



# 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAU-AU



**INDO-AFRICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES**

*Pan Africanism and African Renaissance*

May 2013

*Special Supplement on 50th Celebration of Africa Day*

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During the press briefing Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma explained "that the most important thing is that the AU has decided to involve and engage its citizens in order to reflect on where we have come from and where we are heading to".

She added that the celebrations are about galvanizing and energizing the populations not only at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa but throughout the continent where people will be discussing and shaping the future of Africa. The result of the discussions and debates will then inform Agenda 2063.

### Addis Ababa — Press Briefing of the AU Commission Leadership and Host Country Representative on the 21st AU Summit And The Celebrations of The Golden Jubilee Of The OAU-AU

The OAU-AU is still work in progress". Dr Dlamini Zuma added that today's challenges relate to development and economic growth, and that encouragingly, Africa has been on the rise for the last 10 years, with six of the fastest growing economies being on the continent.

As key achievements, she highlighted that the OAU-AU set some standards and norms including the Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the AU Convention on the Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons to name just a few.

Africa is facing a variety of problems, but over the last 50 years has witnessed substantial progress in economic growth, a consolidation of peace and improved democracy, stressed African Union authorities in Addis Ababa today.



**NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA**  
President of the African Union Commission

century since the group was founded on May 25, 1963 with the name of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and called for increased efforts to successfully face the challenges of the immediate future.

Zuma pointed to stimulants in the form of economic growth, public investment, infrastructure and regional integration in Africa, as well as improvements in governability and democracy, peace, stability and a number of human development indicators.

She also underlined the merit of the founding fathers of the OAU as she noted, "they had to build new independent states and develop a vision and plans for continental integration."

All of this, diplomats agreed with Zuma, was achieved starting from a reality of fragmentation and destruction caused by centuries of colonization, whose consequences are still visible in most African nations, despite the aforementioned prosperity.



Artist impression of the new African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Delegates from the 54 member states positively assessed the half

### MESSAGE

In the longstanding Pan-Africanist tradition, I would like to extend my greetings to African brothers and sisters all over the continent and beyond. I also wish to express my warmest congratulations to them on the occasion of Africa Day, which is celebrated worldwide by Africans and peoples of African descent living in the Diaspora, highlighting Africa's shared history and heritage, its unity and diversity as well as its enormous potential and common destiny.

The celebration of Africa day this year is indeed special as it marks a significant milestone in the history of our continental organization. It was fifty years ago on 25 May 1963, that our Founding Fathers, inspired by the ideals of Pan-Africanism to promote common understanding between the peoples of Africa and foster greater cooperation between African States in a larger unity transcending ethnic and national differences, signed the Charter establishing the Organization of African Unity.

As we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the OAU/AU, we take stock of the last fifty years of our continental organization with a view to drawing lessons from our achievements and challenges and chart out the way forward. Needless to say, there have certainly been ups and downs along the way. Much as we take enormous pride and satisfaction from our successes, we also feel dissatisfied by the pitfalls that contributed to our current state of affairs. It is in view of this fact that the theme "Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance" was selected to give us the opportunity to look at Africa's past, present and future.

When the OAU was established in 1963, there was indeed a lot of euphoria and optimism for Africa's rejuvenation. Those were the heady days when thirty-two African States just started to enjoy their hard won freedom and independence and to aspire to a better future. The OAU Charter was the expression of their collective aspirations to promote unity and solidarity amongst themselves as well as to coordinate and intensify their cooperation to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa.

There is no doubt that the OAU played an invaluable role in the liberation of our continent and, for this, we have to pay tribute to successive generations of African leaders who have bequeathed to us a continent free from the shackles of colonialism and Apartheid. The OAU has also contributed to the



**H.E. HAILE MARIAM DESSALEGN**  
Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the African Union on the Occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the OAU/AU

process of integration on our continent and has served as a continental platform for collective action within Africa and in interactions with the rest of the world.

Nevertheless, we all recognize that Africa's aspirations for lasting peace and prosperity still remain to be realized and the vision of our Founding Fathers is yet to be fulfilled. We cannot deny the reality that internal problems related to bad governance together with the adverse external environment contributed to Africa's current political and socio-economic problems. In the 1960s, although some east Asian countries were economically at par with the newly independent African countries, it is disheartening that the latter still languish in poverty and underdevelopment while the east Asian countries managed to achieve economic miracles in a span of two or three decades.

At this important juncture, it is therefore incumbent upon us to ask what really went wrong. In spite of our rich historical heritage and abundant natural resources, why have we not been able transform our societies? We need to do some serious soul searching as we reflect on our past and try to chart our future in a bid to realize a peaceful, prosperous and united Africa. Previous generations have paid the ultimate sacrifice to liberate our continent from all forms of subjugation and Apartheid. It is up to the current and future generations of Africans to achieve the socio-economic emancipation of our continent.

We have indeed made certain progress over the last decade, which gives us hope and optimism in this

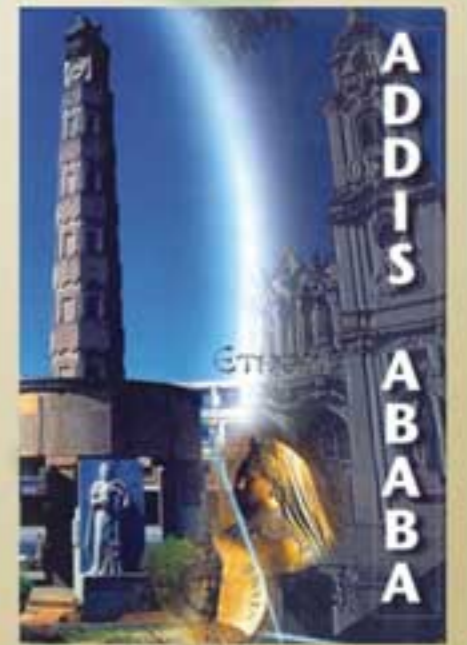
regard. The transformation of the OAU into the African Union has no doubt enabled us to better respond to the challenges facing our continent in the 21st century. We have also charted an independent path of development through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and started to learn from each other's experiences on issues of governance by utilizing the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

Over the last decade, it is encouraging that several African economies have entered a high growth trajectory. The number of conflicts ravaging our continent has also slowly subsided, though have not been completely eradicated. Moreover, we are witnessing improved governance with the introduction of a democratic dispensation in many African countries. As we move forward, we need to rededicate our efforts to ensuring lasting peace and stability, accelerating economic growth and deepening governance reforms, with a view to laying a solid foundation for Africa's socio-economic transformation.

With visionary leadership, committed to bringing about change, a Developmental State capable of playing a proactive and dynamic role, and the mobilization of all sections of the African people, there is no doubt that we will be able to fully realize our continental agenda in the coming decades.

It is my earnest hope that by the time Africa celebrates the centenary of the OAU in 2063, we will have a continent free from the scourge of conflicts and abject poverty, where many African countries will have achieved upper middle income status and the standard of living of large populations of the African people will have been significantly improved. As previous generations were inspired by the ideals of Pan-Africanism to fight for their freedom and dignity, current and future generations should therefore be guided by the same Pan-African spirit to struggle for Africa's socio-economic emancipation and realize the African Renaissance.

Source: Gail Warden,  
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### AFRICAN UNION SYMBOLS AND ANTHEM



#### FLAG

The current flag of the African Union was adopted at its 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, which took place in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2010.

The green background symbolises hope of Africa and 53 gold stars represent Member States.



#### EMBLEM

**Description:** a. The palm leaves shooting up on either side of the outer circle stand for peace;  
b. The gold circle symbolises Africa's wealth and bright future;  
c. The green circle stands for African hopes and aspirations;

d. The plain map of Africa without boundaries in the inner circle signifies African unity;

e. The small interlocking red rings at the base of the Emblem stand for African solidarity and the bloodshed for the liberation of Africa.

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### AFRICAN UNION ANTHEM

Let us all unite and celebrate together  
The victories won for our liberation  
Let us dedicate ourselves to rise together  
To defend our liberty and unity  
O Sons and Daughters of Africa  
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky  
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life  
Let us all unite and sing together  
To uphold the bonds that frame our destiny  
Let us dedicate ourselves to fight together  
For lasting peace and justice on earth  
O Sons and Daughters of Africa  
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky  
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life  
Let us all unite and toil together  
To give the best we have to Africa  
The cradle of mankind and fount of culture  
Our pride and hope at break of dawn.  
O Sons and Daughters of Africa  
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky  
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life

*Hearty Congratulations  
Felicitations  
& Best Wishes  
On the occasion of  
50th Anniversary of the  
OAU-AU Africa Day Celebration*



**INDO-AFRICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES**

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PEOPLE WHO PROMOTE INDO-AFRICAN TRADE TIES...







Peace and security, democracy and good governance and infrastructural development, are all critical for Pan Africanism and African Renaissance to materialize. But, in all this, the starting point for Pan Africanism and African Renaissance is ensuring that Africa can feed itself.

The same Pan African spirit with which we extricated Africa from the fangs of colonialism, should persist in our pursuit of regain-ing our dignity by fighting hunger and malnutrition and heed to the appeal made by late President of Malawi Prof Bingu wa Mutaharika in 2010 when he became Chair of the Assembly of the African Union, 'to ensure that five years from now, no child shall die of hunger, no child shall go to bed hungry.' We cannot confidently talk of Pan Africanism and African Renaissance when we continue to import food worth nearly US\$50 billion dollars annually and this bill risks to increase exponentially given Africa's high rate of population growth.

It is when we can optimally harness the potential presented by abundant active labour, mainly women and youth, fine weather, fertile soils and fresh water sources to increase agricultural production and productivity, that we will be able to achieve food and nutrition security. A food and nutrition secure population is healthy, productive and happy and able to advance and safeguard African interests. That is what Pan



**RECOURSE TO HISTORY – REVIVING THE RETURN-TO-AFRICA INITIATIVE**

By Seth Kwaku Fianza: Military training officer, African Standby Force; Peace and Security Department; Peace Support Operations Division.

Africanism urges us to aspire for and it is clearly within our reach.

Fortunately, the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) adopted by the AU Assembly in 2003 provides the overarching policy framework for AU Member States' agricultural investment plans. Pan African, Institutions exist including the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the Regional Economic Communities to coordinate and support Member States' efforts in fertilizer development and application, irrigation, agricultural research and technology, strategic commodities, value chain development, and enhancing intra-African trade to



**RECOURSE TO HISTORY – REVIVING THE RETURN-TO-AFRICA INITIATIVE**

By Seth Kwaku Fianza: Military training officer, African Standby Force; Peace and Security Department; Peace Support

On the occasion of the Summit of the Heads of States and Governments of Africa with the theme "Pan Africanism and African Renaissance", it may be relevant to recall the five major Pan African Congresses which have been trail blazers in the struggle for the emancipation of the African peoples. Such recourse to history enables retracing of the trail blazed by our forebears and serves to redefine the course of future initiatives in the pursuit of our aspirations of a truly free and united Africa.

Pan Africanism in the words of Dr KB Asante, a renowned African scholar, has been the "rallying slogan, the springboard, the ideological vehicle for the common efforts to advance the cause of Africa and Africans. Pan Africanism, as a concept, has defied concise definition because it has, according to Asante, "assumed different meanings and orientations at various stages of its evolution—and has meant different things to different people." This notwithstanding, a common theme has run through the five major Pan African Congresses i.e. the Liberation of Africans from the bonds of oppression and discrimination'.

The first Pan African Congress, convened by renowned Pan Africanist JEB Du Bois in 1919 and attended by 57 delegates from 15 countries demanded participation of Africans in the governing of their countries. The second Pan African Congress held in several sessions in London, Paris and Brussels and considered the most radical of all the five congresses demanded an end to colonial rule and racial discrimination as well as human rights and equal economic opportunity for colonized people in Africa and the West Indies. The third Congress held in London and Lisbon in 1923 and the fourth Congress held in New York in 1927, inter alia, called for "the development of Africa for the benefit of Africans and not merely for the profit of Europeans, home rule and

responsible government for British West Africa and the British West Indies, and the abolition of the pretension of a white minority to dominate a black majority in Kenya, Rhodesia and South Africa".

The most popular and significant of the five congresses was the Fifth Pan African Congress held in Manchester, United Kingdom from 15th to 21st October 1945. The Congress, organized by George Padmore and Kwame Nkrumah, among the 90 delegates who attended, scholars, intellectuals and political activists, most of whom became the torchbearers of African Independence Movements. Organized in the wake of the foundation of the Pan African Federation, the fifth congress, attended by the then 77 year-old Dubois, convener of the first Congress, passed several resolutions which criminalized racial discrimination, condemned imperialism and Capitalism and called for an end to colonial rule and domination. The Congress galvanized the leaders of African Independence Movements and contributed immensely towards the eventual liberation of many African countries from the yoke of colonialism.

As SKB Asante observes, the unifying spirit of Pan Africanism waned following the attainment of Independence by

incentivize agricultural production, among others. These, I believe, are the areas which the AU Assembly wanted focused on when in 2009 in Sirte, Libya, it deliberated on the Theme Investing in Agriculture for Food security and Economic Growth. Indeed, investing in agriculture has multiplier effects on household incomes and national revenue as well as positive social transformation. That is how we can assert our hard won independence and sovereignty, the hallmarks of Pan Africanism. That is how Africa, strong and prosperous, can become a truly dynamic force in the global arena.

Africa can no longer be called a hopeless continent. It is a continent on the rise. The recent global economic downturn coupled with climate change and climate variability tested and proved Africa's resilience. We need to sustain the momentum, and to do so through a more vigorous public-private partnership and also taking advantage of the global good will as evidenced by, among others, the G8 Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security. In taking forward this imperative, we bear in mind that in coincidence with the Golden Jubilee of the OAU/AU, this year, we also commemorate 10 years since CAADP was adopted. This drive must be stepped up also as we look towards 2014 The AU Year of Agriculture and Food Security.

African States, to the detriment of efforts at African unity and integration. Efforts at uniting and integrating Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora were shackled by political sociocultural and economic obstacles which, paradoxically, only unity and integration can help us surmount.

Feeble attempts have been made to revive and keep the spirit of Pan Africanism alive. One such initiative is the 'Joseph project' initiated by Ghana which sought to actualize the vision of Kwame Nkrumah and Marcus Garvey of reaching out to Africans in the Diaspora by supporting them to return to their roots, just as the biblical Joseph supported his brethren Israelites who were under bondage in Egypt. Several Diasporans have pursued the dream of returning to their roots by paying visits to several places in Africa most of which have cultural and historical links to the fateful journey of their forebears across the oceans into captivity and slavery such as the slave castles which were their final habitation before they were shipped away into slavery. Some of them have made efforts to establish their real roots in Africa and some have gone further to adopt African countries as their homes and acquired property in these countries in their bid to reintegrate into the societies their forebears were rudely take away from.

It is mainly the affluent and well-to-do Diasporans who have been able to pursue their dream of a return to their roots. For each affluent African Diasporan who manages the journey back home, there are hundreds of others who wish to but lack the means to make the historic journey. Some of our forefathers were accomplices the evil design that caused their demise and owe it them as a duty to facilitate their return home. This summit affords us a unique opportunity to rekindle the Pan-African Spirit and initiate the return of our disadvantaged brothers.

**Africa's Fight Against Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse: Solution lies in Holistic Approach**

Africa, like the rest of the world, is grappling with the problem of illicit drug trafficking and abuse, and related crimes. Narcotic drugs and associated crime have become a veritable scourge undermining the continent's peace and security, social development and public health. It is a problem that transcends all of Africa's five regions, some of whom are experiencing a melt-down of sorts.

Countries traditionally used as transit routes have themselves graduated into users, with injecting drug use being common - further complicating efforts to curb HIV/AIDS. A number of people have become problem drug users in need of rehabilitation. But treatment facilities are scarce in Africa. Unchecked, trade in illicit drugs risks becoming an underground economic development model with obvious threats to peace and security, social development and general well-being of Africans.

African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, told a session of the Permanent Representative Council, in Addis Ababa two weeks ago, that the problem of illicit drugs and crime in Africa was no longer an illusion.

"We are dealing with a problem that is not only a threat to peace and security but to public health and social development as well. Therefore a holistic approach is needed to tackle both supply and demand aspects," said Dr Dlamini-Zuma.

She was right. A multi-sectoral and balanced approach between legislative norm setting, law enforcement and drug abuse prevention and treatment activities is now needed. The AUC has a Drug Control Secretariat in the department of Social Affairs, tasked with co-ordinating implementation of a Plan of Action and harmonisation of programmes and policies to tackle the problem of illicit drugs on the continent.

The 5th Session of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Drug Control held recently in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopted a new African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013 -



2017) as a framework to galvanise national, regional and international cooperation to counter illicit drugs. The meeting also adopted an African Common Position on Controlled Substances and Access to Pain Management Drugs; and also came up with Continental Minimum Quality Standards for Treatment of Drug Dependence.

The Plan of Action is based on principles of three international drug conventions. For many African countries, the focus has mainly been on supply reduction, forgetting that all three of international drug conventions commit ratifying states to ensure provision of adequate services in the area of early detection, treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare. The Plan comes with an "Implementation Matrix", which specifies responsibilities of the Commission, Regional Economic Communities and Member States.

It is not possible to have a balanced drug policy without attention to state responsibilities in the care for people who live with drug dependence. In this area of public health, treatment delayed is treatment denied. The minimum standards point out how to approach the challenge of treatment of addiction with respect for the humanity of people living with addiction. The Standards remind us that drug dependence is not a crime but a condition that cries out for health services and social support.

The new Plan of Action encourages member states, in their drug policies, to distinguish between individual-level or minor infractions and major infractions such as trafficking. This distinction enables those whose infraction is drug use or possession of drugs for personal

use to be directed to care and support rather than to arresting and incarceration. But that distinction will be hard to sustain if there is no alternative for minor offenders outside the criminal justice system.

But success in the fight against illicit drugs rests on strategic partnerships and resource mobilisation for the secretariat as well as political will envisaging application of principles by Member States, Regional Economic Communities and AUC institutions.

What is undeniable is the fact that drug control has become a continental issue which could be pursued by the continent's political leadership by making DRUGS a theme for a Heads of State summit. On their part, member states would do well to establish interdepartmental focal points to facilitate flows of communication with the AUC regarding implementation of the Plan of Action. They should continue to review and strengthen mechanisms for enhanced shared responsibility for control of illicit drugs, in particular, inclusion of basic human rights and evidence-based public health practices



in overall drug legislation, policies, strategies and programmes. Alcohol and tobacco should be included in drug use prevention strategies, as they are considered "gateway drugs" on the continent, especially because alcohol abuse remains of major concern.

The minimum standards may seem to be about a health issue a bit isolated from the heart of challenges of overall approach to drug policy. But in fact treatment issues are crucial to broader drug policy debates.

To tackle drugs, supply and demand aspects have to be considered in tandem.

Emanating from a lack of consensus around the key issues surrounding fertilizer use in Africa and the need for a continental framework and strategy with related actionable programs on how best to create conditions under which farmers can intensify their production systems, the Africa Fertilizer Summit was held in June 2006 in Abuja, Nigeria, under the auspices of former President Olusegun Obasanjo. The Summit brought together more than 40 Heads of State and Governments and over 500 delegates from farmers' organizations, African Governments, research institutions, development organizations and the private sector to identify concrete actions to improve the access of millions of small-holder farmers to fertilizer and give the Continent a "uniquely African Green Revolution".

**AU Member States' Commitments** During the Summit, leading African and international policymakers and agricultural experts and African Ministers of Agriculture formulated a series of policy recommendations in a 12-point plan of far-reaching reforms to accelerate the access of millions of poor farmers to chemical fertilizers and other complementary inputs: the Abuja's Declaration on Fertilizer for the African Green Revolution. The African Union's member states declared fertilizer, from both inorganic and organic sources, "a strategic commodity without borders" and pledged to increase the level of fertilizer use from the current average of 8 kilograms per hectare, to an average of at least 50 kilograms per hectare by 2015. AU Member States also resolved to harmonize policies and regulations to ensure duty- and tax-free movement across regions, eliminate all taxes and tariffs imposed on fertilizer and on fertilizer raw materials, develop and scale up input dealers' and community-based networks across rural areas, grant targeted subsidies to help the poorest farmers access fertilizer, establish regional fertilizer procurement and distribution facilities and set up an Africa Fertilizer Development Financing Mechanism.

**Achievements so far** The Summit produced a series of important outcomes aside from the adoption of the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer, which presented a major milestone in terms of providing a



**Towards the Achievement of An African Green Revolution: Key Accomplishments since the 2006 Africa Fertilizer Summit**

by Dr. Oumou M. Camara, Senior Scientist-Economics Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture / AUC

clear continental framework for meeting Africa's fertilizer challenge and achieve an African green revolution. Key issues pertaining to low fertilizer use in Africa were identified and examined through the development of 15 Summit background papers by experts.



