



**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

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**6<sup>th</sup> AU/LAS GENERAL COOPERATION MEETING**



**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 17 December 2011** – The 6<sup>th</sup> General Cooperation Meeting between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (GS-LAS) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The two day meeting organized by the Department of Political Affairs of the AUC discussed progress reports, deliberated on and adopted a

Joint AUC/GS-LAS Work Plan 2012. In addition, the meeting set up a Preparatory Committee that will guide preparations towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-Arab Summit to be held in Kuwait.

Chairing the meeting, Amb. Emile Ognimba, Director for Political Affairs at the AUC and Head of the AUC Delegation, in his opening remarks, mindful of the flagship 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Arab Summit held in Sirte, Libya in 2010, welcomed all participants and appreciated efforts excerpted by all parties towards the solidification of the Cooperation. He further appreciated advancements shown in shared projects through the successful implementation of the Partnership Strategy and the Joint Action Plan 2011-2016 and stressed the importance of harnessing resource mobilization as a key driving force to success.

In his statement, Amb Samir-Hosny, Director, Africa and Africa-Arab Cooperation of the LAS showed his appreciation to AUC for convening the event and thanked the Delegation of Kuwait for their participation. He reiterated the importance of this meeting and wished fruitful deliberations that will further strengthen the Africa-Arab Cooperation.

With presentations by concerned stakeholders, the discussions focused on strategic and on-going cooperation projects outlined in the Partnership Strategy, mainly: Africa-Arab Film Festival; Committees of Africa-Arab Ambassadors; Agricultural Development and Food Security; Africa-Arab Development Forum; and Africa-Arab Trade Fair including the adoption of the report of the study on Mobilization of Resources which is viewed as a key factor to the successful implementation of the cooperation strategy. Project progress reports and reports generated during previous meetings were also reviewed, amended and adopted.



The objectives of the AUC/GS-LAS Joint Work Plan – 2012 are to strengthen existing and create new institutional mechanisms as well as to set up technical committees and working groups in key cooperation areas: Political, Economic, Trade and Financial; Agriculture and Food Security and Socio-cultural. In addition, the Joint Work Plan will devise strategies for mobilizing resources and building practical implementation and follow-up mechanisms.

It is in this context that the meeting approved the Joint Work Plan 2012; gave words of encouragement to the State of Kuwait who will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-Arab Summit; and set the Venue for the 7<sup>th</sup> General Cooperation Meeting of 2012 to be Cairo, Egypt, before adopting the final meeting report. Amb. Mofteh Zawam, AU Permanent Delegation to LAS, officially adjourned the meeting by thanking all participants.

The meeting was attended by Representatives from the AUC; GS-LAS; the State of Kuwait; the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries (AFTAAC); the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA); the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and the Africa-Arab Cultural Institute (AACI).

For more information, please visit the AUC web site at <http://www.au.int>