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# **Report of AU-CSO Consultation on the Implementation Phase of Africa-EU Strategic Partnership for Africa's Development**

**Bamako, Mali  
3 – 5 March 2008**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The African Civil Society Organizations' Consultation on the Implementation Phase of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership for Africa's Development was held in Bamako, Mali, from 3 - 5 March 2008. Forty five (45) participants attended the Consultation composed of the representatives of African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), research institutes, academia, social and professional groups, as well as youth, women and the media. Officials of the African Union Commission [Political Affairs Department, Economic Affairs Department, Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) and African Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO)], as well as the European Commission, were also in attendance. The list of participants is herewith attached as Annex "A".

## **OBJECTIVES**

2. The Consultation had three main objectives. First, it seeks to underscore the African Union's sincere commitment to the social compact underlining the foundation of a people-driven organization; second, to provide opportunity to CSOs to review and assess the Outcome Document of the Lisbon Summit of 8-9 December 2007; and third, to enable the civil society to determine if its aspirations are reflected in the Document and to fashion out appropriate strategies of engagement in the implementation phase.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

3. The Forum adopted its Agenda and Work Programme without amendment. Copies are attached to this Report as Annexes "B" and "C", respectively.

## **OPENING SESSION**

4. The Opening Session was chaired by Mr. Akere Muna, President of the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU). He welcomed participants and guests to Mali, a country that is rich in history and has produced the eminent outgoing Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Professor Alpha Oumar Konare. Muna cited the efforts of Professor Konare as an important element in the progress towards a people-driven African Union. He described him as a very strong motivating force behind the involvement of CSOs in the Union's programmes and activities.

## **Address by Representative of the African Union Commission**

5. In a statement on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Director of the African Citizens Directorate, Dr. Jinmi Adisa, informed participants that he would attempt to stimulate discussions by outlining the key features of the Outcome Document and provide an update on the steps so far taken by the African Union (AU) since the Lisbon Summit. Recounting the Commission's efforts, Dr. Adisa indicated that during the recent 10<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, an Executive Council Decision on the outcome of the Lisbon Summit was adopted. The Decision called for implementation of the first Action Plan by all stakeholders. Following this, the Commission held its first meeting with the EU side to share views on the way forward. The meeting had significant results, including the production of a calendar of activities that would assist the implementation plan and a schedule for the meetings leading to the Ministerial Troika. Thereafter, the Commission began to evolve an implementation strategy that would involve all stakeholders.

6. In this regard, it was decided that an AU-CSO Conference should be held from 3-5 March 2008, in Bamako, Mali, to be followed by Consultative Meetings of all stakeholders from 19-20 March in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and 14-15 April 2008, in Maseru, Lesotho, respectively. These meetings are expected to bring together all stakeholders to express their views on concrete actions to be undertaken to implement this Strategy which is still evolving. He therefore urged the civil society community to establish what it can do within or outside the partnership to reinforce, monitor and add value to it.

7. He also informed the participants that the Outcome Document projects an alliance for co-development for prosperity that can be used to address issues of common concern and to strengthen and promote peace and security, democracy and governance, gender equality, sustainable development and effective multilateralism in the global arena. He identified the eight (8) priority areas for action contained in the Document as comprising Peace and Security; Democratic Governance and Human Rights; Trade and Regional Integration; Millennium Development Goals; Energy; Climate Change; Migration, Mobility and Employment; as well as Science, Information Society and Space.

8. Dr. Adisa stressed that the Strategy is conceived as a "partnership of equals" based on effective engagements of societies in order to achieve significant results in areas of fundamental commitments outlined in the priority axis for action. As evidence of the desire to ensure effective engagement of societies in the two regions, the Outcome Document includes provision for

effective participation of different institutional actors and prescribes a definite role for civil society in both general and specific areas. He drew attention to magnetic areas of attraction for CSOs in the Document such as: mapping of existing European and African civil society networks; establishment of a platform for European research institutes and think-tanks; creation of a web portal to facilitate consultation with CSOs ahead of key policy decisions; and invitation of representatives of European and African civil societies to express themselves ahead of Ministerial Troika meetings.

