**FORD
FOUNDATION**   **O.U.A.**   UNESCO

LAUNCHING MEETING OF
THE OBSERVATORY OF CULTURAL POLICIES
IN AFRICA

Cape Town, 7-8 May 2001,

**Meeting jointly organized by UNESCO, OAU,
and Ford Foundation**

DRAFT FINAL REPORT

May 2001

Introduction

A Meeting to Launch the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa was jointly organised by UNESCO, Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Ford Foundation, in Cape Town, Ritz Hotel, from the 7-8 May 2001.

The objective of the Meeting was to put in place a mechanism for the establishment of the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa with the following Agenda :
1. Opening.
2. Election of the Bureau.
3. Adoption of the Agenda and the Programme.
4. Updating the Justification of an Observatory:
    Lome Consultation.
    Stockholm Conference.
    Kinshasa Consultation.
    Pretoria Experts Meeting.
5. Other Experiences.
6. African Cultural Strategies from Websites.
7. Examination of National Cultural Policies in Africa.
8. Inventory of Existing Cultural Data-Bases and Establishment of Networking.
9. Guideline for Periodical Local National Inventories and Publications.
10. Calendar and Workplan.
11. Venue, Staff, Status, and Resources.
12. Conclusions and Closing.

Participants to this Meeting included representatives from UNESCO, OAU, Ford Foundation, SADC Sector for Culture and Communication, Institute for Cultural Enterprise, representatives and officials from various Cultural Institutions and Foundations worldwide, Cultural Experts and University Academics.

The full list of participants and their address details is annexed to this report.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

1.   Opening Session

The Opening Session was chaired by the Regional Cultural Advisor and Represetntative of UNESCO in Luanda, Mr Lupwishi Mbuyamba who also presented the opening remarks.

During the opening session four other people gave brief presentations as follows :
- Mrs. Fairuz Mullagee, MADESA,
- Dr Renato Matusse, Coordinator of the SADC Sector for Culture and Communication,
- Mrs. Iman Al - Hindawi, Representative of the Institute for Cultural Enterprise,
- Mr. Damien Pwono, Programme Officer, Ford Foundation.

The Meeting was officially opened by Mrs. Delysia Forbes, Director of Cultural Affairs, City of Cape Town.

In welcoming the participants, Mr. Mbuyamba began by apologizing for the delay in starting the Meeting which was due to the late arrival of the Guest of Honour, Mrs Delysia Forbes, Director of Cultural Affairs, City of Cape Town. Mr. Mbuyamba also thanked the Organisers, MADESA and its Secretariat for hosting the Meeting, OAU, Ford Foundation and the ICE Project for their support and collaboration.

In her brief remarks, Mrs. Fairuz Mullagee, of MADESA, welcomed the participants and expressed her gratitude to UNESCO for the confidence it has shown in MADESA by asking it to host the meeting. She also wished the meeting successful deliberations and expressed her satisfaction that MADESA was part of the process for the advancement of the management of cultural policies in Africa.

Echoing the sentiments given by MADESA, Dr Renato Matusse, Coordinator of the SADC Sector for Culture and Communication also welcomed the participants and expressed the hope that the Meeting would succeed in defining effective ways of implementing cultural policies in Africa. He also thanked the hosts, MADESA and the organisers ; UNESCO, Ford Foundation and OAU. He explained that three meetings will be taking place concurrently within the week as follows :
1. The Launching of the Observatory of the Cultural Policies in Africa.
2. The SADC Culture Fund .
3. The Training Programme on Cultural Entrepreneurs.

Dr Matusse further noted that three parallel meetings were interlinked and all important but regretted that the participants would not be able to attend all of them at any one time. He however encouraged participants to exchange information and share experiences during break time and after hours for the the benefit of all.

Mrs. Iman Al - Hindawi of the Institute for the Cultural Enterprise (ICE) was the third to intervene during the opening session. She gave a brief resume of her organisation, informing the participants that ICE was a special project of the Ford Foundation responsible for the promotion of the arts through research and information. She thanked UNESCO for associating ICE with its initiatives which made it possible for it to undertake the first activity in Africa that has brought together 12 cultural entrepreneurs for a special training course. She stated that the major objectives of the course were :
-       To conceptualize a programme of cultural enterprise that would optimise the artistic talents and develop the business skills.
-       To help each participant put in place a plan of action that Ford Foundation would be able to support.

