
AFRICA AT THE DURBAN CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE:
POSITIONS AND STRATEGY**

*

**PROVISIONS FOR A GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF THE GROUP OF
AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN BRUSSELS IN THE FOLLOW-UP OF
AFRICA-EU COOPERATION**

THURSDAY 10 TO FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2011, LIEGE

CONCEPT NOTE

**Retreat of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels on
Africa at the Durban Conference on Climate Change:
Positions and Strategy**

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**Provisions for a Greater Involvement of the Group of
African Ambassadors in Brussels in the Follow-up of
Africa-EU Cooperation**

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Thursday 10 to Friday 11 November 2011

A. Background

In the second revised edition of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy adopted by the third Africa-EU Summit held in Tripoli (Libya) in November 2010, the African Union (AU) Commission committed itself to strengthen the coordination mechanisms to ensure an efficient implementation of the Joint Strategy. Henceforth, the AU Permanent Mission in Brussels is expected to play a key role in the process, mainly through the greater involvement of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels in the implementation of the Joint Strategy and by ensuring that there is complementarity between the Joint Strategy and other existing cooperation instruments linking the European Union to Africa. Fully aware of this requirement, the Mission engaged in a thinking process and initiated a number of actions to reach this objective. One of such actions is, among others, the organisation last September of the Conference on the Financing of the Joint Strategy and the support provided for the elaboration of a strategy to foster a greater involvement of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels in the follow-up of Africa-EU cooperation. Following up on this momentum, the Mission strives to further explore and popularise the Joint Strategy in view of a better articulation of its objectives with the international cooperation agenda. Hence, having referred to the Partnership on Climate Change and the Environment, it thought it advisable to organise a retreat of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels on the theme of Climate Change, in the run-up to the next Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 17), to be held from 28 November to 9 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa.

The choice of this theme on climate change is not fortuitous given that for many experts, the Durban Conference could be a major turning point in the negotiations on the climate, particularly as regards the issue of the implementation of binding commitments to reach the objective of a global warming limit of 2°C. Furthermore, the extension or not of the Kyoto Protocol signed in 1997 with an initial time frame

ending in 2012 will be one of the main stakes in Durban. The success or failure of the Durban Conference will undoubtedly depend on the outcome of the negotiations on these major issues. The Retreat will be a real opportunity for the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels to have further insight into the common positions that Africa will have to defend under the aegis of the AU.

The opportunity will also be seized to examine and adopt the conclusions of the Working Group on "a Greater Involvement of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels in the Follow-up of Africa-EU Cooperation". There will also be a brainstorming and an in-depth exchange of views on the cooperation between Africa and the EU, with a view to underlining the challenges, constraints and prospects.

B. Objectives of the Retreat

The objective of the Retreat is twofold:

1. Have a better grasp of the multiple stakes of the Durban Conference on Climate Change and offer the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels an opportunity to be kept abreast of Africa's common position.
2. Take stock of actions undertaken by the Mission and the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels and identify orientations to be used as guidelines for the implementation and follow-up of Africa-EU cooperation in general and of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, in particular.

C. Organisation of the Retreat

The deliberations will last over two days according to the hereto annexed programme. On the first day participants will examine the report of the Working Group on the involvement of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels in the follow-up of the cooperation between Africa and the EU. To enrich the debate, the participants will exchange views on the challenges facing the African Union in general and the Africa-EU cooperation in particular (issues relating to peace and security in Africa, the European debt crisis, the EPAs, etc.).

On the second day the debate will focus on climate change and more specifically on the stakes of the Durban Conference (COP 17). It will be used as an opportunity to inform participants of the African position on the climate and of Africa's strategy to speak in one voice, to advocate for a fair and equitable agreement to cater for its concerns. This session will also be devoted to an exchange of information and views on the Pan African initiatives on climate change.

D. Expected Results

Aside from a more in-depth insight into Africa's position in the framework of the climate change negotiations, the Retreat will facilitate the adoption of a framework to

enhance the coordination of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels and will, in the same vein, contribute to give a new impetus to its involvement in the follow-up of Africa-EU cooperation.

E. Date and venue of the Retreat

The Retreat will take place in Liege from Thursday 10 to Friday 11 November 2011 at the following address:

**Hotel Ramada Plaza Liege City Centre
Quai Saint-Leonard, 36
4000- Liege**

F. Participants

Around seventy participants will be attending the Retreat. They will mainly include the members of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels, resource persons from the African Union Commission, African negotiators on climate change, representatives of the European Commission, of ECDPM, of the Regional Economic Communities and of the ACP Secretariat.

G. Languages

The working languages of the Retreat will be French and English and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

2011-11-03

Retreat of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels on Africa at the Durban Conference on CLimate Change: Positions and Strategy,

Permanent Mission of the African Union

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