# Meeting of the Executive Committee of AOMA

15 September 2011

# Resolutions

- Individual letters of appreciation to be written to the President of South Africa, Minister of Justice & Constitutional Development, the now former Chief Justice Sandile Ngcobo, Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mayor of eThekwini and the Vice Chancellor of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) for their support provided towards the establishment of the African Ombudsman Research Centre (AORC)
- 2. Developments in Libya to be monitored in respect of what to do with the AOMA money in the Libyan account. If nothing can be done then approach General Assembly in Mali to write off the money in the Libyan account as there was no statement from Libya detailing how much money was in the account.
- 3. Dr. Diango Chissoko, Ombudsman of Mali is confirmed as the Second Vice President of the Association and Mrs. Alima Deborah Traore was also confirmed as a new member of the Board of the African Ombudsman Research Centre.
- 4. The reports of the President, the Executive Secretary and the Eastern African and Southern African regions are adopted.
- 5. The Executive Committee notes and appreciates the report of the Constitutional sub-committee as presented by the Chair Mrs Fozia Amin. Adv. John Walters (Ombudsman Namibia) to assist with legal drafting of the provisions. Other committee members must contribute/participate. Proposals must then be translated into French, Portuguese and Arabic for distribution to all AOMA members. The draft must be discussed at the regional meetings and then presented to Executive Committee before being tabled before the General Assembly.

## 6. On the Secretariat Location and Administration

- a. Judge Mohammed Abuzeid Ahmed is confirmed as the Ambassador of AOMA to the African Union.
- b. The Executive Committee accepts the proposal for the creation of a Permanent Secretariat in its constitution and that the AORC, currently in South Africa, should also serve as the Secretariat of AOMA. This must also be tabled for adoption at the General Assembly Meeting and must reflect the administrative and financial arrangements.

c. The Executive Committee confirms that the permanent seat of the Executive Secretariat and the Headquarters of AOMA is in South Africa, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

## 7. On Advocacy and Visibility of AOMA

- a. AOMA to increase its visibility through involvement in African governance and human rights activities, for instance as Accredited Election monitoring officials.
- b. Increase of membership to cover all African Union members for AOMA to be a pillar of good governance, human rights protection and the fight against corruption.
- c. A databank of the AOMA Ombudsman CVs to be created for transmission to the Africa Union for possible invitation to the Africa Union activities or missions in the areas of good governance, democracy and human rights.
- d. Efforts to be made to associate and link with other multilateral bodies for participation in work on good governance, democracy, human rights and anti-corruption for example, UNODC and link with other regional bodies similar to AOMA
- e. All regions to have regional meetings and invite office bearers as part of advocacy. The AORC Secretariat will interact with regions not represented here to organize a general meeting or conference ahead of General Assembly. In these meetings regions should design programmes and collective actions. The West African region has not been represented since April 2010. The Ombudsman of Mali should coordinate a meeting for the West Africa region to nominate regional coordinator, ahead of a regional meeting.
- f. Every member country to make efforts to obtain the official recognition of AOMA by their respective governments and present the written recognition at the next General Assembly Meeting.
- g. All AOMA publications by AORC to be widely distributed in all AOMA official languages.

#### 8. On Regional Coordination

- a. AORC to develop a template for the harmonization of regional reports which must be circulated immediately for use in preparation of the next Executive Committee Meeting which will take place ahead of the General Assembly Meeting.
- b. Deputy regional co-ordinators to be elected to facilitate regional activities.

#### 9. On Finances

- a. Members must take responsibility to pay as soon as possible the increased membership fees from US\$500 to a minimum of US\$1000 on a sliding scale.
- b. The AORC to be regarded as the heart of the Association and that the member states have the obligation to be involved further by ensuring its operational sustainability.
- c. South Africa's contribution to AORC and AOMA be quantified for the record of AOMA Executive, so that AOMA is aware of the extent of the contribution.
- d. The Executive Secretary and the President to host a conference in South Africa with development partners on urgent basis to solicit funding and/or technical support by November 2011.
- e. Angola commits itself to pay for the purchase of laptop computers and photocopier for the Research Centre and other members have also been encouraged to contribute to the operational costs of the AORC.