Presenting his intervention, the Regional Cultural Advisor and Representative of UNESCO in Angola, Mr. Mbuyamba, informed participants that this was a third in a series of meetings to discuss the issue of establishing the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa. He explained that the fact that this meeting was the launching signifies that the process began a long time ago.

He highlighted the various meetings which were organised previously and their significance to this process : Lomé in 1998 ; Stockholm in 1998 ; Dakar in ; Kinshasa in 2000 and Pretoria also in 2000. Mr Mbuyamba also mentioned other meetings that have taken place which are relevant to this issue : Cotonou in ….. which recommended the importance of developing good quality cultural products and accessing cultural markets but also monitoring the problems of piracy ; Maputo Ministers of Culture Meeting in October 2000 which observed that although globalisation has its dangers it also provides immense opportunities and, that aid provided by countries of the North for capacity building in the South can help sustain clearly defined national cultual policies. He noted that all these meetings emphasized the need to create an observatory of cultural policies in Africa which would benefit Africa.

Mr Mbuyamba encouraged participants to take full advantage of the new information technologies and the possibility of developing a virtual observatory. He recognised the role of the Ford Foundation and OAU in the process of developing cultural management skills in Africa. He observed that the findings of the last two meetings of experts ; Kinshasa and Pretoria would be vital in defining the development and structure of this observatory.

Officially opening the Meeting, Mrs. Delysia Forbes, the Director of Cultural Affairs, City of Cape Town began by welcoming participants to the city and thanked the organises for inviting her to speak at this occassion.

In her address she expressed concern that Africa is not benefitting from its culture in the same way as countries of the North. In explaining why Africa is more of a consumer of cultural products than a producer she listed various engine drivers of the countries of the North in the areas of: Film ; Visual and Fine Arts ; Cultural Heritage and Tourism, Manufacture and Design ; and Performing Arts. She asked participants to reflect and identify visible African cultural districts such as those found in the North e.g. Hollywood, Broadway, Nottinghill, Silicone Valley, Fashion and Design in Paris and London. She challenged participants of the need to develop similar cultual centres for the benfit of local communities and cultural practioners.

In using Cape Town as a model she informed the participants how the City has taken advantage of the new democratic dispensations to develop programmes that move away from the eurocentric culture that characterised the apartheid system to a new strategy that supports all cultural forms and entreprises which reflect the city's cultural diversity and promotes cultural pluralism.

The Speaker informed particpants that the City has adopted a cultural policy that enhances this diversity and commitment towards strengthening the city's cultural practitioner's economic potential, rights and products. This partnership has enabled the City to undertaken various intiatives such as :
-        Grant in Aid Funding Schemes for marginalised groups,
-        Initiation of Arts Festivals ,
-        Development of cultural facilities such as the Langa Cultural Village.

In conclusion, Mrs Forbes called on the Meeting to also address issues such as : developing good quality products ; effective marketing of these products ; training in cultural entrepreneurship ; and the removal of the middle man in this process. She stressed that Africa identify and manage its own cultural market.

A Vote of thanks was given by Dr Pwono who thanked Mrs Forbes for her elaborate presentation and noted that it provides important background data for the three meetings that would be taking place within the week. He noted the strides made by the City of Cape Town in building organisational capacity to manage effectively cultural activities. He highlighted the importance of festivals in providing a platform for cultural products and cultural exchange as well as demonstrating effectiveness and success.

3.   Election of the of the Bureau

After the opening ceremony, the Bureau was elected as follows :

Chairperson   :   Stephen Chifunyise (Zimbabwe)
Vice - Chairperson   :   Pierre Dandjinou (Bénin)

Rapporteurs   :   Anina Segobye (Botswana)
                          Manda Kizabi (Congo D.R.)
                          Ngulube Mulekeni (UNESCO-Harare)

The Meeting then adopted the Agenda and the Draft Programme (annexed to this report) with some modifications to enable the realisation of the objectives of the meeting on the launching of the observatory of cultural policies in Africa.

4.   Presentation of the Meeting : Work Programme

All presentations took place in a plenary setting coordinated by the Chair Person/Vice Chair Person respectively. The presentations were done according to themes as follows :

4.1.   Theme 1 : Updating the Justification of an Observatory

Four speakers made presentations to justify the need for setting up an Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa. Lomé : MR. Mbuyamba Lupwishi ;
Stockholm   : MR. Damien Mpwono ;
Kinshasa   : MR. Kabeya Tshikuku ;
Pretoria   : Mrs. Anina Segobye.

