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PAHD Dept.

Santo Domingo, 13 October 2006

2ND MEETING OF ACP MINISTERS OF CULTURE
SANTO DOMINGO RESOLUTION

The 2nd Meeting of the Ministers of Culture of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 13 October 2006:

I. PREAMBLE

- A. **Reaffirming** the principle of solidarity that binds the 79 Member States of the ACP Group;
- B. **Recalling** that the ACP Heads of State and Government, at their 4th Summit in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2004 reaffirmed the importance of culture to sustainable development;
- C. **Reaffirming** the Declaration of Dakar of June 2003 on the promotion of ACP cultures and cultural industries;
- D. **Considering** the progress made in implementing the Dakar Plan of Action on the Promotion of ACP Cultures and Cultural Industries, adopted at our 1st Meeting in June 2003;
- E. **Acknowledging** that cultural policies should be an essential component of development strategies of ACP States;
- F. **Reiterating** that the knowledge and respect of cultural diversity as a factor of social cohesion and inclusion, development and international stability are core national and international political concerns;
- G. **Recognizing** the role of education in developing culture, and that the integration of culture in educational curricula is important in advancing the positive nexus between sustainable development and culture, including the promotion of a culture of peace and respect for cultural diversity in ACP States;
- H. **Recognizing** the role that women play in promoting culture as a tool for sustainable development in ACP States;
- I. **Noting** the essential role played by ACP regional organisations in promoting sustainable development among the populations of ACP States, more specifically in promoting the role of the cultural sector in development;
- J. **Acknowledging** the various Decisions, Declarations and Resolutions of sub-regional, regional and continental cultural Meetings that re-inforce the nexus between culture and development as captured in the Dakar Plan of Action and the Santo Domingo Resolution;
- K. **Reaffirming** the commitment to intensify South-South cooperation in the area of culture, a commitment affirmed by the resolutions taken by the 33rd UNESCO General Conference held in October 2005;

- L. **Acknowledging** the role of UNESCO in the implementation of undertakings of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;
- M. **Recognising** that South-South cooperation has the potential to provide a critical mass of skilled and resourceful educators, scientists, artists and cultural practitioners who can meet the needs and expectations of the populations concerned;
- N. **Underscoring** the essential role of South-South cooperation in augmenting and deepening exchanges, thereby intensifying dialogue between peoples and cultures and promoting peace;
- O. **Reiterating** the importance of the continuation of North-South cooperation to facilitate capacity building and cultural exchanges, as well as improved access to markets in the North for cultural products originating from the South, and facilitating the mobility of ACP cultural stakeholders;
- P. **Applauding** the initiative of the Federal Republic of Brazil to adopt a South-South cooperation framework with the ACP Group of States in the context of its efforts to promote cultural development;
- Q. **Recalling** the determination reiterated in the “Tunis Commitment“ and the “Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,” which were endorsed at the World Summit on the Information Society in November 2005;
- R. **Noting** the important role of culture in sustainable development, in particular for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- S. **Recognizing** the special needs and unique characteristics of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and related development challenges;
- T. **Acknowledging the importance of promoting** regional cooperation strategies within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and intra-ACP cooperation for mainstreaming culture in development;
- U. **Recognising** the competence of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in the field of information exchanges, in particular Information Communication Technologies (ICTs), with a view to developing the information society in the field of culture;
- V. **Recognising** that ICTs are an essential tool for national, regional and all-ACP development strategies, especially in the area of culture;

- W. **Noting** the importance of the role of cultural networks at local, regional, intra-ACP and multilateral levels, as exchange catalysts, information providers, and proponents of good practices and new ideas;
- X. **Acknowledging** the role that cultural networks, particularly at the regional level, can play in identifying potential conflicts and actions required to prevent their spreading;
- Y. **Commending** the efforts made to reduce the cultural information gap among different communities;
- Z. **Welcoming** the start of the programming exercise for intra-ACP cooperation under the 10th EDF;
- AA. **Commending** the European Commission's appreciation of the importance of the cultural sector for development in ACP States, and the drafting of a strategy on culture;

II. ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DAKAR PLAN OF ACTION

1. **Takes note** of the implementation status of the Dakar Plan of Action as presented during this Meeting;
2. **Commends** the adoption of intra-ACP programmes financed by the 9th EDF, namely, the "ACP-EU Support Programme for ACP Cinema and Audiovisual Sector," and the "Support Programme for ACP Cultural Industries," which are scheduled to become operational during the first quarter of 2007;
3. **Welcomes** the organisation of the 1st ACP Festival and the participation of the six ACP regions in this event, and recommends that the 2nd ACP Festival coincide with the 3rd Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture;
4. **Welcomes** the setting up of the ACP Cultural Observatory as the first step towards the creation of an ACP Cultural Foundation, during 2007;
5. **Urges** international development partners and organisations as well as ACP Non-State Actors (NSAs) to contribute in a significant manner to furthering the application of the Dakar Plan of Action, and to promote the visibility of ACP Cultural stakeholder and the ACP Secretariat in international cultural events;
6. **Encourages** ACP Governments and Regions, in particular the National and Regional Authorising Officers, to allocate adequate financial resources to ensure the effective follow-up of the implementation of the Dakar Plan of Action;

