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3rd SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION

CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE

25 – 29 OCTOBER 2010

ABUJA, NIGERIA

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**THEME: *SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF THE CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT SECTOR IN AFRICA***

**Report of H.E the AU Commission Chairperson on the implementation
of recommendations of the 2nd Session of the AU Conference of
Ministers of Culture**

25- 26 October 2010

1. Introduction

Following the successful holding of the Second Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Culture (CAMC II) held in Algiers, Algeria from 19 – 23 October 2008, under the theme "**Harmonization and Coordination of Cultural Policies, Programmes and Activities**," a new revival and dynamism has been afforded to the Culture and Sports Division of the Department of Social Affairs (DSA), African Union Commission (AUC).

Henceforth the activities undertaken by the Division of Culture and Sports under the review period are described below.

2. Activities carried out in 2009

2.1 First (1st) African Youth Cultural Creativity Workshop

In preparation for the 2nd Pan-African Cultural Congress, the Division of Culture and Sports organized the 1st African Youth Cultural Creativity Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2009. The workshop was aimed at producing paintings for the African Cultural Renaissance Exhibition. A total of fifty (50) paintings were produced and are part of the Department's exhibition on Cultural Renaissance. Some of the paintings produced have been used for the decoration of the AUC headquarters. Other paintings have been donated to departments e.g. Political Affairs Department and Communications Department as well as used for decoration of the DSA. The paintings given to the Department of Political Affairs were used for a human rights workshop.

2.2 Participation in the Pan-African Cultural Festival

The Department participated in the second Pan-African Festival held in Algiers from 05 to 20 July 2009. The Festival showcased the diversity and creative heritage of the continent. The Festival was held under the theme "**African Renaissance**". For two weeks, the stirring rhythms of Africa pulsed across Algeria.

The festival drew hundreds of thousands of people to Algiers to celebrate Africa's artistic renaissance, following the adoption of the Charter for the African Cultural Renaissance by the 1st Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Culture (CAMC I) held in Khartoum, Sudan in January 2006 and the selection of Algeria to host the Festival. The Festival was also part of the AU broad mandate to create an image of Africa which does not only speak of conflicts, diseases etc. but an image of Africa as the cradle of humankind.

The Festival was a laudable initiative taken by the Government and the people of the Republic of Algeria bearing in mind that the first Pan-African Cultural Festival had been held 40 years ago in July 1969. Thus, we should congratulate Algeria for having successfully organized such an important continental event which has contributed to the togetherness and cultural interaction and integration of the peoples of Africa.

2.3 Second (2nd) Pan-African Cultural Congress, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 9-11 November 2009

The 2nd Pan-African Cultural Congress was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 9 to 11 November 2009 under the theme "***Inventory, Protection and Promotion of African Cultural Goods***". The Congress was attended by about two hundred and fifty (250) participants from thirty two (32) African Union Member States, and from the Diaspora. The participants consisted of policy makers, cultural practitioners, cultural administrators, educators/academicians, designers, creators, producers, critics, entrepreneurs, researchers, African and international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, associations and networks, Regional and International Cultural Organizations and Development Partners of the AU.

The Congress was a logical continuation of the effort towards reaching a common understanding on culture and development issues as well as the African cultural Renaissance discussed during the first Pan-African Cultural Congress (PACC I), and as such to approach cultural development with more practical and pragmatic ways referring to the need to upgrade national legislation, modernizing of African national museums or the strengthening of public and private partnerships.

The Exhibition for the African Cultural Renaissance and other side events such as a fashion show and the commemoration of the 100th birthday of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah also took place during the occasion.

The main recommendations of the Congress were presented in the Congress's Consensus Statement. The Congress welcomed with enthusiasm the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Mozambique to hold its 3rd Session in Maputo, Mozambique in October/November 2011.

3. Activities Carried Out in 2010

3.1 African Cultural Renaissance Campaign

Following the decisions of the 2nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Culture held in Algiers in October 2008, the department developed a concept note for the African Cultural Renaissance Campaign. The

Campaign aims at sensitizing Member States to ratify the Charter for the African Cultural Renaissance and to promote Cultural Renaissance and Pan-Africanism. The Charter of the African Cultural Renaissance was adopted in Khartoum, Sudan on 24th January 2006 and up until this year out of fifty three (53) Member States of the Union, only one (1), Mali, has ratified it. The Campaign will be a two year programme dedicated to revitalize the cultural environment and activities at continental and national levels through participatory and innovative cultural events and programmes. As part of the collective effort to realize the African Cultural Renaissance and to effectively domesticate the Campaign at the national level, each Member State was encouraged to develop and implement national programmes comprising at least of: permanent advocacy for the acceleration of the ratification of the Charter of the African Cultural Renaissance; institutionalization of an annual cultural week at national level; launch of continental cultural competitions on the theme of the African Cultural Renaissance; organisation of press releases/conferences; and convening of workshops for development of implementation guidelines for the Charter for the African Cultural Renaissance .

A participatory, people-oriented and engaging theme for the Campaign for the African Cultural Renaissance was adopted in order to give it a real continental, Pan-Africanist and historical dimension: ***"Promoting Together the African Cultural Renaissance"***.

A symbolic launch of the Campaign took place in Accra, Ghana on 23rd May 2010 during the Centenary Celebrations of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. The continental launch of this campaign will be held during this conference.