Mr Mbuyamba made his justification by reviewing the Pan-African Consultation on Cultural Policies in Africa which took place in Lomé (Togo) in February,1998. He explained that the objective of the Meeting was to prepare for the African involvement in the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies, in Stockholm in April, 1998.

Emphasizing the importance of the Lome Meeting Mr Mbuyamba in particular mentioned the involvment of 6 Ministers of Education who together with more than 40 experts, discussed the following issues : mong other issues the following :
1.   Cultural diversity with a focus on cultural pluralism, cultural rights and heritage and creativity
2.   Redefinition of Cultural policy for development with a focus on assessment, research, new technologies and cultural industries
3.   Regional strategies and international cooperation in mobilisation of resources and contribution of Africa to the Stockholm Conference e.g Ubuntu movement

Among the recommendations formulated by the participants at the end of the Lome Meeting were :
- the redefinition of cultural policies in Africa,
- the need for a partnership between governments and NGOs in executing these policies,
- the importance of promoting cultural pluralism, but also political and cultural rights for minority groups such as women and children.
- the importance of training in cultural industries to effectively participate in and benefit from globalisation,
- the presevation of Africa's cultural heritage as necessary for developmento
- the need to review the OAU Charter in order to subsequently review cultural policies and the OAU Culture Fund,
- the role of UNESCO as a catalyst in this process.

Mr. Mbuyamba closed his presentation by emphasizing that for African cultural policies to be effective they must encourage research and production rather than be a passive consumer.

The second presentation was from Dr Pwono, of the Ford Foundation who outlined the contribution of Africa to the Stockholm Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies, in particular the success of the Agora Forum which successfully brought together African Ministers, government officals, media practioners and artists and the Ubuntu Movement to reflect on cultural policies and aspects in Africa. He noted that the Lome Prepapatory Meeting made Africa's participation and contribution to the Stockholm Meeting successful and generated a sense of confidence in Africa's professionalism. He highlighted the need to continue along this path by developing a Cultural Observatory for Africa. Dr Pwono concluded by outlining the tasks required for the creation of an observatory as :
- identification of the objectives and expected results,
- setting up of a workable structure,
- identification of partners, and
- mobilisation of resources.

The third intervention was on the Meeting held in Kinshasa, in August 2000 . In making this presentation, Mr. Kabeya Tshikuku, informed the participants that the Kinshasa meeting was a consultation to develop a practical strategy towards the creation of an Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa as well as identify its mission and structure. He explained that the Kinshasa meeting also made a preliminary inventory of African institutions with objectives and activities that can contribute to the domains that the observatory will cover. The preliminary list included the following institutions : CRAC, AFRICOM, ICA, INADEP,

CICIBA, FESPAM, Biennials des Letters, IRES, Pan-African Center of Cultural Training and Management, and the Regional Centre for Cultural Diversity . Mr Kabeya informed the participants that the Kinshasa Meeting in justifying the creation of the observatory, the Kinshasa meeting deplored the disorganisation and duplication of efforts that currently characterize Africa's existing observatories and databases hence the need for a centralised place of reference, observation, monitoring, coordination and support for all cultural activities in Africa.

Mr Kabeya then gave an outline of the objectives of the Obervatory as defined by Kinshasa meeting as follows :
-         to create an inventory of all cultural policies, practices and activities,
-         to support decision making in the cultural field,
-         to follow up and monitor all initiatives made by African States in the domain of cultural development,
-         to promote cultural creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship,
-         to preserve Africa,s heritage, traditions and collective memory within a globalised world,;
-         to develop a powerful vision in order to mobilize Africa,s potential for the promotion of a culture of peace.

Mr. Kabeya ended his presentation by informing participants the Kinshasa meeting also suggested that the Observatory to be created should have an NGO status, international in character with a simple and dynamic administrative support, with a bilingual technical secretariat supported by a team of consultants.

The fourth and last speaker for the morning session was Mrs Segobye, who made a brief presentation of the Pretoria meeting of January, 2001.

She informed participants that this was a continuation of deliberations that had taken place at previous meetings on the subject of the observatory and that the Pretoria Meeting specifically looked at objectives, expected results, strategies for implementation and operating principles of the Observatory . The speakers at the meeting included : Mr. Marcel Diouf of OAU, Dr Pwono of Ford Foundation, Mr. Mate Kovacs of UNESCO, Mr Aka Evy of FESPAM, and Dr Renato Matusse of the SADC Sector for Culture and Communication.

