

# AUC NEWS



The newsletter of the African Union Commission

Issue 15. December 2006

## CHAIRPERSON'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

### *Together we can turn the tide*

Dear colleagues and members of staff of the African Union Commission

Our organization, which I have had the honour to serve for the last three years and a half, has met with many successes and some challenges since its formation.



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The very formation of the African Union as the successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was a significant indicator of the direction African leaders desired for the continent. We are now an organization of regional integration, with the ultimate aim of forming a United States of Africa as provided for by our leaders.

At its formation, a Vision and Mission to guide the Union was developed. The AU is now recognized as a legitimate partner in international fora and offers an important forum for generating Pan- African consensus and action. We have seen the AU in the forefront of peace making and peace keeping on the continent. A number of institutions of the AU have come to life, giving the AU a democratic foundation, notably the Pan African Parliament: and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC). In judicial matters, the African Court on Human and People's Rights now has its first 11 judges and is in the process of setting up its base in Arusha, Tanzania. The Regional Economic Communities continue to be our building blocks and are crucial to the integration of the continent. Currently we are engaged in the Institutional Transformation Programme (ITP) which aims to create a basis for the AU to improve its delivery under the Strategic Plan.

All these are significant developments in the life of a young organization such as ours.

But we still have a long way to go to achieve the ideals set for us in the Vision and Mission of the AU. As a continent we have to combat hunger, poverty, disease, conflicts and war. We have to fight terrorism, the spread of illicit weapons, and environmental degradation. We have to ensure that all boys and girls receive good education and the equal rights of women, and achieve the time bound targets laid out in the MDGs. We need also to respect human rights, be accountable, democratic and transparent.

At one of our Summits recently, the message was that it is time to stop making plans and start implementing them for the benefit of our people. I agree totally with this. 2007 must therefore see us making more progress on many fronts. Let us stop making too many grand plans and declarations and let us act.

It is only through working collectively that we can achieve them – together we can turn the tide. I wish you all a blessed holiday season, and please accept my best wishes for the New Year for you and your loved ones.

Alpha Oumar Konare

**The Summit on Food Security in Africa took place in Abuja from 4- 7 December, under the theme “Food Security: an Engine for Growth and Poverty Alleviation in Africa”.**

**The Chairperson of the Commission was represented by the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Mrs. Rosebud Kurwijila, (right) who also delivered the Commission’s message.**



## SUMMIT IDENTIFIES PRIORITY AREAS TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

The main AU message, which was in accordance with that of the Summit, was that, given that past Summits have produced many commitments for agriculture and food security, there is now a need to apply Africa’s resources and institutional capacities in a more selective manner, prioritizing those commitments that best facilitate early achievement of sustainable progress.

“The AU is thus urging for an integrated response to food security and overcoming hunger to increase food production, improve nutrition, make markets work for the poor, increase rural credit and empowerment of women”, Commissioner Kurwijila said. The Commission also urged for an African led approach to overcoming the challenges of food security on the continent.

In the declaration and resolution issued at the end of the Summit, the Heads of state and Govern-

ment renewed their commitment to combating poverty and food nutrition insecurity in Africa.

### PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED

The Heads of State identified maize, legumes, cotton, oil palm, beef, dairy, poultry and fisheries products as strategic commodities at the continental level; and cassava, sorghum and millet at sub-regional level. They also decided to increase intra African trade in these crops.

### DECLARATIONS

Among other things, the Heads of State declared their firm intention to:

- Take urgent measures to accelerate the development of the strategic commodities
- Ratify and implement harmonized standards and grades within and across RECs by 2010;

*(Continued on page 3)*



Delegates at the Summit took time discussing the priority areas for food security in Africa



Dr Babagana of Rural Economy and Agriculture (right), with the Nigerian Minister of Agriculture Mr. Adamu Bello

(Continued from page 2)

- Construct and maintain critical infrastructure to facilitate the movement of strategic agricultural products across national boundaries at minimal cost;
- Develop continental and regional market information systems
- Promote public sector investment in agriculture related infrastructure
- Call upon Africa based development banks and financial institutions to improve access to soft loans, small loans and grants;
- Expand the implementation of the NEPAD Home-Grown School feeding initiative. Establish a system for selecting and prioritizing key AUC and NEPAD CAADP related summit commitments
- Call upon the African Union Commission to follow up with member states, RECs and other relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the above declarations and report to the Assembly

of Heads of State and Government annually on progress and challenges.