3.2 Kwame Nkrumah Centenary Celebrations and & Symbolic Launch of the African Cultural Renaissance Campaign

At the Thirteen (13th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from 1-3 July 2009, the Heads of State and Government in their Declaration called upon all Member States to celebrate on 21st September 2009, the 100th Birthday Anniversary of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, an advocate of Pan-Africanism, who played a vital role in the establishment of the OAU and the liberation of the African Continent.

In this regard, the African Union Commission and the Government of the Republic of Ghana organized an International Colloquium from the 23rd to the 25th May in Accra, Ghana. The Colloquium was the most memorable part of the celebrations of the Centenary as it provided a platform for scholars and eminent personalities, including the contemporaries of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and Pan-Africanists, to pay tribute to him, as well as discuss his legacy and linkage with the contemporary debates and actions relating to our continental integration.

The opening ceremony of the Colloquium was graced by the presence of H.E the President of the Republic of Ghana Prof. John Atta Milles, H.E the President of Senegal Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, H.E. Mr Kenneth Kaunda (former president of Zambia); H.E. the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission Mr. Erastus Mwencha; H.E. the Commissioner for Social Affairs of the AUC Advocate Bience Gawanas and other National and Diaspora dignitaries.

During the Centenary Celebrations the first official launch of the Campaign of the African Cultural Renaissance and the Exhibition for the African Cultural Renaissance took place. Stands by the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) and the Centre for Languages and Historical Studies Through Oral Traditions (CELTHO) were also part of the DSA/AUC Exhibition.

3.3 The Beautiful Mind Concert

The Department of Social Affairs in collaboration with the South Korea Embassy in Addis Ababa organized the Beautiful Minds Concert which took place on the 18th June 2010 at the AUC Headquarters. The Concert was organized under the theme "Peace and Security" to contribute to the year of Peace and Security as institutionalized by the 14th Ordinary Session of the Africa Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2010. The Beautiful Mind Charity is a philanthropic organization composed by incredibly talented musicians and solid performers who provided a truly exceptional treat to the audience. The audience was composed by officials from the AUC and the Diplomatic Corps from different countries accredited to Ethiopia as well as staff of the AUC. The initiative was also an opportunity to strengthen the ties and collaboration between the AUC and Korea in the area of culture.

3.4 Second-(2nd) African Youth Cultural Creativity Workshop

The Department in collaboration with the *Organisation des Jeunes pour la Promotion et le Développement (OJPD)* organized the third edition of the African Youth Cultural Creativity and production Workshop (ACRECOP 2010) from 10-16 June 2010 in Nairobi to popularize the Charter for the African Cultural Renaissance as well as to design communication materials for the Campaigns on the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) and the African Cultural Renaissance Campaign.

The Departments participation in this workshop was very successful and the following outcomes were achieved:

- Strengthening of the collaboration between the two institutions and popularization of the Charter for the African Cultural Renaissance
- Designing of CARMMA promotion materials: CARMMA official Logo, watch, pens and pins

- Designing of the folders and exhibition materials for the July Summit;
- Designing of the multimedia communication materials for the Campaign for the African Cultural Renaissance: TV advert, interview and documentary of the symbolic official launch of the Campaign.

3.5 Commissioning of the Feasibility Study for the Establishment of the Pan-African Cultural Institute(PACI)

Pursuant to a recommendation by the Second (2nd) Conference of the African Union Ministers in charge of Culture and within the promotion of culture in Africa and the harmonization of cultural policies and programmes, the Feasibility Study for the establishment of the Pan-African Cultural Institute (PACI) was initiated in April 2010. PACI is intended to become the implementation agency and coordinator of the overall cultural development policies, programmes and events at the continental level.

The Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) based in Mombasa, Kenya was selected to carry out the study and provided its inception report to the DSA in August 2010. Various cultural institutions will be visited during the study and a questionnaire to find out the feasibility for the establishment of PACI as well as its *modus operandi* will be completed by them. The study will be finalized by October 2010 and its outcomes will be considered during the Third Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Culture (CAMC3).

3.6 Commissioning of the Study of All Cooperation Activities between EU and Africa regarding Cultural Goods

The inventory of the cooperation between Africa and EU on on-going cooperation activities between the EU and Africa with regard to cultural goods that will serve to further harmonize and strengthen future cooperation and implementation of joint projects between the two partners, was advertised by the AUC and the study will be concluded by the first quarter of 2011.

The outcomes of the study should address important cooperation activities such as the upgrading of national legislation; ratification and domestication of international and continental instruments encompassing cultural development and the promotion of Human Rights and dignity as well as the elimination of harmful and unlawful traditional practices.

3.7 Development of Documentation for the 3rd Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Culture

All documentation for the 3rd Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of the Culture was developed by the Division. Taking into a

account the theme for the conference which is "***Sustainable Financing of the Culture Development Sector in Africa***", a document titled: "Strategy for the Establishment of National Trust Funds for Culture Development" has been developed to set the tone for the discussions regarding the importance of financing culture in the Member States as a means of contributing to socio-economic development and continental integration.

3.8 Promotion of African Languages and Historical Studies

Progress has been made in the implementation of the programmes for the promotion of African Languages and African oral traditions, as well as progress in the capacity building of the African Academy for Languages in Bamako, Mali (ACALAN) and the African Centre for Linguistic and Historical studies by Oral Traditions in Niamey, Niger (CELHTO). ACALAN has managed so far to establish the Language Commissions for Setswana and Cinyanja (Southern Africa) and Fulfulde, Hausa and Mandenkan (West Africa) as cross-border vehicular languages to be promoted.

The reports by this two institutions under the Department will also be presented during this Conference for more information on these issues.

2010

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