Mrs. Segobye oultined recommendations made by the Pretoria Meeting which stressed that the Observatory should :
-         have clear objectives and be involved in research on issues of culture and policies,

- be independent but in partnership with governments and other stakeholders,
- be able to lobby and mobilise both human and financial resources for sustanability
- be accessible and networked with other observatories through out the world.

This presentation was complemented by Dr Renato Matusse who made a presentation on the SADC Culture Fund as one way of supporting the creation of this observatory.

The debate that followed these four presentations raised several specifically on :
- How to ensure sustainability,
- How to effectively monitor cultural policies as well as practices,
- How to protect Africa's heritage and cultural identity within the context of globalisation,
- How to guarantee independence of the observatory from States and other stakeholders while at the same time seeking their collaboration,
- How to maintain the relationship between the created observatory and other foreseen local observatories at national level.

In reaction to these questions the consensus was that Africa has a rich cultural heritage which if properly coordinated can sustain an Observatory to be used to to develop cultural professionals and practitioners and make it possible for them to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

As for the independence of the observatory, it was agreed that it must not be associated with any instrument of government, political party, cultural institution, cultural groupor sponsoring organisation. This will be necessary for it to function effectively and independently and gain the support of all.

The participants also noted that networking can only be possible if each country, can be encouraged to create its own observatory which in turn can feed into the Obervatory that is to be created. Hence, information need not necessarily be kept at one central place but rather create a mechanism to observe, document and coordinate existing structures and practices at a wider scale. All participants envisaged this as the role of the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa and agreed on the need to define a structure that will achieve this objective and perform this role.

SESSION 3.2　　　　　OTHER EXPERIENCES

Mr Kovacs made an offline internet presentation of examples of existing cultural observatories that have been been created elewhere which offer services such as lists of partners, cultural and personnel directories, research, information and publications, and chat room facilities. Some examples of observatories included : InterArts, Culture Link, and the Budapest Observatory. Some representatives of exisitng observatories in Africa present during the meeting (AICCD in Dakar, CICIBA in Brazaville, ZIFF and EACROTANAL in Zanzibar, SACIS in Maputo) elaborated on the role, structure and functioning of these observatories. Mr Kovacs requested the participants to critically examine the functioning of these observatories in order to develop a good model for the Cultural Observatory that is to be created.

SESSION 3 .3   :   AFRICAN CULTURAL STRATEGIES FROM WEBSITES

This was a joint presentation between Mr P. Dandjinou and Mr M. Kovacs.

Beginning the discussion on this subject Mr Dandjinou outlined the status of connectivity in Africa noting that although all African countries are connected, only a small perscentage of the population especially in urban areas is actually online. As a result of this, the facility is generally under utilised and therefore expensive. The cost is also high because connectivtity and control of addresses is outside Africa making the process slow, and content foreign. The speaker explained that this state of affairs posed a great challenge in the effective marketing of African culture. He informed participants of the advantages of e-commerce in globalisation and called upon participants to critically examine the role of information technology in formulating cultural policies and srtategies.

Mr Kovacs then presented an offline WEBSITE model for the Obervatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA), which he had developed. He suggested that the Observatory to be created should be a facility and a mechanism that facilitates the collection of data from a cross section of practioners especially government departments, NGOs and private institutions. He requested participants to define properly the objectives of the Observatory as this would determine its effectiveness.

The debate that followed this presentation expressed problems and concerns related to computerisation in Africa. The meeting noted :
-       cost of the technology itself, such that arts organisations themselves can not afford it,
-       in adequate human resources to design, support and maintain Web Sites,

- continuous change of technology and failure of Africa to keep up to date,
- lack of political commitment and collaboration to provide internet access,
- in adequate skills to monitor issues of copyright on internet.

SESSION 3.4   STATEMENT OF NATIONAL CULTURAL
                     POLICIES IN AFRICA

This session was presented by Mr Diouf who gave a holistic overview on the development of cultural policies in Africa beginning with the Accra Meeting in 1975 which provided the first platform for the process of defining cultural policies. He explained that actual cultural policies began emerging in different countries between 1989 and 1990. During the same period, the OAU organised four Ministers of Culture meetings (Mauritius, Ouagadougou, Yaoundé and Cotonou) on four different themes to support and promote the development of national cultural policies.