The Heads of State and Government requested the AUC to establish an ad-hoc follow-up committee consisting of representatives of the AUC, NEPAD, RECs, FAO, IFAD, ECA and WFP to strengthen the capacity of Member States to implement food security and nutrition programmes and to monitor the implementation of the summit outcomes.

Meanwhile the Green Wall Sahara Programme was launched at the end of the Food Security in Africa Summit at a ceremony presided over by President Olusegun Obasanjo, in the presence of, among others, the Senegalese President Mr. Abdulaye Wade; Malawian President Mr. Bingu wa Mutharika; the President of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic Mr. Mohammed Abdelaziz; AU Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Mrs. Rosebud Kurwijila; senior government representatives, development partners, and invited guests.

## AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Three important agreements were signed in December

On 14 December the Vice – President of the AUC H.E. Mr. Patrick Mazimhaka signed a one million Euro agreement with the French Ambassador, to assist the AU Peace keeping force in Darfur.

On 16 December Commissioner Julia Joiner signed, on behalf of the Commission a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African countries, aimed at establishing an appropriate framework of cooperation.

On 15 December Dr Salif Sall signed, on behalf of the Commission, a 1.7 million United States Dollar agreement with the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark regarding support for the Institutional Transformation Programme.

### **AUC ISSUES STATEMENT ON THE CASE OF THE BULGARIAN NURSES AND PALESTINIAN DOCTOR ACCUSED OF INFECTING SOME LIBYAN CHILDREN WITH THE HIV VIRUS**

On 26 December, the African Union Commission issued a statement on the case of the Bulgarian nurses, as well as the Palestinian doctor who were accused of infecting some Libyan children with the HIV virus and the judgment passed on them by Libyan judicial instances.

In the statement, the AUC said it regrets very much the harrowing experiences both parties have gone through since the tragedy occurred and expressed appreciation for the restraint shown by all sides so far.

Nevertheless, the Commission expressed concern at attempts to politicize the tragedy and requested that this be avoided at all cost. It shames the concern of the families of the infected children and calls on all concerned to ensure that the matter is resolved in such a manner as not to further aggravate the tragedy of the young Libyans.

Finally, the African Union Commission requested that the Libyan judicial process, which it believes will continue to exercise its authority in a fair and judicious manner, be allowed to complete its work as soon as possible.

## AU, LAS and IGAD DISCUSS STEPS TO AID SOMALI PEACE PROCESS

At the invitation of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, (AUC) Alpha Oumar Konaré, a consultative meeting on the situation in Somalia was convened on 27 December, at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. In addition to the Chairperson of the AUC and his Deputy, the Meeting was attended by the Deputy Secretary General of the League of Arab States (LAS), Mr. Ahmed BenHelli, and the Executive Secretary of the Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Ambassador Attalla H. Bashir.

Pic 1 to r: Mr. Ahmed Ben Heli; Mr. Konare; Mr. Mazimhaka; Mr. Bashir



The meeting reviewed the critical situation obtaining in Somalia and discussed the urgent steps that need to be undertaken to help the peace process in that country.

The meeting recalled the commitments undertaken by both the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds of negotiations in Khartoum, which were held under the auspices of the LAS and the various decisions taken; and the declarations made by IGAD, the AU, and the LAS. It also reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and respect for the principle of non-interference, political independence and unity of Somalia;

Among others, the meeting:

Appealed to all the parties con-

cerned to ensure an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and complete cessation of hostilities.

Appealed to the Transitional Federal Government and the Union of Islamic Courts to resume, as a matter of urgency, their political dialogue in Khartoum, under the co-chairmanship of the LAS and IGAD, by 15 January 2007, without any preconditions.

Called for the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somalia;

The meeting;

Agreed for the AU, LAS and IGAD to undertake necessary consultations with a view to the speedy implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1725 (2006), especially, with respect to the establishment of a protection and training mission in Somalia.

