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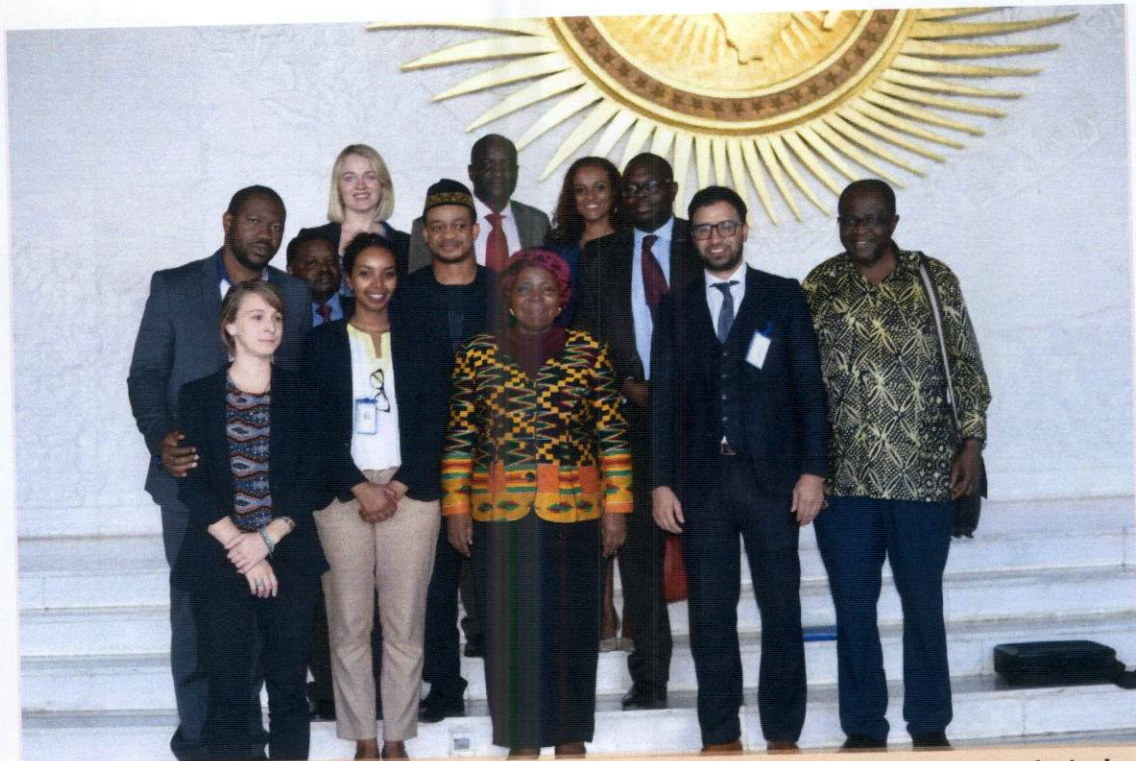
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**END-OF-YEAR REPORT**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF CIDO WORK PROGRAM (2016)**

**Prepared for: H.E. The Chairperson**



**HE The Chairperson with CIDO staff and Diaspora participants during the Technical Workshop to develop the African Diaspora Engagement Toolkit**

**Prepared by Citizens and Diaspora Directorate  
(CIDO)**



## **Introduction**

The Citizens and Diaspora Directorate has completed the implementation of its 2016 work program in **fulfilment of the First 10-Year Implementation Plan of AU Agenda 2063; the Action Plan for the Global African Diaspora Summit of 2012; and applicable Decisions of the Executive Council and Assembly of the African Union.**

This end-of-year concise report is submitted Your Excellency's kind reference and consideration, and **with gratitude for Your Excellency's support in securing access to CIDO's approved budget for 2016.**

## **Challenges in Access to Approved Funds**

As Your Excellency would recall, CIDO encountered significant challenges in securing access to its approved budget for 2016, which had been allocated to the **World Bank Grant.** Despite CIDO's best efforts to secure the release of budget resources, documented in previous correspondence to Your Excellency on this matter, the Directorate only received the notice of no objection from the World Bank eight months into the year, in **11 August 2016.**

Subsequently, in an effort to make the optimal use of the short window of time available to complete a year's worth of activities, CIDO submitted an integrated request for authorization seeking a one-time approval for all of its activities for the year. With Your Excellency's kind support, this authorization was granted in **October 2016.**

