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POLICY BRIEF

FROM

OXFAM LIAISON OFFICE WITH THE AFRICAN UNION

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ON THE AFRICAN UNION AGENDA

The 20th Summit of the AU 'Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance'

The creation of the African Union (AU) and its predecessor, Organization of African Unity (OAU), translates the desire of African Leaders to unite African people in order to collectively deal with the multiple economic, social and political challenges on the national, regional and global fronts that the continent has been facing. Among them are the widespread poverty, devastating conflicts with their social and economic impacts, and numerous pandemic diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

The collective responses to these challenges have repeatedly affirmed the logic of unity and integration as formulated in the Charter of the OAU (1963); the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, (1980); the Abuja Treaty, (1991); the Sirte Declaration, (1999), and the Constitutive Act of the AU, (2000). These instruments stand as galvanising landmarks for integration in the face of Africa's political and economic challenges.

The current debate on the future of the AU is as divergent as it was when the OAU was established in 1963. The debate around the Union Government



AUC Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
Credit: AUC

stared in 2007 and strongly fuelled by the late Kaddafi has lost its momentum over the last few years at the AU. Perhaps it is being reoriented to the broader concept of Pan Africanism.

In 2013, both AU Summits (i.e. January and May) will be organized around the theme "Pan Africanism and African Renaissance" in order to "enhance the awareness of the new generation of Africans about the ideals of Pan-Africanism" (Assembly/AU/Dec.412 (XVIII)). This will culminate into the Golden Jubilee (50th anniversary) celebrations of OAU/AU on 25 May.

The 20th Summit of January 2013 is scheduled to hold as follows:

AU NEWS (CONTINUED)

- 21st–22nd January: 25th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (Ambassadors)
- 24th – 25th January 2013: 22nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (Ministers of Foreign Affairs)
- 27th – 28th January 2013: 20th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government.

Issues Likely to dominate the January Summit

Given the on-going peace and security challenges the continent is facing, it is difficult to believe that there will be enough space for a deep debate and decisions on *Pan Africanism* and *African Renaissance* in the January Summit. Rather the Summit is likely to be dominated by the conflicts in DRC, Mali, Sudan/South Sudan, Somalia etc with an addition of numerous unfinished businesses that need concrete follow up. These include the intra-Africa trade issues, the effective implementation of previous AU decisions, alternative funding for the African Union, the effectiveness of AU organs including the Commission, and several social and development issues within the continent as the new Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma has been stressing in her recent declarations. African citizens are also anxious to have an update on the

ECOSOCC audit report and the elections of the 2nd ECOSOCC Permanent General Council.

Officially, the January Summit agenda include the following:

- "Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance": An introduction to be made by the Chairperson of the AU Commission;
- Conflicts and the state of Peace and Security in Africa: Mali, DRC, Somalia, Sudan/South Sudan etc;
- The transformation of the AUC to and AU Authority;
- The transformation of the Pan African Parliament;
- Elections: AU Chairperson for 2013, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, 5 member of the PSC, 11 members of the Anti-Corruption Board, 1 Judge at the Human Rights Court;
- Creation of an International Constitutional Court
- Pan African University

Full details of the Summit can be accessed at: <http://summits.au.int/en/20thsummit>

CIVIL SOCIETY CORNER

I. ECOSOCC Election Process

The Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union (AU) has been named the principle consultative platform for Civil Society Organization (CSO) involvement with the African Union. Established in terms of Article 5 of the AU Constitutive Act, ECOSOCC is an advisory organ of the Union composed of different social and professional groups of the member states.

ECOSOCC originated from the premise that continental integration should be people-driven and built upon community-based partnership between governments and all sectors of civil society to reinforce solidarity among African people. It is a body of the Union designed to give CSOs a voice within AU Institutions and decision-making processes. The structure, objectives and functions of ECOSOCC are defined in the ECOSOCC Statutes

[2004 –

(Assembly/AU/Dec.42 (III)).

However, despite the realization among many African CSOs of the importance of participating in ECOSOCC, little is known on ECOSOCC in general and the election of members in particular.

Now that the deadline has passed...

