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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone 517 700 Cables: OAU, Addis Ababa
website : www.africa-union.org

FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
OF CULTURE
13 - 14 DECEMBER 2005

NAIROBI, KENYA

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Draft No. 1

Theme:

"CULTURE, INTEGRATION AND AFRICAN RENAISSANCE"

DRAFT REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministerial Meeting of the First Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Culture was held at Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, from 13 to 14 December 2005, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Kenya. The deliberations centred around the theme 'Culture, Integration and African Renaissance'.

II. ATTENDANCE

2. The following African Union Member States were represented at the Meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, The Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Regional, International and Non-Governmental Organisations and Institutions were also represented: ECOWAS, UNESCO, FEPACI, and RIDC.

III. Item 1: OPENING CEREMONY

4. The Opening Ceremony was moderated by Mrs Rachel B. Dzombo, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services who made brief remarks before requesting the Director-General of UNESCO, Adv. Bience Gawanas, AU Commissioner for Social Affairs and Hon. Maina Kamanda, Minister of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services, to address the meeting.

(i) *Statement by, Director-General for Africa of UNESCO*

5. Before delivering a statement on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO invited delegates to listen to a video message from the UNESCO Director-General. In the video statement the Director-General thanked the African Union for inviting UNESCO to participate in the Conference and commended the leadership of AU for bringing culture to the top of their agenda. He also expressed gratitude to the Government of Kenya for hosting such an important meeting. The statement also reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment to Africa, its integration as well as its Diaspora. The Assistant Director-General of UNESCO then continued with his statement. Among other things, the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO encouraged

countries to adopt a cultural approach to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. He also informed the delegates that only 27 countries have ratified International Convention on Cultural Diversity and called on African countries to ratify the Convention. He also further reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment to promote African Languages and called for new forms of partnerships.

(ii) Statement by Adv. Bience Gawanas - Commissioner for Social Affairs

6. In her address on behalf of H.E. Alpha Konare, Chairperson of the AU Commission, the Commissioner for Social Affairs, thanked the Kenyan Government for hosting the historic 1st Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Culture. She also expressed appreciation to the Vice President for gracing the occasion and the Kenyan Government for the excellent facilities put at the disposal of the Conference. She stated that the founding fathers of the OAU had a vision that once political liberation is attained, Africans would focus on socio-economic development of the continent. She further stated that the launch of the African Union is a commitment expressing a "common will for a common destiny". She went on to say that African Culture should serve as a strong, reliable and consistent driving force to the process of continental integration. In her view, culture can contribute to bring together what politics and economics have separated. She urged the Conference to undertake a fundamental review on the role African culture should play in the development of our societies.

7. The Commissioner observed that Africa is not only the cradle of humankind, but also the oldest "factory" of tools, artifacts, symbols and beliefs. She encouraged delegates to harness Africa's rich cultural diversity and tangible and intangible heritages for the sustainable socio-economic development of the continent. In this connection, the AU Commission aspires to use culture as a vehicle for social, economic and political integration. Africa further needs to promote, protect and renovate its cultural assets at national, regional and continental levels. She further assured delegates that the postponed Pan African Cultural Congress would be convened in the foreseeable future. The Congress will be charged to come up with critical recommendations on how to preserve, protect and promote our culture in the years to come. In conclusion, the Commissioner stressed that the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference will be carried out in the spirit of solidarity between UNESCO and the AU Commission.

(iii) Statement by Hon. Maina Kamanda, Minister of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services

8. In his statement the Hon Maina Kamanda expressed his satisfaction with the attendance at the conference. He then called on countries in Africa to embrace culture as the driver of socio-economic development. He continued his

statement by suggesting that African countries should analyse the strengths and weaknesses of their culture at national level in order to ensure that appropriate cultural policies are formulated. He then invited the Guest of Honor, H.E. the Vice President of the Republic of Kenya to deliver his keynote address.