Called for the withdrawal of other foreign troops and all other foreign elements from Somalia;

Called for substantial international support to the TFG so as to enable it to maintain the security, integrity

and sovereignty of Somalia; Appealed to the International Community to provide massive assistance to Somalia in order to address the humanitarian crisis caused by nature and conflicts;

The meeting also

Called for the establishment of a joint follow-up mechanism, comprising the AU, LAS and IGAD to monitor the implementation of these decisions and other previous commitments entered into by the Somali parties as well as the three organizations;

And;

Agreed for the AU, LAS and IGAD to send a joint mission to meet with all stakeholders to share with them the anxiety of the International Community on the situation in Somalia and the need to urgently take the necessary steps to reestablish stability and lasting peace in the country.

## THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION HOLDS MEETING WITH THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT.



Chairperson Konaré (center) Deputy Chairperson Mazimhaka and Commissioner Joiner formed part of the AU team to the meeting



Mrs. Mongella making a point while a PAP official looks on

A meeting between the African Union Commission and the Pan African Parliament (PAP), was held on 28 December at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, under the chairmanship of Professor Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairperson of the AU Commission, and of Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, President of the Pan African Parliament, in the presence of the AUC Vice-President as well as two Vice-Presidents of the PAP bureau.

The meeting created a forum for fruitful exchange of views on how to consolidate the cooperation and relationship existing between the different Departments of the Commission and the PAP, and also to debate on the reporting mechanism of the PAP as well as AU budgeting process.

Speaking during the meeting,

Professor Alpha Oumar Konaré, emphasised on the important role played by the PAP as an element of great impulse in the construction of African Unity. He pointed out the willingness of the Commission to bring to the PAP, all the necessary support so as to enable it carry out its mission under better conditions.

The Chairperson of the Commission further crosschecked with the participants, the several issues related to the 8th African Union Summit, scheduled to take place at the end of January in Addis Ababa, as well as the different conflicts the continent is facing today.

To that effect, the Chairperson recalled the urgency of the African Union to have its own Permanent Peace Keeping Force of 5000 people, so that, the AU could always turn to it, for the maintenance of peace in times of emergencies during conflicts and also reduce tension in areas

of conflicts.

Mrs. Mongella, on her part, presented an exposé of the activities so far achieved by the PAP, pointing out that, special working committees have been put in place and have started working with other partners to elaborate a PAP strategic plan of action based on the vision of the AU.

She expressed satisfaction following the launching by the PAP, of the Special Funds, under the auspices of President Nelson Mandela, aimed at reinforcing the PAP technical capacity, wishing that the PAP would bring some added value to the AU and to the African citizens as well.

At the end of the meeting, the two parties agreed to put in place a joint working team in charge of studying the issue of the institutionalisation of the consultative process within the framework of budgeting and the frequent consultations between the two organs, in general.

## THE 2<sup>ND</sup> CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE HELD IN YAOUNDÉ

FOCUS WAS ON CURRENT AFRICAN ECONOMIC ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING POLICIES.



Dr. M Mkwezalamba; Commissioner–Economic Affairs, addressing the conference

L to R: Mr. Janneh– Executive Secretary ECA; Mr. Inoni Ephraim– Prime Minister Cameroon; Mr. Polycarpe Abah Abah– Minister of Economy and Finance

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance was held on 23 November at the Conference Centre, Yaoundé, Cameroon. The deliberations consisted of a thorough exchange of views on Current African economic issues and Development funding policies.

At the end of the deliberations, the Ministers adopted a declaration on ways and means of seeking appropriate solutions to the following challenges:

**Development funding and Africa's external debt:** debt relief decisions should be accompanied by substantial concessional resources to buttress the efforts made by African countries towards growth and sustainable development;

**Hike in oil prices:** African countries should diversify their sources of energy and supply.

**Access to North country markets:** industrialized countries should suppress the tariff and non-tariff barriers obstructing access to their markets by African countries and take the appropriate measures to drop subsidies granted to their farmers

**Establishment of the financial institutions under the African Union:** there is need for consultation with, *inter alia*, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as well as to speed up the establishment of the said institutions

**Alternative Funding of the African Union:** additional studies should be conducted to assess the impact of the measures envisaged in this respect on the economies of Member States;

**Microfinance:** The African Union Commission should draw up an action plan to promote micro finance projects

**Rationalization of RECs:** The AUC should, in close collaboration with the ADB and the ECA, implement the road map prepared in this respect;

**Harmonization of statistics in Africa:** The African Union Commission is responsible for preparing an African Statistics Charter to be submitted to AU Member States for adoption;

**Aid for Trade:** the Ministers appealed for the immediate resumption of WTO negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda. They commended the WTO initiative to set up the "Aid for Trade (A4T)" facility, and endorsed the African Common Position adopted in this respect. .