Now that the deadline for applications for membership to the Second ECOSOCC General Assembly has passed on 15th December 2012, it is useful to provide details of the electoral process to assist aspiring candidates to understand the ECOSOCC electoral process - the methodologies and stages undertaken in order to elect new members. With the term of office of the first ECOSOCC General Assembly coming to an end, the Executive Council Decision (Ex.CL/Dec 716(XIX)) of the July 2012 Summit, directed the African Union Commission (AUC) to initiate the process of electing the 2nd ECOSOCC

CIVIL SOCIETY CORNER (CONTINUED)

General Assembly. The Council requested the AUC to make the necessary arrangements to conduct the ECOSOCC elections on the due date in accordance with Ex.CL/Dec 656(XIX) and the ECOSOCC Statutes. Therefore, the AUC through the ECOSOCC Secretariat proceeded to solicit for applications from CSOs. As the 1st ECOSOCC's term of office was coming to an end on 7th September, a call was immediately made to CSOs interested in becoming members of ECOSOCC to apply by 10th August 2012.

After receipt of applications, the ECOSOCC Secretariat undertook the initial task of screening and sorting out the applications to see if all the documents required had been provided. Where documents were lacking, the Secretariat informed all applicants; specifying which documents were missing and the organizations were encouraged to update their applications. The applications were then classified by the 5 regions of the continent and then sorted by country.

The AUC interdepartmental committee: verification and appraisal process

In furtherance of the July 2012 Council Decision, the AUC Chairperson appointed an Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) comprising of representatives from pertinent departments of the AUC. This Committee was tasked to verify and appraise the eligibility of candidates applying for ECOSOCC membership in line with the ECOSOCC statutes provisions on the composition of ECOSOCC (article 3), membership (article 4) and eligibility requirements (article 6).

According to Article 6 of the Statutes the requirements to be fulfilled by CSOs seeking membership include inter alia the following:

- Be national, regional, continental or African Diaspora CSO;
- Have objectives and principles that are consistent with the principles and objectives of the Union;
- Be registered in a Member State of the Union; or show a minimum of three (3) years proof of registration as either an African or an African Diaspora CSO prior to the date of submission of



*Interim ECOSOCC 2005—2007
Credit: AUC*

application, including proof of operations for those years;

- Provide annual audit statements by an independent auditing company;
- Show proof that the ownership and management of the CSO is made up of not less than fifty (50%) of Africans or of African Diaspora;
- The basic resources of such an Organisation shall substantially, at least fifty percent (50%), be derived from contributions of the members of the Organization;
- Provide information on funding sources in the preceding three (3) years;
- For regional and continental CSOs, show proof of activities that engage or are operative in at least three (3) Member States of the Union;
- CSOs that discriminate on the basis of religion, gender, tribe, ethnic, racial or political basis shall be barred from representation to ECOSOCC;
- Adherence to a Code of Ethics and Conduct for civil society organizations affiliated to or working with the Union.

On the basis of the above requirements, the IDC examined complete applications per country, guided by a Verification Template. The verification process was also applied to a random sampling of incomplete applications to verify if they were actually incomplete.

In its final report, the IDC observed mass apathy in the applications. According to the ECOSOCC statutes ECOSOCC is composed of 150 members. However, although in total the number of applications

CIVIL SOCIETY CORNER (CONTINUED)

received was 172 only 29 from 24 (out of 54) countries were adjudged qualified. As the Committee did not regard this to be representative enough for elections, it recommended the re-opening of the election call for application i.e. extend the deadline of submission of applications to 15th December 2012 in order to allow for greater representation of CSOs from all the 54 member states of the Union and the five regions of the continent as stipulated in article 4 of the ECOSOCC statutes.

Elections of national, regional and diaspora CSOs

Ideally, had the number of applicants been adequate the IDC would come up with a list of complete applications that meet the membership criteria. Using this list, the Commission would make necessary arrangements to conduct the elections of two (2) national and eighteen (18) regional/continental CSOs that represent them. Although the ECOSOCC statutes provide for the election of twenty (20) CSOs from among African Diaspora Organizations, the elections into ECOSOCC of the Diaspora will only be held after the development of the criteria of participation of the Diaspora in the affairs of the African Union has been developed. (Decision on the Global African Diaspora Summit [Assembly/AU/Dec.393 (XVIII) - Doc. EX.CL/696 (XX)].