#### 10. On the General Assembly

- a. Mali confirms the responsibility for hosting of an Executive Committee Meeting from 17-18 February 2012 and the  $4^{th}$  General Assembly Meeting from 20-22 February 2012 in Bamako, Mali.
- b. The AORC Secretariat to supply Regional Coordinators with information on what they need to do and prepare in relation to the General Assembly Meeting.
- c. The Executive Secretary to encourage the participation to the General Assembly Meeting of new member offices and invite non-member states to the General Assembly Meeting in Bamako, including
- d. A draft resolution to be presented to General Assembly regarding criteria for membership and that supporting legislative documents must accompany the application for membership.
- e. The proposed theme is "Reinforcing the African Ombudsman Institutions for the consolidation of Good Governance and Democracy in Africa"

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# Adopted and signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on this day 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011

President

Dr Paulo Tjipilica

## Addendum

In attendance:

#### A. Office bearers

Dr Paulo Tjipilica (President, Angola)

Adv. Thuli Madonsela (Executive Secretary, South Africa)

Mr Raphael O. Baku (1st Vice President, Uganda) being; and

#### b. Other voting members;

Mr Soleman Hatteea (Indian Ocean Region, Mauritius)

Mrs Caroline Sokoni (Southern Africa region, Zambia)

Mrs Fozia Amin (East Africa Region, Ethiopia)

## c. Non voting members;

Judge Mohammed Abuzeid Ahmed (Honorary/Co-opted, Sudan)

Mrs Jeanne Manomba Kombila (Honorary/Co-opted, Gabon)

Adv. John Walters (Ex-officio: IOI, Namibia)

Judge Edmond Kadoni Cowan (Ex-officio: Member of AORC Board, Sierra Leone)

# d. Present but status unconfirmed at commencement of the meeting

Dr Diango Cissoko (Mali)

Mrs Alima Deborah Traore (Burkina Faso)

## e. Absent;

Bishop Paulin Pomodimo (Central African Region, CAR); Mr Mattieu Ekra (West African Region, Cote de Ivoire and Dr Huda Ben Amer (North African Region, Libya)

# Addis Ababa Declaration,

We, Members of the Executive Committee of AOMA gathered here from 15 - 16 September 2011at the Sheraton Hotel, Addis Ababa for an Executive Committee meeting;

**Noting that** the AORC Board meeting was held on 14 September 2011, for the first time following the launch of the African Ombudsman Research Centre in Durban South Africa on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 and that the Centre is now operational;

**Expressing** our appreciation to the Ethiopian Institution of the Ombudsman and the Government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia for the hospitality;

**Recalling** our resolution in Durban to call upon the African Union to do everything in its power to avoid the loss of innocent lives in Libya;

Noting further the persisting peace challenges in Libya, Somalia and other African States;

**Recalling** the General Assembly's Resolution to hold our next General Assembly Meeting in Mali;

Considering the need to strengthen regional structures and members offices;

Acknowledging with appreciation the accreditation of AOMA by the African Union through the assistance of the President of the African Union Commission, H.E. President Jean Ping as well as the encouragement by the African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs, Adv. Bience Gawanas who appreciated the role of the Ombudsman institutions and AOMA towards the consolidation of democracy, good governance, the protection of human rights and the fight against corruption in the African continent;

#### **RESOLVE THAT:**

- a. Mali will host the General Assembly starting with an EXCO meeting from 17 18 February 2012, and the General Assembly to take place from 20 22 February 2012 under the proposed theme "Reinforcing the African Ombudsman Institution for the Consolidation of Good Governance and Democracy in Africa"
- **b.** Peace, democracy and good governance be encouraged and supported in the African continent in general and Libya in particular
- c. The AORC will be used to strengthen AOMA structures to deliver good governance and human rights, and to invite other national institutions in Africa who are not yet members, to join AOMA
- **d.** AOMA to avail its resources and members to assist the African Union and other multilateral bodies in their efforts in pursuit of democracy, good governance and peace in the African continent



e. Efforts aimed at ensuring that AOMA is recognized by all African States and relevant multilateral bodies will be continued and accelerated

Adopted and signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on this day 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011

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