7. **Urges** the ACP Secretariat to source funds to allow the Working Group on the Implementation of the Dakar Plan of Action to meet regularly to report on progress made with the implementation of Dakar Plan of Action and the Santo Domingo Resolution at our next Ministerial Meeting;
8. **Urges** the ACP Secretariat, under the supervision of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors, to draw up Terms of Reference for the mission and functioning of the Working Group on the Implementation of the Dakar Plan of Action, including the modalities for the organization and definition of specific objectives of the ACP Festival, as soon as possible;

III. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF CULTURE

9. **Encourages** the exchange of information and best practices in the promotion of cultural diversity, research and training through the establishment of a network of cultural institutions and structures;
10. **Undertakes** to promote and use modalities of South-South cooperation in ACP cultural projects and programmes;
11. **Urges** ACP NSAs, in particular the private sector and civil society, to promote partnerships aimed at building the capacities of professionals involved in the production, promotion and marketing of cultural goods and services;
12. **Encourages** ACP Governments, cultural institutions and NSAs to facilitate exchanges and residences for cultural practitioners and professionals in the framework of South-South cooperation;
13. **Encourages** the establishment of an operational framework for South-South cooperation with the Federal Republic of Brazil, specifically with regard to cultural programmes commencing with the possibility of establishing an "Africa House in Brazil" and the effective participation of the ACP Group in the 2nd World Cultural Forum (Rio de Janeiro and San Salvador de Bahia, November-December 2006);
14. **Undertakes** to extend the principle of South-South cooperation to other partners of the ACP Group of States;
15. **Urges** all countries to refrain from exerting pressure, coercion and aggression, or imposing other unilateral measures in violation of International Law, and detrimental to the social and cultural development of ACP States;

IV. REDUCING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN ACP STATES

16. **Encourages** supportive actions, in close cooperation with the relevant Ministerial Departments aimed at reducing illiteracy levels in our communities and including culture in education curricula as a strategy to promote respect for cultural diversity in ACP States;
17. **Undertakes** to achieve by 2015, the indicative targets for the reduction of the digital divide of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) of Geneva 2003 and to build capacity in the knowledge of computer technology so as to promote greater use of computer technology and the Internet;
18. **Undertakes** to highlight the interactions between ICTs and cultural diversity by encouraging the creation of sites dedicated exclusively to cultural goods and services, through the active promotion of local content;
19. **Encourages** fundamental and applied research on ICTs, and thereby promote access of populations to their cultures;
20. **Facilitates** the promotion and development of partnerships involving Government authorities, the private sector, local organisations, civil society and associations involved in activities structured around the use of ICTs in all artistic areas, including strategies for the reduction of the digital divide;
21. **Undertakes** to ensure access for ACP populations to ICTs by striving, in particular, to effectively reduce costs through increased access to networks in the context of appropriate regulatory frameworks and effective funding for universal service provision through, inter-alia, the development of community digital centre networks covering marginalized urban and rural areas;
22. **Undertakes** to actively participate in the innovative mechanism to finance the reduction of the digital divide by considering the application of the principle of 1% digital solidarity as pronounced by the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF);
23. **Undertakes** to work closely with ACP Governments to strengthen cooperation in order to intensify the action initiated with the goal of ensuring good governance of the Internet;
24. **Encourages** supportive actions aimed at reducing satellite linkage costs, specifically by developing a relevant ACP strategy;
25. **Undertakes** to promote, in the framework of intra-ACP projects financed under the 10th EDF, the identification of projects and programmes aimed at reducing the digital divide, taking into account the necessary complementarity of donors and financing windows, in particular the DSF;

V. INVOLVEMENT OF CULTURAL NETWORKS IN THE PROMOTION OF ACP CULTURAL STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