In his presentation Mr Diouf also noted that not all countries have formalised cultural policies but that others are guided by ideological principles ranging from religion, economy, and politics. In explaining further this diversity he noted that the content of these policies is determined by what they value:
- some policies are custom made developed from a consultative process while others are driven by ideological principles such as religion, economy and politics.
- some are partisan, representing only a certain group while others are guided by the laws of the country especially the constitution.
- some are influenced by their rich heritage in architecture, oral traditions, language and religion.

Mr Diouf emphasized the need to consider these issues including matters of copyright research and cooperation so that the cultural policies developed enhance democratisation, diversity and pluralism and also embrace globalisation for the development of Africa. In addressing the issue of funding he noted the importance of cultural policies that necessitate adequate funding for Ministries of Culture so that cultural importnace of the Lome and Stockholm recommendations to set the pace and direction for the development of the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa.

The debate that followed noted the importance of the OAU as a cultural observatory and requested it to enhance its role by :
- creating its own databank,
- ensuring that the current national vision statements take culture into consideration,

- to work in close collaboration with law reform associations in developing cultural policies that can promote democratic principles,
- influence governments to provide adequate funding for culture and raise the status of artists,
- promote the professional mangement of culture so it can effectively contribute to development.

SESSION 3. 4   INVENTORY OF EXISITNG CULTURAL DATABASES

Mr Kovacs provided an overview of what cultural observatories and databases currently exist on the market. He gave examples which he suggested could be useful and beneficial in creating the Cultural Observatory in Africa. He stressed that we need not necessarily start by developing a database, but that we could benefit from the many existing databses through networking and coordinating.

Using the Pretoria framework, Mr Kovacs made an offline presentation of a model of an Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA) which he had developed. He highlighted the possibility of linking it to other sites and illustrated what information could be incorporated. He noted from the presentation made by Mr Diouf the amount of information that already exists within the OAU and suggested that this could be the basis for this Observatory.

Complementing Mr Kovacs' presentation, Mr Pierre Dandjinou used the Report of the Meeting on Cultural Industries in Cotonou and also made an offline model of how the Obervatory could look like and noted the following criteria :
- accessibility which depends on band wave,
- scope, content and focus, either multifaceted or specific,
- versatility / speed
- accuracy and quality
- up to date information,
- and cost effectiveness.

Mr Dandjinou also emphasized that the Observatory need not start from scratch but can take the form of a virtual resource centre providing guidance to what could be obtained through other links and networks.

To further stress the role of information technology in creating and using cultural observatories, Mr Matusse of SADC presented the SACIS WEBSITE which he said is used to inform SADC member states of the activities taking place within SADC, up coming events, available documents, and information on SADC Inter-ministerial meetings.

The technical nature of this subject did not generate much debate.

SESSION 3.5.   GUIDELINE FOR PERIODICAL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL INVENTORY AND PUBLICATIONS

In this session, also presented by Mr Kovacs the emphasis was on reflecting on the various models that exist worldwide and are already working and use these to develop a model that is adaptive to the african context and everyday experience. In this regard, Mr Kovacs emphasised the need to define the target and complement theoretical presentations with continuous surveys and research in order to fill in the gaps especially in areas around which the Obervatory will be serving.

The debate on this issue was mostly from participants seeking clarification on the time frame, the need to examine carefully all possible areas and what specific activities needed to begin immediately.

In reponse to this debate both Mr Mbuyamba and Mr Kovacs listed the priorities as follows:
-       identification of focal points for sources and resources,
-       identification of possible partners, establishment of links and networks,
-       defining the structure, focus and terms of reference,
-       advocacy and information dissemination.
-
The issues that were raised during this discussion overlapped the session on Calendar and Workplan.

SESSION 3.6   CALENDAR AND WORKPLAN

Speaking on this session, Mr Mbuyamba explained that this meeting was called a 'Launching Meeting' because after Kinshasa and Pretoria it was important that as we continue thinking we also begin pushing for action . He presented the following workplan :
1. Establishing immediately a light Task Force to continue the debate and begin implementation,
2. Defining terms of reference for a consultancy team that must begin assessing the activities in progress, listing existing observatories and databases,
3. Publishing materials i e brochures and prospectus for information and advocacy,
4. Publishing a comprehensive Report covering the three meetings of Kinshasa, Pretoria and Cape Town.