(iv) *Keynote address by His Excellency the Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya and Minister for Home Affairs, Hon. Moody Awori, EGH, EBS, MP*

9. In his address, the Vice President warmly welcomed delegates to Nairobi-Kenya, which he described as a peaceful country that is full of diverse cultural background. He stated that the Conference was historic for the people of Africa as it was taking place when the World is undergoing political, social and economic transformation. He noted that Africa's rich culture is complex and diverse and that over time influences from other cultures have led to the erosion of existing social fabrics and values. He observed that culture today is a business. In this regard he recalled that countries that have safeguarded and conserved their culture have the fastest growing economies of the world. It was therefore time for Africa to wake up and prepare itself to deepen the continent's cultural diversity to a new level. H.E. the Vice President also called on countries in Africa to re-evaluate harmful traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

10. He noted that traditional focus of heritage conservation is still on public monuments, religious edifices and archaeological sites. He called for the expansion of Africa's heritage to include previously neglected elements such as folk arts and traditions, urban architecture, industrial architecture and other cultural expressions associated with human activity. The Vice-President further encouraged Ministers to develop workable recommendations that will form benchmarks for Africa's revival and restoration of its culture. He concluded his keynote address by emphasizing that the continent should do whatever it takes to ensure that Africa remains a tourist destination in a community of nations.

(v) *Vote of Thanks by Hon. Susan Waffa-Ogoo, Secretary of State for Tourism and Culture of The Gambia*

11. The Hon Susan Waffa-Ogoo thanked the Vice President of the Republic of Kenya for gracing the occasion. She also thanked the Government and people of Kenya for their hospitality. She observed that culture makes Africans happy despite the many challenges that the continent continues to grapple with. She concluded her remarks by expressing special thanks to all the cultural groups that entertained the delegates at the opening ceremony.

IV. Item 2: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

I. Election of the Bureau

12. After due guidance by the AU Commission and pursuant to consultations amongst the countries of each region, a new bureau was elected. The delegate from Tunisia in his capacity as a Member of the PRC announced the new bureau as follows:

Chairperson:	East Africa (Kenya)
1 st Vice Chairperson:	Southern Africa (Namibia)
2 nd Vice Chairperson:	Central Africa (Burundi)
3 rd Vice Chairperson:	North Africa (Algeria)
Rapporteur:	West Africa (Cote d'Ivoire)

The new bureau was accepted by acclamation.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

13. The Agenda was adopted as presented.

III. Adoption of the Programme of Work

14. The Programme of Work was adopted as presented.

Item 3: ***INTRODUCTORY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES***

15. The AU Commissioner for Social Affairs presented a brief overview of the above Report which highlighted the various activities carried out by the OAU/AU, the cultural institutions on the continent and status of implementation of these institutions and activities, as well as the challenges faced by the institutions. She also outlined the different future cultural programmes and activities to be undertaken by the AU in collaboration with partners in the field of culture.

16. In the ensuing discussion the Honorable Mministers commended the report and encouraged the AU to continue the good work it has been doing in the past. After a thorough discussion on the status of some of the cultural institutions and programmes, the Ministers recommended that:

- A detailed inventory of cultural institutions be conducted for future reporting;

- A Division of Culture be established at the AU Commission;
- A proposal to establish an African Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (AFRESCO) was made;
- Cultural projects or institutions should be assessed for relevance, and resources required, capacity, status of implementation at all levels;
- Establish and strengthen cultural infrastructure in the context of social-cultural transformation in Africa;
- The AU Commission should strengthen the coordination and harmonization of cultural initiatives and activities. In this regard, cultural institutions in Africa should submit annual reports to the AU Commission;
- The AU Commission should implement the outcomes of the Conference in collaboration with all stakeholders, including the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);

Item 4: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING

(a) Statutes and Launching of the Academy of African Languages

17. Presenting this item, the Rapporteur informed the Ministers that, the Experts, after reviewing this document, commended the Commission for its efforts and adopted the Statutes by acclamation and recommended that the same be referred to Ministers for consideration.

18. Ministers considered this recommendation and acknowledged that the document was developed in a participatory manner and adopted it by acclamation. They also commended the Malian delegation for their contribution. However, the Malian delegation clarified that this document was prepared by experts from all over the continent.

(b) Draft Revised Cultural Charter for Africa

19. The recommendations on the Revised Cultural Charter for Africa were reviewed by the Ministers. Some observations and concerns were raised which led to a proposal to refer the Charter to a small Working Group for redrafting of some of the articles. It was, however, agreed that Ministers consider the recommendation made by the Experts to have the document adopted and not review the document again. The recommendation made by the experts was adopted with the some comments from Mali and Ethiopia to be submitted in writing.