All information regarding the Second Permanent General Assembly electoral process can be found on ECOSOCC's website in detail www.au.int/pages/ECOSOCC

II. CS Actors Open session with the AU PSC The Nexus between Peace, security & development

On 21st November, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 342nd meeting, open session, held in Addis Ababa, discussed the link between development, peace and security. It emphasized that the primary responsibility for ensuring development, peace and security in the African continent lies with the African states and its peoples.

The Council listened to statements made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of The

Gambia, H.E. Hon. Suzan Waffa-Ogoo, the Commissioner for Peace and Security, and the conclusions of the Technical Meeting presented by Mr Desire Assogbavi, Representative of Oxfam International Liaison Office with the African Union, as well various responses from the member states Permanent Representative.

The Council stated that the responsibility is to be carried out within national policies aimed at promoting democracy, rule of law, good and inclusive governance and equitable development, as well as within the instruments and policies adopted at both regional and continental levels. Some of the major issues stressed at the session included the need to mainstream gender in all development, peace and security efforts on the continent.

In addition, the Council urged the member states, the AU Commission, the UN, AU partners, civil society organizations and other stakeholders, to cooperate on conflict, security and development linkages, including the promotion of national and regional dialogue, structured discussions on situations of risk among others. The Council underscored the need to ensure that African development models are in tandem with the realistic needs of the people; they noted that activities in the promotion of peace, security and stability have to go hand in hand with efforts aimed at promoting sustainable development.

In preparation for next year's 50th OAU/AU anniversary, the Council looks forward to this critical opportunity to reignite the African Renaissance in terms of good governance, peace, security and development.



Mr. Desire Assogbavi, OI-AU Head of Office, addressing the PSC

OFFICE ACTIVITIES

- ***LRA issues discussion facilitated*** - On 7th December, over 60 stakeholders mostly diplomats, AU Commission staff and CSO community participated in a seminar jointly organized by OI-AU and the Institute for Security Studies on the African Union Military actions against LRA and its humanitarian impact. Father Ernest SUGULE was invited from the DRC based "Solidarite et Assistance Integrale aux Personnes Deplacees" (SAIPED) and Pascal Konan LRA Focal Person in the Conflict Management Division of the . Together with Mr. Pascal Tao Konan, and Mr. Halle-lujah Lulie of the ISS, Fr. Ernest made presentations that brought to light the actual impact of LRA on the people of Congo and the region. This catalysed wide discussions.
- ***Head of OI-AU Addresses Open session with the AU PSC*** - On 21st November 2012 the Head of OI-AU addressed the Peace and Security Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to present CSOs recommendations on the issue of balancing investments in Peace and Development. A public Communique by the African Union Commission acknowledged this.
- ***Advocacy Letter to the AU High Representative on Mali*** - On December 6th 2012 Oxfam sent a letter on the situation in Mali to President Pierre Buyoya, AU High Representative to Mali as well as to the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Commissioner for Peace and Security. The letter highlighted the gravity of the humanitarian and security crisis in the country calling upon the AU to ensure the protection of civilian populations and access for humanitarian assistance.
- ***OI – AU hosts Oxfam South Sudan*** - On 29 & 30 November 2012, OI AU hosted Mr. Anthony Rama, the Project Manager of PPA Oxfam GB South Sudan on a learning mission on the AU. Mr. Rama met with various experts of the AU including the Peace and Security Department Sudan desk officer, the Civil Society Directorate head of Civil Society Division and officers of the Peace and Security Council Secretariat. As a result of Mr. Rama's visit, it is hoped that Oxfam Sudan will build on the established links to assist South Sudan CSOs to apply for membership to the ECOSOC and to participate

in other AU processes.

- ♦ ***Oxfam Campaign on Land Grab in Africa at the joint Ministerial Conference for Trade and Agriculture*** - The Oxfam Pan-Africa Programme Economic Justice Lead and a number of partners were supported to engage the African Union Ministerial meeting on Trade and Agriculture 26—30th November 2012 in Addis Ababa. The AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture participated in the CSO's side events organised by Oxfam and ActionAid on Land Freeze Initiative on the 28th November 2012.

