

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA
Fax: 517844

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone : 517 700

**Meeting of the International
Committee charged to prepare
the Conference of Intellectuals
from Africa and the Diaspora
3 - 5 May 2004
Dakar, Senegal**

FINAL REPORT

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1. At the initiative of H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, backed by the Summits of the Continental Organization held in Lome and Maputo in 2000 and 2003 respectively, the African Union will convene its first conference of intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora in Dakar in October 2004.
2. In order to prepare this all important meeting, an international committee set up by the African Union met in Dakar from 3 to 5 May 2004. In attendance were about fifty personalities, intellectuals and experts from Africa and the Diaspora.
3. The opening session was chaired by H.E. Macky Sall, Prime Minister of Senegal, in the presence of H.E. Cheikh Tidiane Gadio, Minister of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Safietou Ndiaye, Minister of Culture and Classified Historical Heritage, and Mr. Mamadou Lamine Diallo, Representative of H.E. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union. The opening session was also attended by members of the Government of Senegal and of the Diplomatic corps accredited to the Republic of Senegal.
4. For the conduct of the proceedings, the members of the international committee constituted a bureau composed as follows:

- Chairperson : Prof. J. Akande (Nigeria)
- Vice-Chairperson : Dr Howard Dodson (USA)
- General Rapporteur : Prof. Th. Obenga (Congo/USA)
- Rapporteur : Prof. Tony Martin (Trinidad & Tobago/USA)

5. At the end of the deliberations, the following conclusions were adopted:

6. The first conference of intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora will take place in Dakar from 7 to 9 October 2004.

7. The Conference will be attended by 350 intellectuals from the continent, 150 intellectuals from the Diaspora, as well as Heads of State and Government and eminent personalities.

8. The Conference will be preceded on 6 October by a gala night of Nobel Prize laureates from Africa and the Diaspora and will be graced by President Nelson Mandela; this will afford the opportunity to launch an appeal for peace in Africa. It is planned that the gala night will be chaired jointly by Mr. Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, President Nelson Mandela and President Abdoulaye Wade. This ceremony will be a prelude to a meeting of Nobel Peace Prize laureates from all over the world and an occasion to launch a Peace Decade in Africa.

Concept Paper, General Theme, Themes and Sub-Themes

9. The draft concept paper of the conference was discussed exhaustively. The remarks and suggestions adopted will be incorporated in the new version. This basic document will be enriched as improvements are made within the context of the preparation of the conference and relevant inputs are received at the conference secretariat. Pending the creation of the conference website, information can be obtained and documents accessed at the Commission's website : **www.africa-union.org**.

10. The members of the International Committee defined the general theme of the conference as follows : **Africa in the 21st Century : Integration and Renaissance.**

11. They also proposed the themes and sub-themes of the conference as follows :

Theme 1 : **Pan-Africanism in the 21st Century**

- a) Background
- b) Heritage
- c) Current events and prospects.

Theme 2: **Contribution of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora to the deepening and consolidation of African integration in the global context of the 21st century**

- d) Evaluation of the contribution of intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora to integration issues and processes.
- e) Conditions of intellectuals in Africa and in the Diaspora and their role in the consolidation of African integration : constraints and commitments.
- f) Various levels of integration and major instruments of integration : the African Union and its program (NEPAD); the regional economic communities; the inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations in Africa and in the Diaspora working on integration issues.

Theme 3: African identity in a multicultural context

- g) Intra-continental and extra-continental African identity;
- h) Inventory and evaluation of identity building processes;
- i) African history, values and languages as components of identity;
- j) Cultural infrastructure and industries as vehicles of cultural identity;
- k) Relationships between identity and power;
- l) Emerging socio-cultural and symbolic productions of African identities.

Theme 4: The place of Africa in the world

- m) Political dimension;
- n) Economic dimension and NEPAD as instrument of integration;
- o) Socio-cultural dimensions.

Theme 5 : Relations between Africa and its Diaspora

- p) Relations between the Diaspora and African States;
- q) Relations between the Diaspora and social movements;
- r) Trade relations between the Diaspora and Africa;
- s) Possible institutional arrangements to reinforce the participation of the Diaspora in African integration efforts;

- t) Place of the history of Africa and the Diaspora in the teaching programs in Africa.

Theme 6 : Africa, science and technology : stakes and prospects

12. Participants also made the following recommendations:

Intellectual preparation

13. For each theme, 1 to 3 papers will be presented from different angles in plenary. Committees managed by a moderator and a rapporteur will examine the various aspects of each theme.

14. The working documents focusing on the 6 themes, the papers presented in plenary as well as some papers presented in Committees, will be published.

15. To prepare the work program, it should be noted that to examine 6 themes in 3 days, at least half a day will be required for each session, taking committee deliberations into account.

16. The Heads of State and Government and the eminent personalities attending the conference would make statements at the opening and/or closing sessions.

17. To ensure the intellectual preparation of the conference, the African Union Commission will be assisted by African and international scientific institutions such as :

- the Association of African Universities;
- national and regional research institutes;
- NGOs etc..

Participation in the conference

18. The 500 participants will be divided as follows:
- **Africa** : 350 (the distribution will be done by the AU)
 - **Diaspora**: 150
 - Asia/Australia/South Pacific : 5
 - Gulf/Southeast Asia : 5
 - Europe : 30
 - Central America /Caribbean: 30
 - South America : 30
 - North America : 50
19. **The committee drew attention to :**
- the low representation of Central Africa at this type of meeting;
 - the need to take the gender component into account;
 - the need to ensure that the Diaspora participants are truly representative.
20. To ensure compliance with all the balances, it was recommended that focal points should be judiciously identified and used, particularly in dissemination of information.

Updating the list of patrons

21. It was proposed to add the following to the provisional list :

- **Nobel prize laureates from the Diaspora**
 - **Nobel Peace Prize**
 - Martin Luther King
 - Ralph Bunche
 - **Nobel Prize for Literature**
 - Toni Morrison
 - Derek Walcott
 - **Nobel Prize for Economics**
 - Sir Arthur Lewis
- **African personalities**
 - a) Abdias Do Nascimento
 - b) Manuel Zapata - Olivella
 - c) Oliver Tambo

Parallel Activities

22. Under these activities, it is planned to organize on the sidelines of the conference :

- Cultural events;
- Scientific activities and events (book exhibitions; exhibitions, presentations, round tables, public lectures on patrons, historic figures, themes etc.; exhibitions or presentations on discoveries, research works, significant activities and achievements by Africans and members of the Diaspora etc.).

23. It was proposed that major African awards such as the Cheikh Anta Diop Award for Scientific Renaissance established by the OAU in 1985 be launched. These prizes will be awarded to personalities from Africa and the Diaspora. Diasporan prizes will also be awarded under similar conditions.

24. The fellowship program which the African Union is planning to set up will also be extended to the members of the Diaspora.

25. An effective communication strategy will be put in place to popularize the conference and mobilize the members of the community of intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora.

Briefing Session

26. At the end of the deliberations, the members of the AU delegation seized the opportunity to brief participants on the Commission's activities, namely the preparation of the documents on the vision, mission, the strategic framework and the 4-year program, which will be presented to the forthcoming AU Executive Council and Summit sessions in Addis Ababa in July 2004; the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation in Africa (CSSDCA) etc..

27. The basic documents of the AU in general, and of the Commission in particular, were earlier circulated to participants.

Closing

28. The closing session took place on Wednesday 5 May 2004 at 13 hours in the presence of H.E. Cheikh Tidiane Gadio, Minister of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Safietou Ndiaye, Minister of Culture, H.E. Christian Sina Diatta, Minister of Scientific Research and Mr. Mamadou Lamine Diallo. Representative of H.E. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the AU Commission, all of whom expressed gratification at the success of the meeting.

29. The final communique issued at the end of the deliberations was read out by Professor Theophile Obenga, General Rapporteur.

30. The vote of thanks was presented by H.E. Da Silva Barboza Maria Ines, Vice Minister of Brazil in charge of Promotion of Racial Equality.

31. The second meeting of the International Community charged to prepare the conference will be convened by the African Union Commission after the forthcoming AU Summit in July 2004.

Working Session at the Presidency of the Republic

32. Participants were received in audience at the “Palais de la République” on 5 May 2004 at 16 hours where they presented the conclusions of the deliberations to H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic, as well as the follow-up action to be undertaken. The President of the Republic thanked the members of the Committee and reaffirmed his support as well as that of his government for the project.