(c) Revised Dakar Plan of Action on Cultural Industries (Nairobi Plan of Action on Cultural Industries in Africa).

20. The Rapporteur informed the Ministers that after the presentation of this item to the Experts, the Plan of Action was referred to a small Working Group

and the Secretariat for finalization. Delegates were requested to submit their comments in writing to the Secretariat for incorporation in the final document and that the document was now being presented to Ministers for consideration.

21. Ministers observed that African dance was missing in the document. They also recommended that there is need for the development of a Special Plan for the development of African Dance including the Pan African Institute for African Dance. It was, further, suggested that Section 14 should not mention the names of the artists.

22. Delegates then requested that in order to facilitate exchange of experiences each country should provide information on the Festivals they hold. The need to review some of the issues like Sector 2: on page 32 so that there is reference to the African TV was raised. It was also suggested that African Fashion should be included in the Plan. Furthermore, Page 44 in the English Version on Inter African Co-operation, must mention that AU should play a major role. Ministers also cited the need to mention new ICTs. In the final analysis the AU Commission was requested to send this document to Member States for further input by way of placing the document on the website. The Member States agreed to submit their comments by December 23, 2005. The Ministers further agreed to mandate the Commission to revise the documents by incorporating such comments and to submit the revised Plan to the relevant policy organs of the AU. Ministers were encouraged to submit their comments to the Secretariat before leaving Nairobi.

23. After these discussions the document was adopted in principle.

(d) Language Plan of Action for Africa

24. The Commission requested the Ministers to consider endorsing the proposal to declare 2006 as the Year of African Languages as they discuss this item.

25. It was then recalled that this item was presented by ACALAN representatives to the Experts. ACALAN reported that some of the necessary amendments were made on the 1986 version of the "Language Plan of Action for Africa" to provide for the complimentary role of African and non-African (European) languages. It was noted that after the presentation Experts appreciated the amendments and endorsed the document.

26. In the ensuing debate, Ministers requested for a Programme of Work for the Year of African Languages and suggested that 2006 was too close for all practical reasons and recommended that this be deferred. It was, however, clarified that this decision was made in 2004 by Heads of State and Government of the AU. It was also mentioned that a Programme of Work was already prepared including activities and will be made available to all countries. The

attention of the delegates was drawn to the fact that 2006 might have already been overloaded by other activities. These fears were allayed and it was observed that The Year of African Languages could not have come at any better time. Ministers acknowledged that this declaration will strengthen the proposal for the establishment of the Academy of Languages. It was also observed that the only way to link up with the grassroots there is need to promote African languages.

27. The proposal to declare 2006 as the Year of African Languages as well as the Plan of Action for African Language were adopted.

(e) Proposal for the Establishment of a Pan-African Cultural Institute

28. The Rapporteur informed the Ministers that the Experts generally welcomed the Proposal for the Establishment of a Pan-African Cultural Institute and referred it to the Ministers for consideration. The Commissioner added that the issue regarding existing Institutions was raised including how this new PACI will be set up. This will include details and modalities for establishing the Institute.

29. The Ministers then discussed this recommendation as well as the additional information provided by the Commissioner. They thanked the Experts for not rejecting the proposal noting that such an Institution was welcome. Delegates then recommended the establishment of a Think Tank/Task Force that should come up with the nature, structure and modalities for establishing the institute and that such a Task Force should be set up by the Commission. This approach will be used in the setting up of ACALAN. The outcome of this work should then lead to a Feasibility Study which Algeria offered to sponsor. The Task Force will define specification which will be given to a firm that will actually conduct the Feasibility Study. The Task Force should also consider the proposal made by Sudan on the AFRESCO to avoid duplication.

30. The Ministers, however, noted that there was need to review the existing Institutions first and see how the new institute can work with them.

31. Institutions are not an end in themselves, they are rather a means to address a set of objectives. Overall the Ministers generally supported the idea of setting up the Task Force to come up with the details. Ministers however suggested that the Feasibility Study should not be used to justify the establishment of the Institution.

32. There was a recommendation that existing Sub-regional Institute should be looked at and solutions to the problems they are facing should be identified and addressed. The Institution should be connected to other African Universities. The Ministers then formally adopted the proposal to set up a Task Force as outlined above.

