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PAHD Dept.**

Dakar, 20 June 2003

**DAKAR DECLARATION ON THE PROMOTION OF
ACP CULTURES AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES**

Dakar, Republic of Senegal, 20 June 2003

**DRAFT DAKAR DECLARATION
ON THE PROMOTION OF ACP CULTURES AND
CULTURAL INDUSTRIES**

I. PREAMBLE

We, Ministers of Culture of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, meeting in Dakar, Senegal on 20th June 2003,

1. **Recognizing** that the ACP is an association of States with shared realities of historical and cultural experiences, and that these realities include those of cultural pluralism and diversity, of domination and oppression, as well as of peoples struggling for reaffirmation and reclamation of identities;
2. **Recognizing** further, the importance played historically by culture in the survival and continued existence of our societies, because of the role of culture in identity formation, social cohesion and stability;
3. **Noting** that our societies still experience painful dislocations, conflicts and poverty as a result of structural adjustment and the challenges of globalization;
4. **Recalling** the principles enshrined in the Santo Domingo and Nadi Declarations on the role of culture as an essential factor in the sustainable development of ACP States and Regions;
5. **Promoting** the importance of culture as a preferred tool for reinforcing the principles of development, unity and solidarity governing the ACP Group;
6. **Noting** that culture is one of the most effective tools of sustainable development and contributes to the maintenance of peace and security;
7. **Stressing** the importance accorded to cultural development in the Cotonou Agreement, particularly Article 27, which is based on the *acquis* of the Third and Fourth Lome Conventions, as well as the mandate given by the ACP Heads of State and Government to undertake any action aimed at promoting and implementing intra-ACP cultural projects and programmes;

8. **Reaffirming** our commitments to the principles enshrined in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the international instruments issued by UNESCO and other organizations competent in cultural matters;
9. **Emphasizing** that the diversity and richness of contemporary and traditional ACP cultures must be preserved by the promotion of dialogue, shared universal values, mutual understanding and awareness to reinforce peace, unity, and solidarity among the ACP States;
10. **Promoting** dialogue on culture and diverse culture expressions and values within the context of globalization;
11. **Devoting** our 1st Meeting to examining key issues for the promotion and protection of ACP cultures and the contribution of cultural industries to the development of ACP States and Regions;
12. **Ensuring** that intellectual property rights are respected and enforced in the field of culture;
13. **Acknowledging** the potential of enterprises involved in culture and their contribution to sustainable economic development and the fight against poverty;
14. **Recognizing** the impact that ACP States can have on the global cultural economy when they share one vision and a common strategy;
15. **Noting** that globalization constitutes both an opportunity and a challenge to the preservation of cultural diversity and the promotion of cultures;
16. **Acknowledging** the reinforcement and importance of appropriate legislation and an enabling legal environment for the promotion of culture;
17. **Recognizing** the important contributions that information and communication technologies (ICTs) can make in the field of culture and socio-economic development, and in particular to the promotion of cultural industries;
18. **Recalling** that NEPAD constitutes a key framework for cooperation of the development for Africa, which is also recognized by the international community in Resolution 57/2 of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

Hereby declare as follows to:

II. CULTURAL POLICIES

19. **Commit** to formulate an ACP cultural policy, taking into account existing national and regional policies to serve as a common nexus that reflects and incorporates the peculiarities and distinctiveness, cultural diversity, social, economic and historical realities of ACP States;
20. **Encourage** ACP States and their regional integration organizations, in consultation with Non-State Actors, to develop and implement, where they do not exist, national and regional cultural policies and legislations designed to, inter alia promote the cultures of ACP States, enforce international conventions on the protection and preservation of cultural heritage, to stimulate creativity, production, and the exchange of cultural goods and services;
21. **Urge** ACP States to collaborate and cooperate with relevant international institutions in the debate and negotiations on the creation of an International Instrument on Cultural Diversity, aimed at ensuring cultural pluralism in the global arena, and providing the basic rules for the treatment of cultural goods and services in international trade agreements;
22. **Encourage** all ACP States to participate actively in ACP national and regional networks, as well as international networks such as the International Network on Cultural Policy (INCP), particularly by ensuring participation at the Ministerial level;
23. **Promote** dialogue to ensure coherent and complementary culture and trade policies;
24. **Urge** ACP States to develop and implement policies based on the prevention of conflicts and a culture of peace;
25. **Facilitate** the conduct of studies at the national and regional levels, to identify and document the economic contribution of cultural industries;
26. **Urge** ACP States to develop common cultural vision and strategies to take full advantage of the opportunities of globalization;