The Conference brought together 40 AU Member States, representatives of RECs, ECA, as well as Africa's development partners such as the ADB the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

## “MADE IN AFRICA”

### AU IN EFFORT TO EMPOWER PRIVATE SECTOR AND PROMOTE AFRICAN PRODUCTS

The African Union Private Sector Forum was held in Cairo, Egypt from the 28-30<sup>th</sup> November 2006. The Forum was held under the theme “Empowering the Private Sector and Promoting MADE IN AFRICA” The Egyptian Business Women Association (EBWF) hosted the Forum, which was attended by business persons from various African countries as well as the Diaspora.

In his statement at the opening ceremony, Dr Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs Department indicated that the Forum aims at promoting continental integration by engaging the African business community in the implementation of the AU strategic plan and the overall African development agenda including the New partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). He also emphasized that the Forum provides a platform for dialogue and exchange of business information and sharing of experiences and promoting the development of micro, small and medium scale enterprises. These efforts are meant to assist the continent attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The programme of the Private Sector Forum included; Increasing intra –Africa Trade in African Products; The role of media in promoting MADE IN AFRICA; The role of African women entrepreneurs and in-



Powerful symbolism at play: AU staff and delegates marched to the pyramids, one of the continent’s most enduring products, to spread the “MADE IN AFRICA” message

formal sector; Using science and technology as a tool for diversifying and enhancing competitiveness of African products; Investment opportunities; Financing African Private Sector; Promoting Public-Private Partnerships; Supporting SMEs development and role of micro finance in Africa; and Economic empowerment of the African Private Sector, including women.

The African Union Commission then presented an Action Plan Matrix, which has a timeframe of ten years. The Matrix specifies the action to be undertaken in each of the subject areas, the actors and the timeframe. It was recommended that:

- The AUC should develop implementation and follow-up mechanisms for the Action Plan;

- The AUC was also requested to consider engaging some of the relevant stakeholders such as banks, multinational corporations are large business as they too have a role to play in the development of the continent; and
- AUC should ensure that other fora such as the Africa Business Roundtable and the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry are engaged and the activities are complementary.

Parallel to the seminar deliberations, there was an exhibition by a variety of companies to showcase MADE IN AFRICA products.



## CAIRO DECLARATION ON HYDROCARBONS ADOPTED BY MINISTERS

At the First AU Conference of Ministers Responsible for Hydrocarbons held in Cairo, Egypt from 11-14 December, the ministers adopted “The Cairo Declaration on African Cooperation and Solidarity in the Field of Hydro Carbons” as well as a Plan of Action covering activities from 2007-2010.

Considering the decision of the African Union Summit of Heads of States and Government held in Khartoum (Sudan) in January 2006, which was supported by the decision of the Banjul Summit (Gambia) in July 2006, on the creation of an African Petroleum Fund (APF) in the African Union to mitigate the consequences of oil price increases on the economies of African countries, the ministers decided to entrust the management of this Fund's resources and activities to African Development Bank (ADB), as an appropriate African institution.

They further requested the African Union Commission (AUC) to implement all necessary measures to make the fund operational as soon as possible.

They urged the AUC to endeavor to promote cooperation among oil companies operating on the continent. They also called on the AUC to define a strategy to strengthen the capacities of African countries while drawing up and negotiating oil contracts.

In the declaration, the Ministers said they will work towards setting up regional storage facilities; promoting the integration of regional oil, gas pipelines and refinery projects; and to collaborate with Ministers of the Environment to promote the use and exploitation of oil and gas resources while endeavoring to reduce their impact on the environment. They will also work with Ministers of Trade on aspects related to taxes on petroleum products.