(f) Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Africa

33. With regard to this item, the Rapporteur drew the attention of the Ministers to the fact that the Experts generally supported the proposal. However some delegates suggested that equal emphasis be placed on intangible heritage. They also suggested that a Committee be established to facilitate financial and technical contribution. It was further noted that there is no clear cut separation between tangible and intangible heritages and both are covered in the common position. In this connection, the participants were informed that a feasibility study was conducted; and that the framework for the Heritage Fund had been worked out. Furthermore, it was learnt that an endowment fund would be established to avoid donor dependence. It was also suggested that African World Heritage expertise be strengthened through the proposed Fund.

34. The Ministers were also informed that An African Position Paper on the Africa Cultural Heritage Convention and the African Heritage Fund was developed which includes a 10-year Action Plan.

35. The Ministers endorsed the proposal of the experts. The Member States were, however, called upon to consider ratifying this Convention if they have not yet done so. It was noted that Africa is under-represented on the World Heritage List hence the need for the Position Paper.

36. Ministers of Culture were requested to support the ECOSOCC resolution 01/ECOSOCC/05 for the Airfare tax.

(g) The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Expression.

37.

45. The Commissioner informed the conference that UNESCO had submitted a document to provide the correct text on this item as well correcting the name of the convention which is Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Expression. Countries were then requested to ratify this convention. . It was recommended that the UNESCO text replaces paragraph 38 and 39 of the Experts Report.

46. Member States were further requested to strengthen mechanisms for international co-operation.

(h) Brief on Preparations for the First Edition of the Pan-African Cultural Congress, 2006

47. The Rapporteur informed the Ministers that the presentation of this item to the Experts was done by a representative of the AU Commission, who shared information on the preparations for the 1st Edition of the Pan-African Cultural Congress. He noted that the Congress was aimed at providing cultural workers an opportunity to enrich documentation for the 1st Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Culture. A total number of around 300 participants were expected for the Congress, which would have convened prior to the Conference of Culture. The Congress was scheduled 8 themes and four sub-themes to each theme. The 8 themes are:

- Theme 1: Identity, national citizenship and a common African vision;
- Theme 2: Culture and education;
- Theme 3: The continent's memory: the past of Africa, historical and ethnographical heritage, traditional knowledge and know how;
- Theme 4: Cultural Freedoms and Rights; legislation;
- Theme 5: Cultural Development;
- Theme 6: Cultural dimension of development, economic stakes of culture; other challenges of development challenges: environment, health, poverty reduction;
- Theme 7: Africa and the World: the role and place of culture;
- Theme 8: Cultural Policies in Africa: theories and practices;

48. 49. The Rapporteur further informed the Ministers that in the discussions during the Experts Meeting, delegates suggested the addition of a ninth theme namely "*culture and language*". Some delegates questioned the end result of the outcomes of the Congress, as the outcomes will no longer feed into the Conference. Other delegations also proposed the inclusion of themes on cultural policy and legislation as well as intangible heritage. Delegations also called for a forum for artists involved in cultural industries such as show business, to advise on ways and means for assisting cultural industries.

50.

51. The Chair reminded the delegates that Tanzania proposed that the Congress be hosted by Kenya but it may not necessarily be in March 2006 to allow for preparations. Ministers also suggested that Culture and Peace as well as Culture and Gender be added as themes.

52. The Kenyan Delegation reiterated that Kenya will be honoured to host the 1st Edition Pan-African Cultural Congress. The Commission made some clarification regarding the convening of the Congress. The Commission will consult to ensure that the Congress is allocated a slot on the AU Commission calendar of meeting. She also made reference to the fact that the new Bureau have a role to play. The Commission also clarified that the Congress might not be convened in the first quarter of 2006.

53. The Ministers agreed that the Congress will be held next year and that the Commission will work on the agenda.

Item 5**Contribution to the 5th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (Special Session on Culture and Education), Khartoum, 2006**

The Commissioner for Social Affairs informed the Ministers that the Commission made a presentation on this item to the Experts.

The Commissioner then informed the delegates that the theme of the January Assembly would be Culture and Education which means that there will be a Special Session devoted to Culture and Education. During this session, two Heads of State will make presentations on Culture and Education, respectively, followed by a debate on the same by the Heads of State. A maximum of 2 hours will be devoted to culture and education. Participants were further informed that there will be an Extra-ordinary Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF) from January 11th – 14th 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia which will endorse substantive agenda items to be presented to the Heads of State.

