ACTION AREA 6: CULTURE
PRIORITY PROGRAMME 23: «CULTURAL RENAISSANCE»

A) OBJECTIVES

- Develop local expertise and skills;
- Strengthen Africa’s cultural growth and development in the world, and effective representation of Africa and its material and nonmaterial productions;
- Achieve an African common position in debates on cultural diversity and cultural exception, and strengthen African cultural cooperation;
- Enhance development of cultural industries in Africa;
- Resituate culture and cultural players in development. This should not simply be a dimension of development, but rather a foundation of development;
- Preserve Africa’s cultural heritage;
- Consolidate historical memory in Africa fight piracy;
- Support scientific and cultural associations.

B) ACTIVITIES

- Up-dating the African Charter within the context of the First African Cultural Congress (February 2005);
  - “Landmarks” (identification of Africa’s cultural embodiment);
  - “Africa’s expertise and know-how in decline” (inventory, revival…) in 2006;
- Promotion of cultural industries;
- Support to the launch of landmark cultural initiatives;
  - Academy of Languages
  - “Africa’s Heritage” (global initiative including return to Africa of African cultural objects, rehabilitation of historical sites and recognition of and support to “living library”;
  - “Bridge Across the Atlantic”: promotion of various initiatives aimed at strengthening cultural and economic ties between Africa and the black people of the Americas;
- Africa House (Resolution on an Africa House: Paris CM/Res.1606/62 – 1995); London (CM/Res.1548/60);
  - Humanity Centre.
- Organizing International symposia on the Continent’s Historical Figures (Amilcar CABRAL, Patrice LUMUMBA…)

C) SOME MAJOR EVENTS AND DATES

Days or Years to be celebrated

- 18 May International Heritage Day;
- 21 May World Cultural Diversity Day;
- 25 May Africa Day;
- 9 September African Union Day;
• 16 October International Day for the Abolition of Slavery;
• 30 June Africa Scientific Renaissance Day;
• 2006 African Languages Year.

2004
• Establishment of African Union Publishing House (November);
• 6 – 9 October: First meeting of African and Diaspora Intellectuals;
• November: Meetings of African Experts to identify key African cultural programmes;
• Amilcar CABRAL International Symposium (9 – 12 September, Praia);
• December: Choice of cultural capitals for 2005, 2006, 2007;
• 2004 – 2005 African Union Archives Rehabilitation Programme;

2005
• Establishment of an African cultural policy observatory;
• 1st quarter: Programme for definition of Africa Day celebration in the Diaspora;
• Meeting of the African Culture High Council;
• February 2005: First Pan-African Cultural Congress (Cameroon or DRC);
• April: Meeting of Ministers of Culture (Mauritius);
• July: Assembly of Heads of State (Culture & Education, Khartoum);
• 2nd half 2005: Launch of the African Academy of Languages in Bamako;
• Setting up an International Technical Committee for the launch of “Cultural Landmarks” and “Africa World Heritage” on the Internet;
• Launch of “Living Library” Programme (1st quarter);
• Organization of a Workshop on Africa House (2nd half 2005);
• Setting up an International Technical Committee under AU auspices for establishment of a Museum of Black Civilizations in Dakar;
• Setting up an International Technical Committee under AU auspices for revitalization of the Institute of Black Peoples in Ouagadougou.

2006
• Launch of “the African Culture Fiesta” Day + Afro-vision (1st in South Africa, 2nd in Egypt in 2007);
• Setting up a Technical Committee for establishment of the Centre for Human Studies and launch of the Centre at Ife, Nigeria;
• Dakar 2nd Festival of Negro Arts (June 2006);
• Setting up a Technical Committee for the launch of “Bridge Across the Atlantic” Programme: Launch of the “Slave Route” Programme;
• “African Cultural Goods” Programme: Setting up an African Technical Committee;
• Meeting for creation of a unified Body on Africa’s Intellectual Property;
• Africa Encyclopaedia Seminar (3rd quarter);
• Workshop on establishment of an African Cultural Market;
• Patrice Lumumba International Symposium, Kinshasa;

2007
• July: Central Theme of Summit (Ghana): Scientific Research;

Exhibitions and Public Shows
• FESPACO (cinema, Ouagadougou, February 2005);
• FESPAM (Pan-African Music Festival, Brazzaville);
• FESPAD (Pan-African Dance Festival, Kigali);
• Arts Biennial (Dakar, May 2006);
• African Performing Arts Market (Abidjan);
• Exhibition of Africa’s Cultural Industry (Abidjan);
• Carthage (Tunisia) Festivals;

**White Papers/Reports (2005-2006)**

• Cultural diversity (White Paper and Africa Audience)
• Initiation in Africa;
• Piracy of Cultural Works in Africa;
• Return and Restitution of African Cultural Assets.