Twenty five AU Member States developed national fertilizer strategy papers, which consisted of actionable programs in key policy and or market development areas, as the critical first steps for establishing private-sector led fertilizer markets to meet the supply and use requirements needed to attain the CAADP target of 6% annual growth in agricultural production. Additionally, four regional economic communities (SADC, COMESA, UEMOA, and ECOWAS) prepared regional fertilizer development strategy papers, assessing the fertilizer sector from a regional perspective and providing a road map for the development of regional fertilizer

markets.

Apart from the above prioritization of fertilizer in national and regional agricultural investment plans, the Summit has also resulted in the development of Continental policy programs. For instance, the African Union Commission and its programme, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, have established the African Fertilizer Programme and the Fertilizer Support Program, respectively, to facilitate the implementation of the Abuja Declaration by member states and RECS. Furthermore, today more countries are providing purchasing power support to farmers in the form of "smart" input subsidies. National and regional fertilizer production initiatives and dealer development programs have multiplied. So have the many regional-level initiatives to generate and improve the diffusion of market information to national and regional entrepreneurs.

Challenges and the way forward Despite these achievements, the latest available data indicates that average fertilizer use on the continent has stagnated since 2006 to 8 kilograms per hectare, therefore far from the targeted 50 kilograms per hectare. The weak access of smallholder farmers to fertilizer remains the greatest contributing factor to the lack of progress in improving fertilizer use on the Continent. This can be explained by the fact that fertilizer prices at the farm gate level have more than doubled since 2006 due to higher costs of production and distribution.

In other to address the high cost of fertilizer in a Continent where the majority of countries rely on imported fertilizer to satisfy their demand, it is imperative that AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities focus their efforts in the short to medium term on increasing investments in infrastructure, such as ports, warehouses, and roads, to reduce transaction costs. Furthermore, the removal of tariff and non tariff barriers to fertilizer trade as well as the establishment of regional fertilizer procurement and distribution centers must constitute clear priorities in order to realize economies of scale in fertilizer production/importation, procurement, and distribution.

Source: AU Echo, Special Edition for 20th Summit

# NEW AUC E-LIBRARY INAUGURATED



As depicted below, the new AUC e-Library was inaugurated on 22nd November, 2012, by Dr Elham Mahmoud Ibrahim: Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy. The ceremony was graced by the presence of AUC management, directors of departments, invited guests and international partners, etc. The Commissioner, in her opening remarks, highlighted that "it took me about six months to discover the resources.

### Pan-Africanism and the AUC Library

As an activist for Pan-Africanism, the AUC Library attaches great value and dedicates resources to acquire, digitize, and make accessible, while also preserving for future generations, historical materials on Africa. The Library is working hard, to serve as an unparalleled Pan-African Center of Research and Excellence on African issues. The current E-Library is very spacious, graceful, and consists of over 30,000 volumes of books and journals, which are accessible through its databases at <http://library.au.int> The

database comprises over 24,000 records, including highly pertinent journal articles, as well as various e-books and e-journals, multimedia resources, etc. Abundant materials, from the early 1900's, are also available in the Library.



Our children are the future leaders of our dearest African continent and the AUC Library is providing Children with necessary resources and services so that they grow in a better reading and research environments, and harvest information and knowledge for not only self-development, but also development of the continent. This new Library, which has over 100 seats is being equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, including over 80 Computers, and renders commendable services for staff of the Commission, Member States Embassies, researchers, and

academicians from within and outside Africa. For more, again, you all are most welcome to see, enjoy and even witness to others!!

### Partnership

Library service could not be fully realized without working in partnership with various institutions and international partners. Development of the AUC Library also couldn't be conceived without generous assistance of various international partners, mainly through support to the AUC program budgets and direct book donations to the Library. Below is a picture that was captured during some of the book donations to the AUC library by Mr. Michael Battle, Ambassador to the USAU.

Above is a picture depicting signing of a memorandum of understanding, done on 13 May, 2011 between the AUC and University of South Africa (UNISA). The two institutions were represented by Mr. Mandla M. Madonsela (Director, SPPMER) and Dr. Buhle Mbambo-Thata, Executive Director, UNISA Library Services, respectively.

