



“WHADN NEWS”

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Connecting Back — Moving Forward

“THE AFRICAN UNION TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE DIASPORA HELD IN PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO”

The African Union (AU) made its first official contact with the Diaspora during the First African Union Western Hemisphere Diaspora Forum, which was held in Washington, DC from December 17-19, 2002. This historical event was convened by AU and initiated the active mobilization and process of institutional development of the African Diaspora into the organs of AU. The event also launched The Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network (WHADN), whose mission is to encourage and facilitate the utilization of the collective talents and resources of the African Diaspora in the Americas, the Caribbean and Latin America as a means of supporting economic development and sustainable growth on the Continent. To this end, WHADN was established to function as the coordinating network, linking the Diaspora and AU for the purpose of achieving the common goals of social and economic growth throughout Africa.

In May 2003, at the 1st Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the issue of the African Diaspora being recognized as a sixth region gained momentum. During the Executive Council of the Union meeting, which preceded the Summit, the Government of Senegal proposed an amendment to formally integrate the Diaspora as “the Sixth Region of the Continent.” Summit participants, which consisted of the African Ministers of Foreign Affairs, could not agree on the implications of this resolution as it relates to the governance structure of the African Union. However, they did agree to formally integrate the Diaspora into the

policy framework of the Union, thereby amending the Constitutive Act to provide for a new Article 3(q) that “invites and encourages the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of our Continent, in the building of the African Union.”

The Executive Council adopted a decision that calls for the development of a structured process, and institutions, for sustained and inclusive collaboration between Africa and its Diaspora. The decision also calls for the development of an agenda that has measurable targets that are linked to the challenges of development. The decision further states that the relations that are developed should be reciprocal and should offer both material and non-material or symbolic forms of support.



Mr. Khafra Kambon, Chairman of the Emancipation Support Committee greets The Honorable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago at the AU Technical Workshop.

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WHADN membership is growing and we would like to have your opinions and suggestions.

Write to us at the address on the last page or email us:

info@democracy-africa.org

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The debate surrounding the Senegalese proposal of the "Sixth Region" directed attention to the need to clearly define the criteria for membership of the African Diaspora, its rights, duties and privileges. The Executive Council was fascinated by this issue and reiterated its mandate that the African Union work closely with people of African descent and origin towards strengthening their relations and linkages with Africa. The Council complimented the Commission on measures taken thus far, and encouraged the Commission to pursue its engagements with the Diaspora in the Americas and Europe, expand its contacts to other regions such as the Gulf countries and Asia and



Mr. Henry Sealey, EHS Financial Services Ltd., Mr. David Comissiong, Commission on Pan African Affairs and the Honorable Maria Ines da Silva, Vice Minister, Ministry of Racial Equality & Promotion, Brazil at the Technical Workshop

to convene a technical workshop to develop a concept that would generate proposals on relations

between AU and the Diaspora, thereby resolving the controversial issues associated with the Senegalese proposal on the "Sixth Region" idea. Thus, the challenge facing AU is to develop a comprehensive and systematic plan for collaboration between Africa and the African Diaspora.

On June 2-4, 2004, AU convened a technical workshop on relations with the Diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies. Per the directive of the Executive Council, the objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- The definition of the Diaspora; discuss
- The role of the Diaspora in reversing the brain drain in line with NEPAD recommendations;
- The modalities for the creation of a Diaspora fund for investment and development in Africa;
- The modalities for the development of scientific and technical networks to channel the repatriation of scientific and technical knowledge from the Diaspora to Africa, and the establishment of cooperation between those abroad and at home;
- The establishment of a Diaspora database to promote and facilitate networking and collaboration between experts in their respective countries of origin and those in the Diaspora.

The choice of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) as the venue for the AU Technical Workshop on Relations with the Diaspora was not accidental. It was fitting that the Port of Spain host this event as a tribute to the great Sylvester Williams, a native son of T&T and organizer of the first Pan-African Conference, held under his leadership in Westminster, England in 1900.

Speeches from the Workshop are available for viewing at <http://www.democracy-africa.org/autwspeech.aspx>



Mr. Charles Kwenin, International Organization for Migration, Ms. Melice Huggins and members of the press at the Technical Workshop

Look out for the complete report on the Technical Workshop, on our website at <http://www.democracy-africa.org>



**Effective and Efficient
Use of Agricultural
Science, Technology
and Research as a Tool
for Development
in Africa**

**Presented by: The Foundation
for Democracy in Africa**

Where: Miami, Florida

When: September 16 - 18, 2004

Why: To discuss how science and technological advances could impact on African agricultural opportunities and challenges.

The Foundation for Democracy in Africa is delighted to present its 7th Annual Trade and Investment Symposium, that will bring together African and US agricultural businesses, educators, trade and investment experts, government administrators and representatives from international organizations to discuss technology based approaches and strategies to advance African agriculture. Based on the transfer of technologies, this will be an opportunity to lay the foundation for new economic partnerships between leaders of the African public and private sectors and US public and private institutions, such as agricultural industries, research centers and some of the Research & Development based agricultural universi-

ties and companies. Over the years, we have enjoyed the active participation of Americans, Africans and the Caribbean public and private sectors organizations and we are looking forward to an increase participation in this year's technical symposium.