The Ministers also agreed to set up, under the auspices of the AUC, the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Hydrocarbons as a central continental coordination body for policies and strategies in the field of hydrocarbons.

The adopted Plan of Action lists all the activities and tasks to be carried

out as well as the structures that would be responsible for the implementation of the above listed operations. The intervention areas of this Action Plan were anchored on three main axes; focusing primarily on the measures to be taken to mitigate the impact of high oil prices, the optimization of oil revenue of producing countries and, finally, the increase in quantity and the improvement of quality of oil products. The action Plan included a fourth part on the support activities to be carried out in this context.

The 1<sup>st</sup> African Union Conference of Ministers responsible for hydrocarbons (oil and gas) had previously reviewed and adopted the report of the Experts meeting held from 11-13 December in Cairo. It was jointly organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Egyptian Government, with the technical support of the African Development Bank (ADB).

Picture: Dr Bernard Zoba: Commissioner— Infrastructure and Energy (center), with Director Baba Moussa (right) and an official at the opening ceremony of the conference

## AMCOST CONFERENCE HELD IN EGYPT

The African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) held its Extraordinary Conference in Cairo, Egypt from 20- 24 November. Organised by the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, the conference opened with a meeting of experts from 20- 22 November.

The conference allowed for discussion and an exchange of views on Science and Technology in Africa. Delegates considered their report to be submitted to the January 2007 Summit which has, as one of its themes: "Science, Technology and Research for Africa's Development".

At the opening session of the conference, the Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology Professor Nagia Essayed informed the meeting that the Best Scientific Innovation Prize in Africa would be launched at the next Summit.

She also highlighted the achievements of the Commission in the areas of ICT, Youth and Education.

The Department of Human Resources Science and Technology is organizing an exhibition of innovative African projects that can highlight the return on investment in S&T, with the technical support from the Science and Technology Division (ISTD) of ECA.

The exhibition will run in parallel with the 2007 Summit of the African Union.



Commissioner Essayed (center) with officials at the conference

The ministers committed themselves to:

- **Establish** mechanisms to accelerate and monitor the implementation of the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action;
- **Work** together to develop a 20 year African Biotechnology Strategy
- **Promote** Africa's Research and Development (R&D) in science and technology and develop innovation strategies for wealth creation and economic development;
- **Encourage** effective knowledge management and better use of Intellectual Property, transfer of technology as well as South-South, North-South cooperation in science and technology;
- **Improve** the design and develop a legal instrument for the establishment of the African Science and Innovation Fund (ASIF) as an intergovernmental mechanism to
- **Maximize** the effective use of locally based scientists,
- **Popularize** the importance of science and technology for the development of African countries.
- **Promote** and facilitate greater participation of women and youth in the advancement of science and technology
- **Use** common guidelines for identifying and establishing networks of centers of excellence in science and technology

### Some of the Cairo Declarations

## THIRD SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS MEETS TO CONSIDER ASPECTS OF ITS PROPER FUNCTIONING

The Third Session of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights was held from 11 to 20 December 2006, at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to consider aspects relating to its proper functioning.

During its session, the Court considered the following agenda items among others; general information on the progress of the starting up of the court's activities, draft rules of the court, and budget and administrative issues. It also considered and adopted some reports as well as a plan of action for the court.

The first 11 Judges were elected by the Executive Council during its Ordinary Session



Director of Political Affairs, Mr. Onyimba addressing the session

held in January 2006 in Khartoum, The Sudan. They were formally sworn in in July 2006 during the Ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Banjul.

The Court functions on a part-time basis except the President who will perform his functions on a full time basis. The process of setting up the Headquarters of the Court in Arusha, Tanzania is ongoing in collaboration with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

## PROMOTING GENDER SENSITIVE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

A training course on Gender Responsive Economic Policy-making in Africa, which was organized by Women, Gender and Development Directorate in collaboration with UN IDEP was held at the AU headquarters from 23 November to 14 December 2006.

The objective of the course was to equip economic policy makers, budget planners, development practitioners and policy advocates with analytical and conceptual skills needed in designing and implementing gender sensitive economic policies and programmes.