♦ ***New Staff at OI-AU***



Ms. Brenda Chikwe Mofya joined OI-AU as Policy Advisor—Peace and Security/Governance on 1st November 2012. Brenda brings to Oxfam many years of experience in policy analysis and research having worked on AU work, peace and security, human rights, aid, trade and economic justice with many national, regional and international organisations. Prior to joining Oxfam Brenda worked with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Centre for Peace Initiative in Africa (CPIA) and Zambia Civic Education Association. Brenda has strong background in Integration Law, Peace and Security and Gender.

Ms. Muleya Mwananyanda joined OI-AU as



Oxfam sub-Saharan Campaign Manager on Women Peace and Security starting December 1, 2012. Prior to joining Oxfam, Muleya worked as campaign lead at the Global Campaign for Education, linking country, pan African and global campaigns together. In addition to being an experienced and creative campaigner, leading national campaigns on landmines, refugees and education in Zambia, Muleya has a strong background in law, research and journalism, with stints at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and in a law firm as legal officer. She was also previously an aid worker - including with Oxfam - working in Zambia with refugees from the conflict in neighbouring Angola.

PARTNER PROFILE

ONE INTERNATIONAL



ONE is a global advocacy and campaign organization with a membership of 3,000,000 persons committed to fighting extreme poverty and preventable disease, especially in Africa. Its policy work is focused on three areas; agriculture, health and open development. ONE Africa's policy office based in Johannesburg is at the centre of driving campaigns in Africa focused on holding African governments accountable for the implementation of policy commitments made at the African Union, at the Regional Economic Communities and at national levels.

ONE's advocacy work on agriculture policies in Africa is focused in urging African governments to recommit or implement the Maputo targets to invest 10% of their national budget for agricultural development and strive towards attaining 6%

annual agriculture GDP growth rate. This year, ONE Africa delivered 35,000 signatures from its Africa membership to the African Union via its Chair President Yayi Boni. The petition was in support of scaling up Africa's investments in agriculture development. This campaign influenced the African Union's decision to declare 2014 as the year of agriculture during the July 2012 summit held in Addis Ababa.

Since 2008, ONE has recognized outstanding African led organizations tackling poverty at the community levels annually. To date, five African organizations based in Ghana, Kenya, Togo, Nigeria and Kenya. Each has received a monetary award of US\$100,000 to expand the reach of their work. Nominations are invited from across Africa every year.

For more information visit www.one.org

CALENDAR

17th January - Pre-Summit Seminar organised by Oxfam, ISS, OSI, International Alert, CCP-AU, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

17-19 January - Pre- Summit Meeting on Gender Issues, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

18 January - Seminar "Prospects of 2013 election of Kenya: challenges and opportunities", Idea International, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

18-19 January - "Engaging with the African Union" Training, Oxfam Liaison Office with the AU, Addis Ababa

21st – 22nd January 25th - Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (Ambassadors), AUC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

21st – 23rd January - Civil Society Forum on Sudan and South Sudan, Darfur Relief and Documentation Centre – DRDC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

21st – 22nd January - Journalist Training on the African Union Peace and Security Architecture and Orientation on the Summit, Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) and the AU Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

22nd – 23rd January 19th - Gender is my Agenda Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union, Femme Afrique Solidarite, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

23rd January - Photo Exhibition: DRC/Mali Conflicts and Launch of Oxfam Policy Brief on Refugees of Mali, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

23rd- 26th January - Meeting on the Peer Review Mechanism, AUC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

24th – 25th January 22nd - Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (Ministers of Foreign Affairs), AUC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

26th January 28th - Summit meeting of the Orientation Committee of Heads of State and Heads of Government of NEPAD, AUC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

26th January - Inter-Agency CSOs Press Conference on the AU Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

27th January - High Level Event on the Campaign for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), AUC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

27th – 28th January 20th - Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State, AUC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

28th January - Inter-Agency CSOs Press Release on the AU Summit outcome

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