There will be separate fora organised for Civil Society, Gender and Private Sector before the Summit meetings begin. The paper from UNESCO was entitled The Role of Education and Culture in the Quest for Africa's Sustainable Development and was distributed to Experts. The Commission will develop a concept paper for the summit in consultation with UNESCO also drawing on the UNESCO paper. The paper from UNESCO is on the interface between culture and education.

The Ministers took note of the UNESCO report and requested the Commission to develop the concept taking into account the UNESCO paper. Member States were encouraged to submit comments to the Commission for incorporation in the concept paper.

The UNESCO informed the delegates that the document was requested by Chairperson. The Ministers of Education in Algiers took note of the report. The Ministers were requested to avail themselves of this opportunity to contribute to the UNESCO document.

Item 6.

Items proposed by Member States: South Africa's hosting of the 1st African Film Summit and the General Congress of FEPACI from 3-4 April 2006.

Mr Themba Wakashe, on behalf of the government of South Africa, presented this item for noting and endorsement and on preparations for the 1st African Film Summit, to be convened jointly by the National Video and Film Association of South Africa and FEPACI in April 2006 and the General Congress of FEPACI from 3-4 April 2006. He noted that the 1st African Film Summit is in response to a decision of the 2nd Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Maputo in 2003. The 1st African Film Summit aims to bring together 150 delegates comprising audio-visual practitioners from within and outside Africa to discuss issues such as state of the African film industry, review and evaluates successes and weakness of the film sector, streamline audio-visual policies, explore a new mandate for FEPACI within NEPAD context, review policy instruments of the OAU/AU for the audio-visual industry and to explore a new Pan African Convention for Colloboration within Audio-Visual Industry.

The Experts Meeting appreciated the information presented and an appeal was made for the active participation of audio-visual practitioners from across the continent.

The delegate then appealed for the participation of the African Union.

The Ministers wished South Africa all the success in the preparation.

Item 7

The Nairobi Declaration on Culture, Integration and African Renaissance

This item was presented by the Commissioner who provided an outline of the Declaration.

The Ministers then made a number of suggestions to improve the Declaration

Item 8

Any Other Business

The Delegate from Sudan presented the proposal by the Governemnt of Sudan on the establishment of AFRESCO and suggested that this be added to the Nairobi Declaration. The Commission also informed the delegates that this item has also been proposed the AU Summit in The Sudan in January 2006.

The Hon. Minister from Libya made a statement in which he thanked Kenya for inviting them to this meeting.

Delegates who took the floor thanked Kenya for hosting the Conference. The delegation from Togo provided information about the Cultural Centre of Lome was provided. The Togo delegation request the AU to include the centre on its programmes.

The delegate from Cote d'Ivoire made a presentation in which he outlined the key elements that could facilitate reflection on the theme: " Inventory and economic development of African Cultural Heritage" at the international meeting that Togo offered to host on this subject.

The delegate from Ghana informed the Ministers that 2007 will mark 50 years of Ghanaian Independence and that Ghana may declare Accra the Cultural capital of Africa. ECOSOCC resolution document on air ticket faire and appealed to the AU to consult Ministers of Tourism before this is implemented. He also noted that the Mausoleum of Kenyatta was locked which was cause for concern.

The delegate from Gabon made an intervention which made reference to paragraph 6 in the preamble of the Declaration and suggested that AU appoints a committee to undertake this evaluation on African Cultures.

Rwanda informed the delegates that culture has a role to play in peace and reconciliation especially considering the 1994 genocide that occurred in that country. He invited all ministers to Rwanda from 5-12 August 2006 for a cultural festival.

Central Africa Republic informed delegates that his country is facing cultural challenges and that a strategic plan has been elaborated to address these challenges. The delegate further thanked UNESCO for their support.

Gambia would like to invite all ministers, delegates and members to Gambia on the occasion of the 8th of the International Roots Home Coming Festival from 3rd to 10th June 2006.

Item 9.

Date and Venue of the 2nd Session of Conference of Ministers of Culture

Algeria offered to host the 2nd Session of Conference of Ministers of Culture . The offer was accepted by the Ministers. The 2nd Session will be in November 2007.

Item 10

Adoption of the Report and Recommendations of the Experts' Meeting

The report was presented item by item and after some interventions the report was adopted by acclamation.

Item 11

Closing

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