

AFRICAN UNION

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Avenue Molière 186 - 1050 Bruxelles (Belgique) Tel: (322) 346.97.47/48 Fax: (322) 346.97.28
e-mail: africanunion@skynet.be

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GROUP OF AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN BRUSSELS

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DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON AN IMPROVED INVOLVEMENT OF THE
GROUP OF AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN BRUSSELS
IN THE FOLLOW-UP OF AFRICA – EU COOPERATION

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I. Definition and mandate

1. On the occasion of its 140th ordinary session held on 19 January 2011, the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels mandated the new Bureau to make all necessary provisions to set up a working group with a view to examine ways and means of ensuring a proper involvement of the African Group of Brussels in the implementation of the existing cooperation instruments linking Africa to the European Union, in particular, the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and its related Plan of Action.
2. The Working Group has been given the following title: **“Working Group on an improved involvement of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels in the follow-up of Africa-EU cooperation”**.

II. Duration of the mandate

3. The Working Group is established for a period of two months from February to March 2011.

III. Composition

4. The Working Group is composed as follows:
 - Current members of the Bureau of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels, including the ex-officio and Troïka members;
5. The deliberations of the Working Group shall however remain open to participation by any representative of a member state of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels wishing to do so.
6. Representatives of African Regional Economic Communities in Brussels may also participate in the Group’s meetings as observers.

IV. Objectives

7. At the end of its above mentioned term of office, the Working Group, acting in the name and on behalf of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels to which it shall submit its progress and/or final report(s) is expected to:

- Make an in-depth analysis of the working relations between the European and African institutional bodies involved in the implementation of the cooperation instruments linking Africa to the European Union (ACP- EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement; Africa – EU Strategic Partnership, etc.);
- Study the status and role of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels, particularly as regards action taken by the African Union and its Commission;
- Examine ways and means of effectively involving the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels as a full-fledged actor in the Africa-EU dialogue;
- Look into ways and means of having the African component of the ACP Group of States identify itself as such and hence relay African Union positions on development issues and strategies, including Africa-EU multilateral cooperation;
- Consider ways of ensuring a better coordination and harmonisation of action taken by the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels with that of its counterparts based in Addis Ababa, New York and Geneva, in particular.

V. Functioning

8. The established Working Group shall elaborate, if it so deems necessary, its own Rules of Procedure, based on the principles and objectives of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels.
9. The Working Group shall operate at the level of Ambassadors and/or their representatives.
10. The Working Group shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels. In his absence, one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Bureau of the African Group shall chair the meetings of the Working Group.
11. The Permanent Representative of the African Union in Brussels shall act as secretary to the Working Group.
12. The Working Group shall hold its meetings at the headquarters of the Permanent Mission of the African Group in Brussels.

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2011-08-10

Projet de termes de reference du groupe de travail sur une meilleure implication du groupe africain des Ambassadeurs a Bruxelles dans le suivi de la cooperation afrique-UE

Mission permanente de l'union africaine a Bruxelles

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