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9. Other expanded spaces for CSO interaction in the Document include: mechanism for closer cooperation and dialogue between the Pan-African Parliament and the European Parliament, as well as between the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC); establishment of informal Joint Expert Groups on all priority actions identified in the Action Plan with the necessary competence and commitment to work on the priority action plan concerned; drawing up of an Annual Joint Report by the AU and EU Commissions and the European Union Council Secretariat in consultation with the two Presidencies on the progress and implementation of the Action Plan for presentation to the Ministerial Troika.

10. He also reminded participants of the need to reflect on engagement strategies, noting that the Strategy and Implementation Plan place crucial emphasis on regional actors, including the Ministerial Troika and the two Commissions, which the CSO engagement strategy must coordinate with, though there is space for autonomous CSO action especially in the monitoring and evaluation process. There is also a requirement for evaluating and monitoring the activities of key institutional actors to accelerate the pace of implementation and reinforce their efforts. This should also be part of the consideration of engagement strategy.

11. He enjoined the participants to critically examine the priority areas of action, the variety of actors that would be part of the implementation mechanism, their individual and collective roles and the niche open to civil society, as well as how the Africa-EU Strategy itself fits into the political and developmental process of African States and the African Union and how contribution within this specific framework can flow into and energize the wider platform by having a catalytic and multiplier effect.

12. Finally, Dr. Adisa informed participants that as the leadership of the Commission changes on 28 April 2008, it is his firm belief that the deliberation of this Forum will provide a good foundation for the follow-up activities of the incoming Chairperson, His Excellency, Mr. Jean Ping and his team, as well as the

institutional impact of sustaining the Africa-EU process and the institutional development of the African Union.

### **Statement by CSO Representative: Review of Outcome Document**

13. In his remarks, Mr. Ayokunle Fagbemi, Executive Director, Center for Peace Building and Socio-Economic Resources Development (CEPSEED), commended the efforts of the AU and EU for the progress made on the Africa-EU Partnership as captured in the First Action Plan of 2008-2010. He noted that the document underlined the spirit of AU's people-centered orientation by focusing priority action on areas that have positive impact on the daily lives of the citizens of Africa and Europe.

14. Fagbemi observed that whereas the document indicated that each of the Africa-EU Partnership is open for a wide range of actions, overwhelming reference was placed on state actions but stressed that the inputs and involvement of non-state actors, such as CSOs and the academia, in the process need to be deepened and further clarified as they are not explicit. While noting that the document reflects some of the suggestions that emerged from the African CSOs' Consultations held in Accra, Ghana, in March and October 2007, he expressed the hope that civil society would interrogate the document a little further to facilitate mutual understanding between state actors and CSOs. This, he believes, would ensure buy-in, shared vision and ownership for collective responsibility, effective and efficient implementation of the Action Plan, sustainability of the partnerships in the event of regime change in the AU system or in other states, domestication at national level for transparency and accountability and effective monitoring and evaluation of the partnerships, as well as format for reporting and handling the feedback for effectiveness and sustainability.

15. He implored participants to put forward concrete ideas on how to march forward with actionable suggestions and stressed the need for the introduction of a core civil society component that should drive and sustain the process, facilitate the execution of the implementation plan and guarantee that the process moves beyond rhetoric to constructive engagement and building of synergy. In this direction, he suggested that the Steering Committee set up in Accra, Ghana, in March 2007 should be revitalized. He also urged participants to endeavour to interrogate the web portal and "e" component of the strategy and action plan considering the comparative disadvantage to Africa in this arena.

## PLENARY SESSION

### I. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

#### **Presentation of AU Strategy by Baboucarr Koma**

16. Presenting the AU Implementation Strategy on behalf of the Economic Affairs Department, Mr. Baboucarr Koma, traced the origin of the relations between Africa and Europe from the Yaoundé Agreements of 1963, through Lome I-IV and Cotonou I, to the first Africa-EU Summit in Cairo 2000. Since the Cairo Summit, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was transformed into the African Union (AU), while at the global stage the world became increasingly interdependent driven by the forces of globalization. On its part, the European Union witnessed an expansion in membership, new world powers emerged at the international stage (China, India and Brazil) and the calls for the reform of the United Nations continued to gather pace. These global dynamics provided the fillip for the adoption of a Joint Strategy between Africa and the European Union during the Lisbon Summit of Africa-EU in December 2007. The outcome documents of this Summit, which included the Lisbon Declaration, the Joint Strategy and the First Action Plan (2008-2010) for the Implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, are expected to form the basis of discussion at this CSO Consultation.