26. **Supports** the creation of the ACP Cultural Observatory; in close collaboration with existing national and regional cultural Observatories, and anticipate its transformation into a bona fide centre for collection, exchanges, research, dissemination and support to States, artists and operators;
27. **Undertakes** to recognise and promote the role of cultural networks, specifically by intensifying regional integration efforts and the free movement of artistes and cultural works;
28. **Pledges** to support, politically and financially, programmes designed to train and sensitise artists, operators, the public and media for the development of cultural industries, promotion of peace and the prevention of conflicts at local, regional and intra-ACP levels;
29. **Urges** ACP States to urgently address the negative aspects of news coverage in ACP States by international media, audio-visual products and content that project violence and promote values that are alien to ACP cultures, as opposed to those that promote peace and tolerance for cultural diversity;
30. **Supports** the provision of funding to build the capacity of regional organizations to coordinate training programmes in the culture of peace, stability, security and intercultural dialogue;
31. **Recommends** the commissioning of a study to compile best practices for promoting the acceptance of immigrants who take advantage of the free movement of people encouraged through cultural cooperation;
32. **Encourages** intra-ACP cooperation and cooperation with other regions in the field of intra-cultural dialogue by promoting exchanges between schools, universities and regional organizations;
33. **Undertakes** to develop support programmes aimed at promoting the use and application of, as well as research into, local languages to prevent their marginalization and extinction;
34. **Undertakes** to support festivals and other ACP cultural events in the context of cultural exchange programmes among our States, and to promote dialogue and synergies for linking these events;

35. **Undertakes** to formalise the participation of cultural networks at future Meetings;
36. **Urges the** ACP States to ratify, as soon as possible, the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, as well as the UNESCO Convention on Intangible Heritage of 2003;
37. **Undertakes** to formulate policies and legal frameworks to prevent and fight piracy in order to create an conducive environment to investors and promoters that will ensure the establishment and development of solid cultural industries in ACP States;
38. **Calls** for the elaboration of strategies and programmes to support infant cultural industries in ACP States, which face vigorous competition from more established industries in developed countries, particularly in the audio-visual sector, with a view to improving product quality and competitiveness;
39. **Recognizes and supports** the potential wealth of traditional knowledge and the role of traditional authorities in the formulation of policies and laws for development favourable to culture so as to ensure that the existing modalities of operation are in harmony with the imperatives of modernization and globalization;

VI. CONSIDERATION OF CULTURE IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES TO BE FINANCED UNDER THE 10TH EDF

40. **Undertakes** to facilitate the development of a strategic framework for South-South cooperation in the area of culture;
41. **Undertakes** to consult and initiate dialogue with NSAs in defining cultural programmes and strategies;
42. **Pledges** to proceed with the implementation of the Santo Domingo Resolution and to continue the implementation of the Dakar Plan of Action in the framework of the 10th EDF;
43. **Calls on** the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission to allocate sufficient resources to enable the ACP Group of States to concretise its cultural strategies and policies, and ensure the speedy and effective disbursement of resources;

VII. FINAL PROVISIONS

44. **Pledges** to promote through sharing the Santo Domingo Resolution to all cultural operators in ACP States, NSAs and development partners;
45. **Calls** upon ACP States, the Chairperson of the 2nd Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture, ACP Secretariat and joint ACP-EU institutions, in collaboration with all relevant national, regional and multilateral development partners and financial institutions to support, monitor, participate in the implementation of this Resolution; and
46. **Instructs** the Chairperson of the 2nd Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture to communicate the Santo Domingo Resolution to the President of the ACP Council of Ministers, President of the EU Council of Ministers, President of the European Commission, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, and other relevant bilateral and multilateral partners.

Done in Santo Domingo, on 13 October 2006

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE
OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

The ACP Ministers of Culture, meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 13 October 2006;

Appreciative of the warm welcome received and hospitality extended to them and their delegations throughout their stay in the Dominican Republic;

Commending the Dominican Republic's political commitment to the ACP Group, as illustrated by the solemnity conferred on the 2nd Meeting of the ACP Ministers of Culture by H.E. Dr. Leonel Fernández Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic, who participated in the opening session;

THANK AND CONGRATULATE the Government and people of the Dominican Republic for the excellent working conditions and accommodation provided, which contributed significantly to the success of the 2nd Meeting of the ACP Ministers of Culture.

Done at Santo Domingo on 13 October 2006

2nd Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture

**VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
1ST MEETING OF THE ACP MINISTERS OF CULTURE**

The ACP Ministers of Culture, meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 13 October 2006;

Recalling the arrangements made by Senegal, the host country, for the excellent organisation that ensured the success of the 1st Meeting of the ACP Ministers of Culture, held in Dakar on 20 June 2003;

Noting the efforts made by the Chairperson of the 1st Meeting for ensuring the implementation of the Dakar Declaration and Plan of Action;

CONGRATULATE the Chairperson of the 1st Meeting of the ACP Ministers of Culture, and the Senegalese Government for all initiatives taken in that regard.

Done at Santo Domingo on 13 October 2006

2nd Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE ACP SECRETARIAT

The ACP Ministers of Culture, meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 13 October 2006;

Recognizing and appreciative of the financial, human and material resources and related logistical arrangements made available for the holding of 2nd Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture;

Thank and commend the ACP Secretariat for facilitating the successful convening of the 2nd Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture.

Done at Santo Domingo on 13 October 2006

2nd Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture