

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: 251 115517700 Fax: 251 115517844

website: www.au.int

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



PAU

Pan African University
Université PanAfricaine

Nurturing Quality, Exemplifying Excellence

Meeting of 29 October 2013

Opening remarks by the Commissioner

H.E. Martial De-Paul IKOUNGA

PROTOCOL

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you in Addis Ababa.

As I see you gathered here to discuss about the PAU that we present as the African Union flagship project, I have a lot of hope as to the success of our approach.

Because here we represent a family and there is a saying that dirty washing should be laundered at home, let me share with you two sad news that I could not hide to you.

1- Our family is not complete as we might have wished. Who is to blame? Of course us at the AUC and SADC who have been called to order by the Legal Counsel to respect the PAU texts, and we are committed to quickly correct this failure.

2-The whole mechanism we are about to put in place here, the beautiful tool we wish to build here with devotion will lack the right worker we were expecting. In fact it is with sadness that I must tell you that the Acting Rector who would have benefitted from this great family gathering to get acquainted with his mission, has not been appointed, and once again we are the ones to blame because of the slowness of our huge and heavy administration. But this is already a way to get into the subject of our meeting. This issue is not the least important we will have to discuss. It is about making all necessary effort as soon as possible to remove the PAU management from the AUC administrative system.

As you may be aware, either from an administrative or financial point of view, the AUC management structure is not the one needed for the PAU. Do we need a tank to move in our garden or village tracks?

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, since you, more than I are the makers of PAU, allow me not to present it again as you have been diagnosing it and will soon propose the adequate medication for the prevention or eradication of the disease. That is why during our last meeting with many of you been present, we were telling you that we were going to proceed by asking three questions that I wish to remind you.

1- ;What do you currently do for the PAU ?

2- ;What are your plans for the coming years for the PAU ?

3- Can your planning be aligned to the one proposed by the HRST Department?

Because we all know that we have been selected for our know-how and our capacity to give the PAU the possibility to ensure and promote quality and illustrate excellence, our objective is simply to agree on the way to gather this know-how in an orderly manner.

There is a saying in my country that it is not easy to stack two needles, fortunately, we are not in

that situation. We share a common vision and our wisdom is a key to success. That is why I would like to pave the way for our approach by recalling three simple things that will guide our vision:

- 1-; Maintain the PAU's UNIQUENESS ;
- 2- Preserve the AUTONOMY of the PAU and its institutes;
- 3- Ensure the PAU is managed by its own governing structures with a deadline set for 30 June 2014.

We are therefore here to consolidate the conditions for the transition towards the implementation of the PAU we hope, and our role in the HRST Department will be that of a stakeholder which facilitates the process while respecting the schedule, and ensures the smooth implementation by the various stakeholders of the roadmap that we will adopt together at the end of these working days.

I talked about a family meeting and as you may well know, in Africa in those circumstances there is always an absentee who is present. In this case they are AU member States owning the PAU. They are actually present because through their representations at the AUC, they have expressed their will to see the PAU dream turn into a reality.

Though this issue is worth considering at the political level, I would rather ask you to provide a technical and expert work.

Indeed we have a tight schedule, but in examining the roadmap, which is mainly a technical part, you will find opportunities to usefully share your experiences and put together what has already been achieved; this should help the whole family avoid duplication of what already exists.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, while in politics speeches use to be very long, I will rather stop here and wish you SUCCESS.

And if you still find me in this room, it means I have asked you to let me be part, just like you, of this common project.

Thank you !