17. According to Koma, the Joint Strategy seeks to, among others, reinforce and elevate the Africa-EU political partnership to address issues of common concern, such as Peace and Security, Governance and Human Rights, Trade and Regional Integration and Key Development Issues. He stated that the African Union Commission is currently evolving an Implementation Strategy for the Union which will involve the formation of an Inter-departmental Task Force at the Commission and Regional Consultations in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (for West, Central and Northern Regions); Maseru, Lesotho (for Eastern and Southern Regions); and, Bamako, Mali, (for Civil Society). The outcome of these consultations will influence the composition of the Joint Experts Groups for the eight partnerships, identification of concrete projects to be financed and indication of interest in various partnerships by Member States. The Strategy also envisages that Member States will propose names for the Experts Group, finance their participation, contribute to the concept and specify exact role to play in partnership.

18. Furthermore, the Implementation Strategy provides for a "Technical Coordination Function" to guide implementation. Here, two formats are being considered. First is the Troika format composed of the AU Troika (comprising the

Commission and the Current and Outgoing Chairpersons on the AU side) and the EU Troika, (comprising the EC, Current Presidency, In-coming Presidency and the European Council). This format enjoys the advantage of having been tested, as well as having a light structure and low cost. Its major disadvantage is that it is not all-inclusive.

19. The second option is that of a Steering Committee to coordinate the activities of the Joint Expert Groups, and serve as interface with Civil Society, Pan African Parliament (PAP), ECOSOCC and similar bodies on the EU side. The Committee will comprise of one African and one EU representative per partnership, one AUC, one EC and one EU Council representative and the Chairperson of the AU PRC. It has the advantage of being all-inclusive and the disadvantages of a heavy bureaucracy or structure, as well as being costly. While a decision has not been taken on the format as the idea is still evolving, the AU Commission believes that Option One may be more feasible, conditional on placing adequate emphasis on extensive consultations with all stakeholders. Mr. Koma however enjoined CSOs to make inputs into the evolution of the AU Implementation Strategy.

#### **Update on EU Perspective by Sophie Le Rue**

20. Giving the EU perspective, a representative of the European Commission, Sophie Le Rue, stated that the partnership is situated within the new context of international relations and is primarily anchored on people and institutions. She indicated that since the Lisbon Summit, discussions at the EU have been focused on inter-institutional issues, the architecture for the Joint Coordination Mechanism and the architecture for implementation and monitoring. While admitting that the Joint Strategy is complex and modalities for CSO engagement are yet to be defined, she urged Civil Society to take advantage of entry points, such as the Joint Expert Group, to influence the process. She also assured that CSOs will be invited to the meetings of Ministerial Troika to make their inputs. Le Rue therefore urged CSOs to better organize themselves so as to play active roles in the eight thematic areas identified in the Action Plan.

21. She also stated that some Member States of the EU have indicated interest to play lead roles in some thematic areas. For example, Germany has shown interest in Energy, United Kingdom in MDGs, France in Peace and Security and Sweden in Climate Change. She sought to know if any African country has already indicated interest to take leadership in any particular area.

22. On mapping of CSOs, Le Rue stated that the European side will be discussing this issue with European CSOs in a meeting scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008. She assured that African CSOs will be invited to the meeting to present the conclusions of the current Consultation. She therefore enjoined participants to use the on-going Forum to produce concrete proposals on what role African CSOs will play in the implementation of the Outcome Document.

## **II. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY AND THEMATIC CONSIDERATIONS**

23. This Session was chaired by Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim (Director, Centre for Democracy and Development), who reiterated the importance of the Session as it is expected to produce actionable suggestions and points of action that will help push forward the implementation phase of the Africa-EU Joint Partnership. He therefore urged for structured discussions so that the Forum will produce a set of issues that can be carried out. He identified the defined areas of CSO interaction to be addressed by the Session to include: CSO engagement with existing structures, such as the Pan African Parliament (PAP), EU Parliament, AU ECOSOCC, and the European Economic and Social Committee; CSO mapping; and platform for research institutes and think-tanks to engage in the process.

24. In the ensuing discussions, participants agreed on the need for CSOs to act at various levels at the same time in order to create maximum impact. Participants were of the view that CSOs' freedom of action should not be limited by the Joint Strategy as CSOs derive their vibrancy, legitimacy and dynamism from diverse autonomous action. It was noted that given the very diverse nature of CSOs, they may not be neatly woven or compartmentalized like government departments hence the need for caution in the mapping process.

25. Participants also agreed that while AU structures such as PAP and ECOSOCC are more transitory and therefore still beset with problems of fair and equitable representation, EU has overcome this challenge as its structures are relatively more permanent hence it can afford to make elections the basis for representation in its parliament. This notwithstanding, participants still underscored the need to improve the representative format of PAP so that members can derive their mandate through direct suffrage. Others felt that ECOSOCC should be able to produce a framework for civil society representation in PAP and the granting of observer status to CSOs that are not members of the ECOSOCC General Assembly so that they can attend both the sessions of ECOSOCC and PAP. This, it was argued, would bring the spirit of accountability into the operations of these Organs.

26. The importance of agenda setting for PAP was also stressed as participants believed that the civil society should be able to sensitize the citizenry and articulate issues in a manner that would impact on the agenda of PAP. Participants were of the opinion that continuous advocacy and lobbying should be undertaken to popularize the mandate of PAP and ECOSOCC so that CSOs can also share the burden of making these institutions functional, while agenda setting and mobilization on some issues should be made to feed into regional frameworks. They also called for the immediate activation of the various Cluster Committees provided for in the ECOSOCC Statutes to enable these committees to harness the technical expertise that abound in the civil society community.

27. On the mapping of CSOs, it was agreed that this should be guided by the following principles:

- i. Mapping must reflect the diversity of African CSOs;
- ii. It must be as inclusive as possible;
- iii. The mapping should be undertaken and coordinated by CIDO and should cover not only African CSOs but also the Diaspora and research institutes and think-tanks;
- iv. The process of mapping should take into account certain structural complications as some NGOs in the North also have networks in the South and therefore have different means of pooling information and resources together to the exclusion of others; and,
- v. The principles applicable for the mapping of CSOs should also apply to research institutes and think-tanks.

28. It was pointed out that some mapping has already been done by TrustAfrica and that CIDO should endeavour to take on board any existing work or data in this area. Participants however warned that care should be exercised in selecting CSOs for the Joint Expert Group, so that the selection is not limited to government think-tanks to the exclusion of autonomous civil society think-tanks.

29. Other concerns expressed by participants include the exclusion of the informal sector in the Strategic Plan and agriculture and the issue of debts from the first Action Plan. Some participants also perceived the need for the African side to find out the motive behind the decision by Germany, France, United Kingdom and Sweden to take the lead in some selected priority areas.

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30. On the prospects for autonomous CSO engagement, participants were of the opinion that CSOs should be able to initiate autonomous action outside the framework of the Africa-EU Partnership and to disseminate independent reports as this will make for effective oversight and monitoring of the process.

31. The issue of general coordination and the need for lead CSO networks in sectoral areas to follow up on the process on a day-to-day basis was also discussed. Some participants wanted to know whether the ten-member Steering Committee established in Accra in 2007 to assist the AU-CSO consultations on the Joint Strategy was still functioning and, if not, whether a new Committee should not be constituted. On the other hand, it was suggested that the Steering Committee should be immediately expanded and revitalized to give it a new impetus and mandate.