# Strengthening Aflatoxin Control in Africa

Aflatoxin, a naturally occurring but highly toxic substance caused by fungi, is linked to various health issues such as cancer, immune-system suppression, growth retardation, liver disease, and death in both humans and animals. Aflatoxins have proven to be a major barrier in linking African farmers to markets as they prevent commodities from meeting international, regional and local standards governing agricultural trade and food safety. Cognizant of these problems, in March 2011 at the 7th CAADP Partnership Platform, the African Union Commission was urged to oversee the establishment of a Continental SPS Working Group to mainstream sanitary/phytosanitary matters in the CAADP framework and establish an Africa led Partnership for Aflatoxin Control. It was through this call that the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa was established. Since then, the African Union Commission has taken the lead in hosting the partnership for Aflatoxin control in Africa. This partnership aims to provide consistent coordination and coherent leadership of the continental efforts on Aflatoxin control by acting as a clearing house of information, communication and control on Aflatoxin in Africa.



documents, forming budget and finance subcommittee and three technical subcommittees in areas of health, agriculture and food security, and trade, recommending for the formation of an independent proposal Review Team(s), reviewing discretionary budgets among others.

In a high profile event, the partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa was officially launched on 31 October 2012 at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia within the context of the commemoration of the 2012 Africa



platform meeting will be convened in April 2013 to engage the broad community of stakeholders working on and interested in Aflatoxin issues across Africa. This meeting will bring together African-based experts in Aflatoxin and trade, agriculture, and health, as well as representatives of African and global stakeholders involved in Aflatoxin control activities and research in Africa. Furthermore, technical representatives from the agriculture and food security, trade, and health sectors will be participating. The SC established a PACA Planning Group comprising of organizations such as ECOWAS, AMREF, FARA, and USAID to guide the organization of the Platform Meeting.

The Meridian Institute, USA is serving as the interim Secretariat for PACA as appointed by one of the PACA donors since its creation. In order to establish an African-led partnership for holistic management of Aflatoxin, an AUC-based secretariat is necessary and ideal.

On 3 September 2012, Meridian Institute (interim secretariat) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the AUC to enable collaboration between the two institutions regarding PACA. As an African-led partnership, PACA secretariat, as of 2013 will be housed by the African Union Commission, conveying the strong commitments of the commission to PACA. The meridian institute and the African Union Commission are fully committed to a quick but well planned transition of the Secretariat to the African Union. The steering committee also highlighted that an effective, lean, and flexible AUC-based secretariat is necessary. By the end of 2013, the AUC-based secretariat will be fully staffed, equipped, and resourced to manage all of the PACA-related activities.

Source: Submitted by the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa, launched on November 31, 2012 and housed at the AUC.

Both as a philosophy and a movement, Pan-Africanism from the days of William Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, George Padmore and their like-minded contemporaries right down to the Founding Leaders of the OAU, continued to linger on and inspire and spur generations of Africans into concrete action. But as any detailed recounting of the ancient history of the Pan-Africanist Movement would require a forum and space much wider than what this piece can cover, we should make do with a resumé that seeks to capture some of the features characterizing the construction and subsequent actualization of the African Union which, to all intents and purposes, is a natural progeny of Pan-Africanism traced back to the yesteryears of the first African awakening.



It was indeed against the backdrop of the burning desire to revive that Pan-African spirit that the idea of creating an African Union as a mini-mum requirement of total continental unity and integration, resurfaced. It was, however, spearheaded this time around by the Libyan Leader, Muammar Gaddafi, and fortunately resonated well with his peers. As it was an idea whose time had then arrived, Africa's detractors could do very little to stem the tide of its resurgence. Therefore, despite the disparaging innuendoes of those Afro-pessimists, and the frail misgivings of the doubting Thomases from within, coupled with all the other odds, collective Africa at long last made history during its epoch-ush-ering in Summit in the Indian Ocean City of Durban on 9 July 2002. It was there that our leaders took the bull by the horn, thus crossing the politico-ideological Rubicon into the proclamation of the ultimate birth of the African Union on the debris of its predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity. By exhibiting that rare single feat of unity of purpose, direction and destiny, the present crop of African leaders were able to bring their continent and its otherwise disparate nations much closer to allowing the wildest dream of Pan-African pioneers in the calibre of Osgeyfo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Gamal Abdul Naser, Sekou Toure, Julius Nyerere and their ilk, to come to pass.

