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Date: 29th June 2015

**To: Dr Salif Sada Sall
Regional Delegate to Southern
Africa**

**From: Ms. Brenda Kok
Information and
Communications Officer**

**Subject: MISSION REPORT: AU MODEL SUMMIT PREPARATORY MISSION TO
WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY IN AFRICA, HARARE, REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, 17-
20 JUNE 2015.**

Background

In line with the mandate and work plan of AU-SARO, the Office approached governments in the Southern Africa region to host the AU Model Summit at universities in their respective countries.

The Women's University in Africa based in Harare in the Republic of Zimbabwe graciously accepted to host the 2015 summit.

Purpose of Mission

The AU-SARO delegation main purpose was to meet with the University organizing committee headed by Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Charles Nherera, Vice Chancellor Prof. Hope Sadza, and Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education in preparation for the upcoming AU Model Summit. The meetings took place on 18 and 19 June 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The AU delegation was led by AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa, Dr. Salif Sada Sall, who was accompanied by Ms. Brenda Kok, Information and Communications Officer and Mr. Paul Chimunya, Finance and Administration Officer.

Meeting with Women's University Organizing Committee

The AU-SARO delegation met with the University organizing committee on 18th June at the University's premises and briefed the committee comprising the universities finance, marketing, Information technology and administration officials as well as members of the University council.

Dr.Sall briefed the committee on the AU, the AU Model Concept, format, logistics and student preparations for organizing the Model Summit. AU-SARO also provided the committee with two sets of the AU Model Summit documentary and AU-SARO publications. Dr. Sall, emphasized that the programme should be owned by the university and that AU-SARO will support its implementation in kind through the provision of documents, flags of African countries, desk plates and promotional material while also providing modest financial assistance for organizing of the Model Summit.

The organizing committee after hearing from the delegation decided on 24th and 25th September 2015 as tentative dates for the AU Model Summit. It was also decided at the meeting that the organizing committee would provide AU-SARO with a concept note of how the University will approach the model summit and will include a work plan and provincial budget to track progress.

Courtesy calls

On 19th June the Delegation had several meetings with major stakeholders including Prof. Sadza, the ACBF, and officials from the ministries of foreign affairs and higher education.

The AU Delegation paid a courtesy call to Prof. Sadza and briefed her on the progress of meetings with the University organizing team and to convey the gratitude of AU-SARO to the vice chancellor for accepting the offer to host the AU Model summit. The meeting also discussed some logistical and protocol related issues.

Dr. Sall also met with the Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie. The ACBF is one of the donors of the Women's University in Africa and thus Dr. Sall briefed Professor Nnadozie on the AU Model Summit concept and the meetings with the University to seek possible support from ACBF for the Model Summit. Prof. Nnadozie, responded that the AU Model Summit should be supported and that it would look into how it could offer support. AU-SARO will in turn provide ACBF with a proposal for ACBF's consideration.

The delegation also paid a courtesy call to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented by Director of Foreign Affairs, Mr. J. Manzou. Dr. Chakarisa, the focal point person for the Model Summit from the University accompanied the delegation to the meetings. Dr. Sall briefed the director about the AU-SARO visit and meetings with the Women's University in Africa. Mr. Manzou in response thanked Dr. Sall and AU for accepting the offer from the University to host the AU Model Summit and assured the delegation of the commitment of the Ministry to work with AU-SARO and the University in ensuring the event will be a success.

Lastly, Dr. Sall met with the Permanent Secretary for High Education, Science and Technology Development, Dr. M.T. Mapuranga representing the Minister of Higher Education accompanied by the Deputy Director, Mr. Caleb Mharapara. Dr. Sall briefed the Dr. Mapuranga on the Model Summit and the progress thus far in organizing the event. Dr. Mapuranga pledged the support of the Minister to the model summit and welcomed the opportunity for students to learn more about the continent and the AU.

Way Forward

AU-SARO is awaiting the Women's University proposal with work plan and budget to track and monitor progress of towards the upcoming Model Summit tentatively scheduled to take place on 24 and 25 September 2015.

Further to the discussion with ACBF on the possibility of support for the Model Summit, Mr. Paul Chimanya and Ms. Brenda Kok will work on a proposal for ACBF's consideration.

AU-SARO focal point person, Ms. Brenda Kok is in continual contact with the University's organizing team for information sharing.

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Mission report: AU model summit preparatory mission to Women's University in Africa, Harare, Republic of Zimbabwe, 17-20 June 2015.

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