32. At the end of the debate, the participants urged that the Steering Committee should not be disbanded but made functional and strengthened as a structure on the ground responsible for follow up on the Joint Strategy. Thus, what was required is the immediate activation of the Committee to enable it to cope with the whirlwind pace of the Africa-EU Partnership. The composition of the Steering Committee remains as follows:

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| i. North Africa     | vi. Youth                |
| ii. Southern Africa | vii. Academia (CODESRIA) |
| iii. Central Africa | viii. Gender (FEMNET)    |
| iv. East Africa     | ix. ECOSOCC              |
| v. West Africa      | x. Diaspora              |

33. The issue of Civil Society engagement with the policy process was also discussed and participants agreed that there is need for research and further consultations or dialogue on it so as to help enhance CSOs' understanding of the policy process, as well as moderate the use of language in their engagement with state actors. This, they believed, will have a win-win effect as it would ensure easy permeation of civil society views into policy. While acknowledging the importance of this point, Dr. Adisa confirmed that the Commission is already in consultation with the UNECA and TrustAfrica to organize a conference that will address this issue. The conference, which is likely to hold in the second half of 2008, will have the theme: "CSOs and the Policy-Making Process in the Regional Space".

34. Addressing the issue of effective follow up on outcomes of previous AU-CSO Consultations, Dr. Adisa indicated that efforts were made to involve everyone that has been part of previous AU-EU consultations so as to foster

continuity and effective grasp. However, some organizations have chosen to send different representatives, while others have not been able to attend meetings because of other commitments. He therefore hoped that participants at the current Forum will endeavour to disseminate the content of these proceedings in order to raise the bar of awareness and diffusion of outcomes to stakeholders. He enjoined participants to pick up the gauntlet and organize independent CSO consultations to follow-up on the process.

### **III. SUPPORT FOR ENGAGEMENT IN SECTORAL AREAS**

35. This Session was chaired by Chantal Uwimana, Program Director, TrustAfrica. Issues examined included: EU-Africa Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights; EU-Africa Partnership on Peace and Security; EU-Africa Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment; EU-Africa Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space; and EU-Africa Partnership on Trade and Regional Integration. Other priority areas discussed were; EU-Africa Partnership on Effective Action to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals; and, EU-Africa Partnership on Energy and Climate Change. The Consultation also examined follow-up processes and at the end of the Session, participants endorsed some key recommendations.

#### **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **36. Defined Areas of CSO Intervention:**

###### **A. Mapping**

- i. The citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) of the African Union Commission should anchor and coordinate the mapping process on the African side;
- ii. In doing this, it should take advantage of existing processes including its own database and work done by existing institutions. It should also work with these institutions to establish a comprehensive database;
- iii. Certain cherished principles must guide the mapping process. It must be as inclusive as possible, reflecting the plurality and diversity of Civil Society. It should take into account organization requirements pertaining to ECOSOCC, cover the eight thematic areas identified in the Plan of Action in their varied perspectives, reflect grassroots orientations, as well as the different regions of the continent. It must also acknowledge the

as an elected representative body deriving its mandate from the people  
In this context, there is also a need to accelerate the development of PAP

CSOs must take critical advantage of the expanded spaces provided for its  
interaction within the framework of the Africa-EU Strategy, with particular  
emphasis on the use of existing regional structures. The Pan-African  
Parliament and ECOSOCC are of specific importance in this regard;

**E. Expanded Spaces for CSO Interaction:**

facilitate their ability to cope with this rapid pace of action, particularly in the  
a need for CSOs to communicate and organize themselves in a manner that will  
context especially in view of the speed with which things are happening. There is  
communication infrastructure to facilitate discourse and concerted action in this  
matter. There was however consensus on the need to improve the  
this proposal. There was agreement on the need for further reflection on this  
associated with this medium in the African context and debated the relevance of  
**D. Creation of a Web Portal to Facilitate Consultation with CSOs Ahead  
of Key Policy Decisions:** The Consultation took note of technological challenges

inviting Representatives of European and African CSOs to Express  
Themselves Ahead of Ministerial Troika Meetings: The Consultation  
applauded the idea but requested that such representatives should convey both  
individual and collective opinions derived from consultative processes. As anchor  
for this process, the Consultation recommended a pre-Ministerial Troika AU-CSO  
Consultation to consolidate ideas, opinions and representations that should be  
taken into account by the Ministerial Troika.