As a follow up, the Directorate of Women, Gender and Development will put in place a follow-up mechanism. This will help the AU to know what impact the trainees are making and ensure feedbacks on the application of the knowledge and skills they acquired from participating in the course.

## MEMBER STATES REMINDED TO RATIFY TREATIES

The "signing week" for OAU/AU treaties was held from 4 to 8 December 2006 at the AU head quarters in Addis Ababa. All the Treaties adopted within the framework of the OAU/AU were available for signature in the Office of the Legal Counsel.

The purpose of this event is:

- To celebrate the efforts made by Member States to sign and ratify some of the treaties especially during the signing week held in previous years; and
- To remind Member States to take the necessary measures to ensure the signing and ratification of the treaties, which they have not yet signed or ratified or acceded to, in order to expedite their entry into force.

The adoption of these treaties at different stages in the history of the organization marks significant progress in the collective effort towards socio-economic integration, through the adoption of common values and standards. To date, the policy organs of the OAU/AU have adopted thirty-two (32) treaties and Protocols. Twenty (20) have entered into force and the remainder are in various stages of signature and ratification.

The "Signing Week for OAU/AU Treaties" is organised every year in the month of December. It was instituted by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission with a view to sensitising Member States on the need to sign/ratify/accede and implement OAU/AU Treaties.

## REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA HELD

The Regional Workshops on Integrated Employment Policy for Africa were held from 11 September 2006 to 15 December 2007, in the following countries, Windhoek, Namibia; Abuja, Nigeria; Algiers, Algeria; Khartoum, Sudan; and Yaoundé, Cameroun.

The Workshops were attended by tripartite delegates from Ministries of Labour, Planning, Finance, Economic, Education, and other stakeholders involved in poverty reduction of Southern, Western, Northern, Eastern and Central Africa as well as by International development partners, the RECs, continental organizations and civil societies.

The Objectives of the Workshops were:

- To discuss the status of employment policies and programmes within the Region;
- To launch a country-driven initiative on integration of employment policies through the development of a Regional Framework and advocacy strategies for the implementation of the Framework
- To consider and adopt the Draft Regional Framework on Integrated Employment Policies and Programmes;
- To raise awareness on the Ouagadougou Declaration, labour migration
- gender and employment
- promoting employers and workers participation

The outcomes of the workshops were:

1. Awareness raised on the outcome of the Extra-ordinary Summit and the process of implementation;
2. The process of developing Integrated Employment Policies and Programmes driven by countries and regions in Africa;
3. The Regional Framework on Integrated Employment Policies prepared and adopted;
4. Awareness and role of RECs, social partners and NGOs in employment promotion enhanced;
5. Role of Member States in the development/promotion of sound employment policies and programmes strengthened
6. Role of AU Commission in the harmonization and coordination of social development policies and programmes enhanced.

The meetings adopted the Draft Frameworks on Integrated Employment Policies for each region.



At the Yaounde workshop were from left to right; ILO Representative; Mrs. Liswani, Head of Labour Employment and Migration Division at AU; and Cameroonian Ministers of Environment and Tourism; Employment; Labour and Social Affairs

Plan of Action and Follow-up Mechanism;

The Meetings also provided an opportunity to discuss the Guidelines and Reporting Format of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Extra-ordinary Summit and to sensitize Member States on the outcomes of the Summit.

The workshops deliberated on a number of issues namely:-

- Micro-economic environment
- employment market policy
- promoting decent work
- training, skills, upgrading human resource development
- social security

## AMBASSADORS WHO PRESENTED THEIR CREDENTIALS IN DECEMBER

15 December:  
H.E. Kinichi Komano, Ambassador of Japan and Permanent Representative to the African Union



18 December:  
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Kiomars Fotouhi Gham (left), and the Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen Mr. Gazem Abdulkhaleq Alaghbari.



22 December:  
H.E. Ambassador Cindy Courville, the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the AU and first country representative to the AU

27 December:  
H.E. Mr. Edward Gboloco Howard Clinton, Permanent representative of Liberia to the AU



## AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE NEWLY RE-OPENED CANTEEN



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Division of Communication and Information takes this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and fruitful New Year; and looks forward to working with you in 2007. Your contributions to the newsletter are welcome.