5.   Publishing an evaluation and overview of cultural policies as presented by Mr Diouf from OAU,

6.   Publishing the Report of the Cotonou Meeting on Cultural Industries,

7.   Publishing the Report of the OAU Abidjan meeting on Financing Culture,

8.   Defining the legal status of the Cultural Observatory and its relationship with governments and othe r stakeholders,

9.   Setting up an effective administrative structure to be launched in 2002

10. Mobilising financial and human resources needed to undertake the above activities.

The Speaker then presented the calendar of events .

The meeting deliberated on both the workplan and calendar of events, seeking clarification on various issues and making several contributions. The major focus of discussion was on who would take the responsibility of putting together the task force and what skills were reguired for this task, including who would facilitate its work.

Taking into consideration the contributions from the particpants on the calendar of events, it was finally agreed that :

-   the WEBSITE be opened within two months,

-   identification of institutions and partners should begin immediately and be a continuing process,

-   the meeting on Evaluation take palce by September /October 2001,

-   the launching of the Administrative Structure ber done by Mid April 2002.

On the question of who would be responsible for the way forward, the meeting requested UNESCO to continue facilitating this process by putting together immediately a Task Force to begin work immediately until end of the week. The Task Force would be expected to define the technical aspects and modalities of work, develop procedures for communication and feedback.

SESSION 3.6   VENUE, STAFF STATUTES AND RESOURCES

The last to develop the themes of the meeting, was Mr. Damien Pwono, who elaborated on issues to consider when deciding on the venue, staff, statutes and resources for the Observatory. He suggested that in dealing with all these issues the experiences of other institutions would be very beneficial, and noted the following points :

1-   The need for a light structure to undertake the key functions, made up of about 3-4 persons, and led by an Executive Officer who can successfully

set up the necessary links. He would be supported by a programme officer whose responsibility would be to put together a team of consultants to do undertake the various tasks.

2- The core structure should only be responsible for key functions i.e data base creation and management,

3- It should be guided by a broad based Board that is advisory than honorary to ensure sustainability,

4- It should be accountable to the needs of cultural partners and stakeholders,

The discussion that followed requested clarification on the language to be used by the observatory for communication and suggested that it be multilingual using Portuguese, French, Arabic and English in order to reach as many people as possible. The importance of being aware of national laws with regard to information was also highlighted especially when the process of collecting data begins.

SESSION 3.7   CLOSING REMARKS

This session summarised the two day proceeedings of the meeting i.e :
- Findings of the meeting : Rapporteurs Report
- Vote of Thanks

Presenting closing remarks the OAU representative congratulated the meeting for its vision and purpose in its deliberations which led to progress being made towards the establishment of an Obervatory for Africa. He commended the degree of professionalism and dedication that charactersed the proceedings of the meeting and expressed satisfaction that unlike in other meetings the follow-up process for this meeting has been established and concretised.

He thanked UNESCO and Ford Foundation for facilitating this process and associating OAU with it. He reafffirmed OAU's commitment to this process. He noted the presence of women in the meeting and their contributions on this subject as important and significant.

Finally he wished the foreseen TASK FORCE a success and hoped that the light structure and the statutes to be developed would make it effective and productive.

The Rapporteur then presented the Summary of the Findings.

VOTE OF THANKS

The Chairman thanked the meeting for having given him and the Vice Chairperson, the priviledge to lead the deliberations on this very important procees of setting up an Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa. He noted the concrete success of the meeting which tackled in a practical manner the various issues raised. He expressed satisfaction that the meeting has already set up a mechanism, workplan and time table for active follow-up of the recommendations.

He thanked all participants who took part in the meeting, and for the various interventions and contributions that were made. He also thanked all parties that made it possble for the meeting to take place in particular, MADESA for the coodination and welcome, UNESCO for providing the frame work, Ford Foundation for their financial support and intellectual contribution, O.U.A. for providing the overview and guidance, SADC for the contribution of its experience in the management of culture, the Vice Chairperson for his support in guiding the proceedings, the rapporteurs for recording the proceedings, translators and technicians for their technical support, the Secretariat and Ritz Hotel for the logistical support.

In declaring the meeting closed, he hoped that the enthusiasm would continue and the TASK FORCE when put in place would be supported by all present to ensure that the creation of the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa succeeds.

Cape Town, May 8, 2001

The participants.