

**PRESS RELEASE No.069/2004****COORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN THE COMMISSION OF  
THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
COMMUNITIES**

The African Union Commission and the Chief Executives of the Regional Economic Communities, today held a coordination meeting at the AU Conference Center.

The meeting, which provided the platform for the AU officials and Chief Executives of COMESA, CEN-SAD, IGAD and SADC, discussed the report of the Experts meeting on the Coordination of AU and the Regional Economic Communities, the AU vision, mission and strategic plan and progress reports by Chief Executives of RECs on the implementation of Regional Integration programmes.

The Chairperson of the Commission, Prof. Alpha Oumar Konaré, in his welcome address, briefed the Chief Executives of the RECs on the AU vision, mission, and strategic plan.

He reiterated the importance of implementing the programmes of the plan, noting that the programmes provided answers to the enormous challenges facing Africa.

The Chairperson also called on the RECs to be United and re-enforce Africa's common position in multilateral negotiations, adding that Africa must have a determination to fight poverty and develop a solidarity strategy in achieving poverty eradication.

The RECs on their part commended the Commission for its vision and mission, and recommended to the Commission the need for greater popularization through seminars and workshops organized at the level of the RECs.

The RECS also, briefed the Commission on progress reports on the implementation of their Regional Integration programmes.

**Addis Ababa, June 29, 2004**