III. CULTURAL HERITAGE

27. **Acknowledge** the critical importance of protecting the environment, natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including languages, know-how and values in ACP States and Regions, as defined by UNESCO;
28. **Recognize** the urgent need to carry out an inventory of tangible and intangible cultural assets in ACP States and Regions, both as a basis for planning strategies and also as capital for economic development;
29. **Support** measures aimed at sensitising and engaging ACP populations in the protection and management of their cultural heritage, particularly through formal education processes and activities conducted by various social groups;
30. **Support** ongoing education of ACP populations, through our various educational institutions on the value and importance of culture, cultural heritage and expressions;
31. **Urge** ACP States to collaborate and cooperate on national, regional and international efforts aimed at promoting the return and restitution of cultural goods illegally appropriated to ACP States of origin, as well as on efforts to counter illicit trafficking in cultural property;
32. **Urge** also ACP States to enhance the value of cultural heritage by associating and involving the peoples directly concerned in cultural development;
33. **Encourage** the promotion of cultural heritage through the establishment of secured reserves, museums and conservatories;
34. **Urge** the widest dissemination of studies and research on cultural heritage;
35. **Urge** also ACP States to ratify and implement International Conventions on the protection and preservation of Cultural Heritage;
36. **Invite** ACP partners to support NEPAD as a common framework for a new partnership for the development of Africa within the cultural context;

37. **Support** actions and activities in favor of the potential contributions of tourism to culture as well as measures that prevent the possible devastating effects on the national cultures of ACP States;
38. **Sustain** initiatives designed to preserve, protect and develop traditional, contemporary and popular cultural skills and expressions. In this context, we support the adoption of an International Convention for the preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO, and further welcome initiatives such as the adoption of the Regional Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture by the Ministers of Culture of the Pacific Region;
39. **Consider** that the future International Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage must receive the same support as the International Convention of 1972 on Cultural and Natural World Heritage;
40. **Encourage** the diffusion of information on the natural and cultural heritage for its conservation, preservation and access to all;

IV. CULTURAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP

41. **Promote** the development and establishment of cultural cooperation, tolerance, dialogue, and partnership with existing and new partners through the setting-up of sub-regional and regional programmes, inter alia for the production and distribution of cultural products;
42. **Adopt** and implement adequate measures to support cooperation aimed at promoting and developing regional integration through culture, by creating active networks based on, inter alia the model of Support Programmes for Cultural Initiatives (SPCI), and Regional Funds for Cultural Cooperation;
43. **Encourage** ACP States to establish a status for artists, who are the main beneficiaries of these established mechanisms;
44. **Support** the establishment and development of regional and international institutions for the promotion of inter-cultural dialogue;
45. **Urge** the European Union and other partners to strengthen support to Cultural initiatives and programmes at ACP national and regional levels; including the facilitation of movement of ACP artists and works into ACP, EU and other markets in accordance with the provisions of the Cotonou Agreement;

46. **Invite** the ACP General Secretariat to intensify the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNESCO to reinforce the partnership between the two organizations in the field of culture;
47. **Encourage** ACP States that have not yet done so, to become members of relevant regional and international organisations and networks, such as the International Network on Cultural Policy (INCP);
48. **Urge** ACP States and Regions to include culture in their National and Regional Indicative Programmes (NIPs/RIPs) as a basis for the inclusion of culture in the 9th and future EDF funding;

V. CAPACITY BUILDING

49. **Urge** the European Union and other partners/agencies to facilitate training and capacity building for ACP cultural practitioners in policy development and implementation, management and enterprise development;
50. **Undertake** to implement cultural development programmes through education, training, research, and to encourage exchanges, including for capacity building in the management of cultural projects;
51. **Undertake** to develop communication strategies on culture and cultural economies in order to sensitize and inform ACP populations and encourage their participation;
52. **Undertake** also to devote special attention to the integration of information and communication technologies (ICT's) in the production of cultural goods and services in ACP States; and to promote the creation of a product that takes account of the cultural values of ACP States;