## **Activities Implemented**

As part of its new operational strategy, the CIDO transitioned in 2016 to a fully results-based program delivery approach ensuring that activities prioritized for implementation were all designed to generate tangible, measurable outcomes that directly supported institutional AU strategic goals. Despite pressing time constraints, CIDO embarked on an ambitious implementation schedule aimed at completing the maximum amount of work possible within the 2 months it had available for implementation. I am pleased to report, as of the current date, that the Directorate has successfully completed the full complement of seven (7) activities contained in the integrated work plan approved by Your Excellency. They are as follows:

1. Technical Workshop on the Implementation of the Encyclopedia Africana Project (EAP).
2. Preparatory Workshop for the Establishment of African Diaspora Network in Canada.
3. Interfaith Dialogue Forum.
4. Diaspora-for-Development technical work session with the Australian Pan-African Diaspora Network.
5. AU-Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) Partnership Forum.
6. AU-UN Workshop on CSO Accreditation.
7. Technical Workshop for Diaspora Focal Points of AU Member States.

***(Detailed reports on each of the above activities have subsequently been prepared by CIDO and submitted to the Bureau of the Chairperson for Your Excellency's kind reference and consideration).***



### **Centralization of Agenda 2063**

As part of CIDO's new strategy which prioritizes the engagement of diaspora and all sectors of continental non-state actors in the affairs of the Union, CIDO initiated a new operational standard, beginning in 2016, of instituting Agenda 2063 and its implementation progress as a standing item in all of the Department's missions, for the purposes of advocacy, popularization and engagement of all segments of civil society and Diaspora communities in the ongoing prosecution of Agenda 2063. In this regard CIDO invited the participation of the Department of Strategic Planning (SPPMERM) in its all missions in order to sensitize, educate and engage civil society and diaspora groups on realization of Agenda 2063.

### **Main Achievements**

In completing the full list of priority activities for which Your Excellency's authorization had been granted, CIDO was able to record a number of significant programmatic successes **which directly support the achievement of institutional targets set forth under the First 10-Year Implementation Plan of AU Agenda 2063.**

A number of activities also initiated the implementation of Executive Council Decisions; as well as the Decisions and Action Plan of the Global African Diaspora Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Africa Day, 2012. For instance, the Technical Workshop on the Implementation of the Encyclopedia Africana Project produced a strategic road map to achieving full implementation by the end of 2023; in accordance with the benchmark outlined in the First 10-Year Plan of Agenda 2063. In addition, the Workshop set forth a process aimed at achieving the adoption of the AU Assembly of the Encyclopedia Africana Project as one of the Flagship Projects under AU Agenda 2063; a process to be led by the Republic of Ghana with technical support from CIDO and the Department of Strategic Planning (SPPMERM).

Similarly, the AU-UN Workshop on CSO Accreditation equipped the AU team (constituted of AU Commission and ECOSOCC staff) with an in-depth understanding of the processes, systems, and resources required to develop an institutional mechanism for the accreditation of CSOs seeking to engage the AU. Based on the findings and outcomes of the technical workshop, the AU team responsible for the development of the CSO accreditation mechanism has been able to proceed to the drafting phase with the objective of finalizing a draft accreditation mechanism for review and adoption by the policy organs at the July Summit in 2017.

The technical consultations with the Australian Pan-African Network; as well as the preparation of a framework for the establishment of a Diaspora Network in Canada, both fulfill critical components of the Action Plan of the Global African Diaspora Summit, and have established a platform for practical engagements with the African Diaspora in support of tangible and measurable development outcomes in AU member states.

In addition, the Technical Workshop for Diaspora Focal Points of AU member states assembled, for the first time ever, the focal points in charge of diaspora relations of **36 AU member states**. The workshop enabled the mapping of diaspora engagement departments, programs and initiatives across the continent; and created a technical working group to provide ongoing support to member states in the development and implementation of diaspora policies and programs.



### Installation of Video-conferencing Facilities

In line with CIDO's new strategy of maximizing outreach to diaspora and civil society actors while reducing costs to the Commission, the Directorate was able to install a state-of-the-art audio-visual conferencing system using equipment procured through a previous grant from the World Bank. The new equipment will create an enhanced understanding of AU civil society and diaspora programs through audiovisual access and outreach to civil society partners and the diaspora, thereby reinforcing the people-centered mandate of the Union.

### Zero-Budget Activities

*From the period January-October 2016 when implementation of the work plan under CIDO's approved budget was not possible pending budget release and authorization of the work plan, **CIDO did not remain idle but was able to utilize the resourcefulness of its staff to accomplish a number of significant programmatic achievements, including the following:***

#### *a) Technical Workshop to Develop the African Diaspora Engagement Toolkit*

*In the absence of approved funds from the World Bank Grant, CIDO initiated a partnership process with GIZ which allowed the Directorate to access project funding for the African Diaspora Engagement Toolkit. The Toolkit was conceived by CIDO's Diaspora Division as a knowledge product to enable African policy makers at the continental, regional and national levels to develop and implement diaspora strategies that are able to convert the "soft power" of the diaspora into "hard impacts" that directly support social, cultural, political, technological and economic progress on the continent. The technical workshop to develop the Toolkit, held at the AU Commission from 15-17 September 2016, brought together over 20 technical from member states, the international development sector, and the African Diaspora to generate the technical content and operational guidelines on which the Toolkit will be based.*

#### *b) Change through Music*

*The Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) in cooperation with the US Mission to the AU (USAU) held a two day workshop on 04 and 6th of May 2016 respectively, on creating social change through art. The workshop culminated with a **Jazz and Hip hop performance**, at the Multi-purpose hall of the African Union Commission Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.*

*We believe that music can be used as a tool for dialogue among African citizens in the continent and in the diaspora; use music as a tool to popularize the messages of the AU, of the Africa We Want and of Agenda 2063; work towards one of the aspirations of Agenda 2063 which calls for enhanced Pan African cultural assets which we can only achieve through enhancing our heritage, folklore, theater and music; and explore how music can be utilized to create employability.*

#### *c) Session on African Arts to Drive Integration*

*On the same direction, a group of artists, drawn from twelve (12) African countries got an overview of CIDO's objectives and activities particularly the revival of Encyclopedia Africana Project, EAP, which aims to provide knowledge about the*



*history, cultures, and social institutions of African people and people of African descent. They also received an in-depth presentation of the AU's flagship development agenda; Agenda 2063, particularly Aspirations 2, 5 & 6 (free movement within the continent & integration, a culturally strong continent and finally economic development).*

### **ECOSOCC Operationalization Support**

In its capacity as the Secretariat of ECOSOCC, CIDO supported the accomplishment of several key program objectives for the organ; including the operationalization of the remaining 6 cluster committees; the development of a new ECOSOCC Strategic Plan; the completion of an MoU with the International Research and Exchanges Board, Inc (IREX) to cooperate on the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI); and Credentials Committee working meetings to prepare elections into the ECOSOCC General Assembly. CIDO also worked closely with the Office of the Legal Counsel and the Embassy of the Republic of Zambia on matters relating to the offer of the Republic of Zambia to host the ECOSOCC Secretariat in Lusaka.

### **Improvement in Human Resource Capacity**

In order to optimize its human resource capacity, CIDO worked closely with the Department of Administration and Human Resource Management (AHRM) over the course of the year to fill a number of vacant staff posts.

In total, three staff posts were filled in 2016; comprising of two (2) desk officers appointed to the Civil Society Division and one (1) Departmental Secretary. In addition, one (1) short-term consultant, two (2) interns, and one (1) youth volunteer joined the Directorate over the course of the year. CIDO continues to work with AHRM to ensure that the final vacant post of a desk officer for the Diaspora Division is filled as soon as possible.

### **Challenges**

The main challenges encountered in the implementation of the 2016 program involved the extreme difficulty CIDO faced in securing access to its approved funding. In addition to being released very late in the year (11 August) the total budget was also cut from the USD 926,000 approved by the policy organs of the Union to USD 500,000; representing a 46% reduction in approved resources to carry out the Directorate's activities. As a result, important activities approved by the Policy Organs of the Union had to be excluded from implementation; including the development of a legal framework for diaspora participation in ECOSOCC; CIDO collaboration with the Caribbean Pan-African Network; and the annual Pre-Summit CSO Forum.

We hope that a timely and full release of CIDO's 2017 approved budget will be assured and facilitated in order to allow the Directorate to build on the achievements recorded in 2016 <sup>1</sup> and resume implementation of activities which were excluded this year as a result of the extreme cut in the CIDO budget after it was approved by the Executive Council.

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<sup>1</sup> With an expected execution rate of %95 +

### **Lessons Learned and Way Forward**

The main lesson learned from the challenges encountered in the implementation of the 2016 CIDO work plan involves CIDO's complete dependence on the World Bank Grant as its sole source of funding. When difficulties arose in accessing funds under the Grant, the entire work program of CIDO was compromised as it did not have recourse to any alternative sources of funding for program activities.

In order to avoid a repeat of this situation, CIDO has taken steps to diversify its sources of program funding for 2017. CIDO successfully persuaded the PRC to allocate 50% of its 2017 budget to the Member States General Fund. In addition, CIDO has initiated funding partnerships with a number of other international partners, particularly GIZ, and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

With this funding diversification strategy, CIDO expects to be able to accomplish its approved work plan for 2017 without a recurrence of the difficulties encountered in 2016.