**B. Establishment of a Platform for Research Institutes and Think-Tanks:**  
A bi-continental approach must be adopted towards the creation of a network in  
this context. Significantly also, the process must be inclusive involving private and  
government-sponsored institutes and think-tanks reflecting the different shades of  
opinion. The Consultation took note of the on-going efforts of ECDPM to launch a  
network along this line but recommended that the activation and governance  
base must be strengthened to embrace autonomous African input.

iv. The mapping should also cover research institutions and think-tanks since  
they are part of Civil Society.

complication of Northern CSOs with regional tributaries on the continent  
and,

and consolidate the gains derivable from the process of institution-building of ECOSOCC as an elected organ of African Civil Society. Particular effort must be made to sensitize the African public on their importance. In order to enable CSOs to articulate and set the agenda of both PAP and ECOSOCC, they must establish a precise methodology or forum for assessing the performance of these organs in crucial areas especially during the interim period;

- iii. Special effort must also be made to identify within the legal framework that govern these institutions, an explicit framework through which CSOs can participate as observers. ECOSOCC has started developing a framework for observer participation in this context. This must be finalized as soon as possible;
- iv. After the inauguration of the Permanent ECOSOCC Assembly at the end of May 2008, focus must be placed on activation of its Cluster Committees particularly in the area of democracy, governance and human rights, as well as peace and security;
- v. There is a need to build effective national chapters of ECOSOCC in Member States of the African Union to support these processes;
- vi. Cooperation between AU and EU institutions must be on the genuine projects of partnership reflecting the interest and demands of the people, civil society and grassroots movements of both continents.

**F. Informal Joint Expert Groups:** There must be effective representation of Civil Society in this framework. Given the wide range of expertise available within civil society and the relative dominance of state actors in other institutional framework of the strategy, CSOs should have a significant representation in the Expert Groups. The composition should also reflect a system of regional balance between Africa and Europe.

**G. Joint Strategy:**

- i. Civil Society must take full advantage of the reporting mechanism and their contribution towards it. They should organize themselves in a manner that can produce optimum outcome in this context and appropriately cover required thematic areas. There is also the need for the AU, through CIDO, to facilitate the convening of an inclusive consultation process bringing together sectoral actors to consolidate pre-Ministerial Troika reports that are submitted to the two Commissions; and,

- ii. To take advantage of this process, CSOs must organize networks around thematic groups with sectoral leaders that will lead and invigorate the process. The sectoral leaders and the network membership must be based on expertise, track record and proven capability.

**H. Structures of Civil Society:** In order to maximize impact and influence and to take speedy action, <sup>an</sup> ~~one~~ attempt should be made to revitalize the Steering Committee set up by the Accra Consultation to work with CIDO and the AU. The plenary mandated a Task Team to propose ways of activating the Steering Committee. This is essential to ensure institutional memory, vigorous input and timely action. In the alternative, a new Steering Committee should be based on sectoral leaders of networks in thematic areas. Whatever the case, the activity of the group must be supported by a concise and effective Work Plan.

**I. Work Plan:** The meeting took note of certain important events in the near future including the AU Consultative meetings in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, scheduled for 19-20 March and Maseru, Lesotho, from 14-15 April 2008 and the European CSO Consultation in Brussels on 10 March 2008. It also recognized the need for participation by representative of African CSOs in these processes to underline the importance of the conclusions. It further recognized that CIDO, the Steering Committee and the proposed Sectoral Networks and leaders will have to establish a precise calendar of activities that takes into account the speed of things and the timetable and framework set by the first Action Plan of 2008-2010.

#### **Postscript: Report of the Task Team**

The four-man Task Team met to consider how to reactivate and reinvigorate the Steering Committee; reflect on the mandate; the vacant positions; activation of thematic groups and how to generate resource support for the sustenance of civil society's continued involvement in the Africa-EU Strategy. The Team recommended the inclusion of the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD), TrustAfrica and the Southern African Youth Movement to occupy some of the vacant positions and provide the required impetus for the Steering Committee. The Team also noted the need for the Convener of the Steering Committee (CODESRIA) to convene a meeting within the next two months. The Team has scheduled to stop over in Dakar, Senegal, on 7 March 2008 to brief Prof. Bayo Olukoshi on the outcome of this Consultation. Prof. Olukoshi has been notified of this development and the delegation is to include the representatives of Center for Peacebuilding & Socio-Economic Resources Development (CEPSERD), CDD and TrustAfrica.

**African Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO)  
Commission of the African Union**

**3-5 March 2008**