

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION

Volume 3: 2004-2007 Plan of Action Programmes to Speed Up Integration of the Continent

ACTION AREA 6: CULTURE

PRIORITY PROGRAMME 23: «CULTURAL RENAISSANCE»

(Source: African Union Commission: Action Plans for 2004-2007)

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.