The Conference is to take place in Miami-Dade County, Florida, with this year's exciting theme for the Conference being **"Effective and Efficient Use of Agricultural Science, Technology and Research as Tools for Development in Africa"**. Most recently, the African Union declared this decade as the *"African decade for Agriculture and Water Resource Challenges and Opportunities"*, that must be resolved.

AfrICANDO 2004 will provide an excellent model for practical field application. As you may know, Agriculture is among the top three industries, in Miami-Dade County and it generates over \$560 million dollars annually in agricultural sales and in the State of Florida, Agriculture industries have been shown to have an estimated economic impact of about \$62 billion dollars annually and they have been responsible in creating an estimated 648,550 jobs per year. Beside, Miami-Dade County also has a sub-tropical weather and very similar vegetation as in the tropical Africa. Since agri-business provides such a highly significant economic impact in Miami - Dade County, it makes the County an excellent field model for the **AfriCANDO** symposium.

An important byproduct of the three-day symposium, from the African viewpoint will be the field trips, lead by agriculture and business experts, to agriculture and eco-tourism sites in Miami - Dade County.

Advancing agriculture as an engine of development is an underlying objective of this **AfriCANDO** symposium. As a result of this conference, it is our hope that US food processing companies, farm related technology vendors ranging from fertilizer companies to irradiation/pasteurization companies will envision the advantages of doing business in Africa and identify new market opportunities for their organizations to participate in Africa's development.

Register today — particularly our International participants who require visa (s) to attend. Registration forms available at <http://www.democracy-africa.org/africando2004.aspx>

See the draft agenda available at <http://www.democracy-africa/africando04agenda.aspx>

"The Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network (WHADN) delegation attends African Union Summit"

KENYA DIASPORA LAUNCHES SKILLS BANK

Kenya Diaspora Network is in the news: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2004/7/prweb143849.htm>

The Kenyan Diaspora Network (KDN) has officially launched its Skills Bank Database.

KDN stated that the eventual purpose of the Database will be to encourage and facilitate the utilization of the collective talents and resources of the Kenyan Diaspora, in North America and the World, in advancing the collective interests of Kenyans in the country and throughout the Diaspora. The Database will help facilitate pooling of the resources and expertise of Kenyan organizations and their individuals members into a unified, coordinated and constructive whole towards the common goal of supporting the socio-economic development of Kenya. The ultimate goal is to match needs to skills or interest as development initiatives progress as underlined within the Country Economic Plan. In particular, utilizing the Diaspora resources, through capacity building, to strengthen and sustain the existing local institution i.e. NGO, CBO, CBD.

We encourage you to visit the Kenya Diaspora Website (<http://www.kenyadiaspora.org>) and send the Kenya Diaspora your suggestions and comments at info@kenyadiaspora.org.

WHADN organized a delegation to represent it at the 5th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union that took place from 30 June - 3 July 2004 and the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union Summit which took place from July 6-8 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



H.E. Mr. Adboulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal with Mr. W. Ronald Evans, President of the National Business League and Mr. Fred Oladeinde, President, Foundation for Democracy in Africa. Mr. Evans and Mr. Oladeinde were part of the WHADN delegation that went to the Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

At the summit, the WHADN delegation in addition to attending the Executive Council session as well as the AU Summit meet-

ing, met with several delegations representing governments, UN agencies, African Union initiatives and Civil Society organizations, to discuss mutual interest and cooperation.

The press release for the WHADN delegation to the summit is available on the website.

To read it visit:

<http://www.democracy-africa.org/3ausummit.aspx>

A comprehensive article on the delegations attendance will be in the next issue.

Send us your views, opinions, concerns.

We are happy to receive articles for publishing in the Newsletter.

WHAT IS WHADN?

The Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network (WHADN) is an African Union (AU) initiative and was launched during the First African Union Western Hemisphere Diaspora Forum held in Washington, DC from December 17—19, 2002. This historical event was convened by AU and coordinated by The Foundation for Democracy in Africa.

MISSION

To encourage and facilitate the utilization of the collective talents and resources of the African Diaspora in the Americas, the Caribbean and Latin America to support economic development and sustainable growth on the continent. To this end, WHADN was established to function as the coordinating network, linking the Diaspora and the AU for the purpose of achieving the common goals of social and economic development.

OBJECTIVES

- ★ To encourage and facilitate the enduring cultural, social and economic ties to Africa within the Western Hemisphere Diaspora communities
- ★ To develop and identify funding for capacity building projects by Diaspora civil society organizations in the Western Hemisphere Diaspora and the African Union
- ★ To work with the African Union to create mechanisms to represent the views, concerns and interests of the African Diaspora within the African regional organization

PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

- ★ Democracy, Governance and the Rule of Law
- ★ Health and Environment
- ★ Peace and Security
- ★ Education
- ★ Trade and Economic Development
- ★ Science, Research and Technology
- ★ Communications
- ★ Arts and Culture

GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

- ★ Latin America (including Mexico and Central America)
- ★ The Caribbean
- ★ Brazil (given its language, size, and historical disconnect with the rest of Latin America)

The United States, Canada (not grouped with the United States given the often different interests of the Diaspora of the two countries, as reported by members of the Working Group)



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