VI. CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

53. **Recognize** the significant potential and value of cultural industries and their contribution to the economic and social development of ACP States and Regions, and the need to respect and promote intellectual property rights, in particular copyrights and neighboring rights by the enforcement of national legislations and adherence to international conventions, in an effort to prevent the phenomenon of piracy;

54. **Resolve** to promote the adoption of measures conducive to the development and establishment of all forms of cultural industries in ACP States, particularly by:
- Supporting, through appropriate measures, including but not limited to content requirements and ownership, the audio-visual sector particularly, the music and film industries, theatre, books and publishing, as well as arts and crafts;
 - Creating and developing national, regional and subregional institutions and infrastructure;
 - Facilitating partnerships between the public sector, private sector and civil society, in particular within the framework of UNESCO's Global Alliance for cultural diversity;
 - Encouraging cultural actors and operators to organize themselves in a Coalition at the ACP level to promote cultural diversity;
 - Fostering regional and international exchanges, co-productions and other strategies at multi-lateral and bi-lateral levels; and
 - Improving the legal and fiscal frameworks;
55. **Encourage** ACP States and their development partners to promote favorable mechanisms for ACP cultural operators to access financing;
56. **Resolve** to adopt the necessary measures for improving access of ACP cultural goods and services to sub-regional, regional and international markets;
57. **Stress** the importance of following-up trade negotiations within the WTO, FTAA, and the ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) to ensure that ACP concerns and interests are taken into account;
58. **Commit** to work with the private sector and specialised agencies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) to promote the creation and development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurship in the cultural sector;
59. **Recognize** the work by UNCTAD on the development potential of cultural industries and requests UNCTAD and other relevant international organizations to carry out studies in evaluating the impact of the current trade regime on domestic cultural policies;

VII. ICTs FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

60. **Reaffirm** the fundamental importance of developing national strategies and cultural policies to enhance the utilization of ICTs in ACP States;
61. **Encourage** intra-ACP cultural cooperation aimed at supporting strategies and initiatives to reduce the digital divide;
62. **Improve** access to ICTs, particularly in the most disadvantaged areas, and urge ACP States to support and promote the concept of digital solidarity;
63. **Call** upon ACP States to actively participate in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), scheduled to take place in Geneva during 2003, and Tunis in 2005;

VIII. ACP FESTIVAL

64. **Commit** to implement Decision No. 3 of the 3rd Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government in respect of the promotion of ACP cultures;
65. **Support** the regular organisation of an ACP Festival, the 1st Festival being organized in Haiti during 2004, as a means of promoting cultural dialogue, cultural exchanges, heritage conservation, cultural industries, and the visibility of ACP States on the international scene;
66. **Support** also Festivals as major resources and an essential mechanism for spreading the richness of cultural life to remote and/or disadvantaged areas, and as major opportunities for marketing the cultural products of ACP States and Regions;
67. **Commit** to coordinate at national and regional levels the organization of Festivals, and to utilize experiences and know-how gained thereof for the ACP Festival;

IX. ACP CULTURAL FOUNDATION

68. **Support** the conduct of a Feasibility Study for the setting up of an ACP Cultural Foundation;
69. **Call** upon ACP States, the European Union and other international and multilateral partners and the Non State Actors (NSA's), to assist in the design, promotion and support of ACP cultural activities;

X. FINAL PROVISIONS

70. **Pledge** to support and circulate the Dakar Declaration on the Promotion of ACP Cultures and Cultural Industries and to implement the Plan of Action;
71. **Call** upon the ACP States, the President of the 1st Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture, ACP General Secretariat and the joint ACP-EU institutions in collaboration with all relevant national, regional and multilateral development partners and financial institutions to support, monitor, participate, and follow-up the Dakar Plan of Action; and
72. **Request** the President of the 1st Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture to forward the Dakar Declaration and Plan of Action to the President of 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 at Dakar, 20 June 2003

**For the 1st Meeting of ACP Ministers of Culture
President**

**Mr. Abdou FALL
Minister of Culture and Communication
Republic of Senegal**