There can be no gainsaying that the launch of the African Union in the



**THE AFRICAN UNION: A VERITABLE PROGENY OF PAN-AFRICANISM**  
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manner described herein with all the pomp and pageantry that accompanied the occasion, was a single act that undoubtedly marked a spectacular, but still a defining moment in the annals of the continent's incessant search for self-assertion through the pursuit of a greater solidarity and a higher level of integration and cooperation in all walks of life that cut right across the borders inherited from the erstwhile colonial masters. The Constitutive Act serving as the legal linchpin of the Union edifice, has provided the requisite organs and institutions capable of causing the hitherto nascent Union to morph far beyond a mere declaration of intent by word of mouth, into a broader and more efficacious and all-embracing continental organization already standing on its feet. The Pan-African Parliament, the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights, the African Investment Bank, the African Monetary Fund, among other organs, were all deliberately created to render the new reality of a continent determined to further consolidate its new Union status and gains both incontrovertible and irreversible. The central role of the Regional Economic Communities as the building blocks of the Union, the Civil Society Organisations and the African Diaspora in making this mammoth goal achievable, was not lost either on the leadership of the Union.



That done, the leadership of AU Commission in tandem with the duly accredited representatives of Member States acting within the framework of the equally nascent policy organs, got down to the business of actual Union building and operationalization as well as institutional transformation viewed

as a sine qua non for the visible functionality of this replacement umbrella institution. This therefore explains why these institutions had to be further buttressed and harmonized for the effective discharge of their exacting mandate predicated on the mission and vision of the Union.

This way, the Union was able to take off swiftly and efficiently, albeit traversing the bumpy road of getting to the stage it is today, where it can conveniently be said to have come of age in terms of defining Africa's politico-economic integration, cooperation and development agenda at both regional and continental planes. All that now remains to be pursued rigorously is the accelerated and effective implementation of this agenda which is well-articulated in the successive strategic plans of the Union.

That the challenge ahead is daunting even for a continent so determined, is an understatement. Africa must, therefore, mobilise its full potentials and marshal the formidable human and material resources it is endowed with, to rise to that challenge with a view to enabling the Union to forge ahead with the implementation of its huge mandate, particularly in the all-important twin areas of trans-border infrastructural development and Intra-Africa Trade promotion, thereby reducing in an exponential fashion the continent's excessive reliance on external handouts for its own development. Parallel to that, is the need for the continent to make its dependency on external funding of its programmes both at the level of the African Union Commission and individual Member States, as it seems to be the case now, a thing of the remote past, if the continent were to make it to the promised land of the much-talked about self-reliance whilst maintaining genuine part-nership with the outside world.

One surest way of doing so is having a paradigm shift in its existing partnerships with other nations and institutions, whereby there can be a more balanced and mutually beneficial arrangement instead of the continent remaining on the receiving end in these partnerships. Africa as we all can bear witness, can, with all the potential and resources it is thankfully blessed with, still offer other regions of the world a lot in this respect. But as the first point of departure, the continent must place greater premium on South-South cooperation with particular emphasis on its partnerships with India, China, South Korea, Turkey, the South American States etc. Certainly both Africa and these natural partners stand to gain far greater long-term dividends from such balanced part-nerships.

In November 2011, the African Union took a lead to implement the CAADP decision and established the PACA interim Steering Committee, who made tremendous progress in defining the organizational structure and governance systems of PACA. This body includes 10 representatives from organizations identified by stakeholders at the October 2011 AU-IBAR meeting on Aflatoxin in Nairobi. The Interim Steering Committee and Secretariat have worked closely to create a durable and transparent governance structure for PACA by: developing principal PACA

Day for Food and Nutrition Security. The Full PACA Steering Committee was also inaugurated the same day, and conducted its inaugural meeting on 1 November 2012. The newly inaugurated SC members confirmed the primary role for PACA as supporting and providing consistent coordination and coherent leadership across multiple projects and programs for management and control of Aflatoxin in Africa.

As a next step in its drive for continent-wide visibility and buy-in, a PACA

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