



منظمة الموفقين والوسطاء والرقابيين الأفارقة
African Ombudsman and Mediators Association
Association des Ombudsman et Mediateurs Africains
Associaçãodos Ombudsman eMediadores Africanos

MINUTES OF THE 10TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA ON THE 19TH MAY, 2016

PRESENT

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Hon. Dr. Fozia Amin | - President, Ethiopia |
| 2. Hon. Dr. Otiende Amollo | - Secretary General, Kenya |
| 3. Hon. Caroline Sokoni | - Treasurer, Zambia |
| 4. Hon. Dr. Paulo Tjipilica | - Former President of AOMA, Angola |
| 5. Hon. Leshele Abel Thoahlane | - South Region Coordinator, Lesotho |
| 6. Hon. Ali Soulyemane Bachar | - Central Region Coordinator, Chad |

SPECIAL AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Patricia Isimat-Mirin | - Côte d'Ivoire |
| 2. Juma Rukumbi | - Burundi |
| 3. Reginald Ndou | - South Africa |
| 4. Eileen Rakow | - Namibia |
| 5. Tourmar Nayo Didegomi | - Chad |

APOLOGIES

- | | |
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| 1. Hon. N'golo Coulibaly | - 1 st Vice President, Côte d'Ivoire |
| 2. Hon. Dr. Mohamed Rukara | - 2 nd Vice President, Burundi |
| 3. Hon. Adv. John Walters | - IOI President, Namibia |
| 4. Hon. Tom Bahame Nyanduga | - East Region Coordinator, Tanzania |
| 5. Hon. Fatma Zahra Mahmoud | - North Region Coordinator, Tunisia |
| 6. Hon. Alima Deborah Traore | - West Region Coordinator, Burkina Faso |
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IN ATTENDANCE

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| 1. Leonard Ngaluma | - Ag. Executive Director, AOMA |
| 2. Dr. Annie Devenish | - Ag. Executive Director, AORC |
| 3. Chipili Katunasa-Magayane | - Zambia |
| 4. Seyoum Leul | - Ethiopia |
| 5. Daouda Tanon | - Côte d'Ivoire |
| 6. Eurydice Gahimbare | - Burundi |
| 7. Benita Young | - South Africa |
| 8. Manuel Da Costa | - Angola |
| 9. Yvelise Batalha | - Angola |
| 10. Paul Letele Leboea | - Lesotho |
| 11. Hilda Ojiambo | - Kenya (Secretariat) |

AGENDA

1. Apologies, constitution of the meeting/quorum
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Consideration and approval of the minutes of the 9th Exco meeting
4. Matters Arising
5. Report of the AOMA President – for noting
6. Report of the Secretary General – for noting
7. Report of the Chairperson of AORC – for noting
8. Reports of the Regional Representatives
9. AOMA finances and status of membership contributions
10. The 5th General Assembly
11. Report of the AOMA Constitutional Amendment Committee
12. Workshop on National Mechanisms for Prevention of Torture – Ivory Coast
13. Proposal for AOMA Observer Status in the African Union
14. AOB

OPENING

The President called the meeting to order at around 9.30 a.m. She thanked the Public Protector of Zambia for hosting the meeting and invited the host to make opening remarks. Delegates were thereafter

welcomed to the meeting and the Secretary General then proceeded with confirmation of quorum as per the Constitution of AOMA and adoption of the agenda. The Ombudsman of Lesotho proposed the agenda while the special authorized representative of the Ombudsman of Namibia seconded.

The Secretary General then proposed to go through the minutes of the 9th Executive Committee meeting held in 2015 in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. Members agreed to the proposal.

MIN10/1/2016: CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 9TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

- 1.1. The Secretary General led participants in perusal of the minutes of the 9th Executive Committee meeting, following which participants took note of matters arising and acceded to the Secretary General's request to return to these during presentation of the report of the Secretary General.
- 1.2. The minutes of the 9th Executive Committee meeting were adopted following a proposal by the special representative of the Ombudsman of Burundi which was seconded by the special representative of the Chairperson of AORC.

MIN10/2/2016: MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1. Pursuant to *Min 9/2/2015 – 2.12* of the 9th Executive Committee meeting, it was reiterated that recognition and commendation of previous AOMA members who have served the association distinctively will be done during the 5th General Assembly.
- 2.2. As the only other matter arising that had not been covered under the report of the Secretary General, members agreed to the proposal that the special representative of the Ombudsman of Burundi provides an update on the situation in the country pursuant to *Min 9/10/2015* of the previous Executive Committee meeting.
- 2.3. The special representative of the Ombudsman of Burundi informed participants of the situation in Burundi which was duly noted.

- 2.4. Efforts of the Ombudsman of Burundi to restore and foster peace in the country were lauded even as it was noted that the Ombudsman was currently away in Belgium for medical reasons.
- 2.5. The Executive Committee issued a communiqué in solidarity with the Ombudsman and people of Burundi and affirmed support for the planned Central Africa region coordination meeting on '*the Role of the Ombudsman in Prevention of Ethnic and Religious Conflicts in Africa*,' which will be held in Bujumbura, Burundi.
- 2.6. The rest of the matters arising were considered under the report of the Secretary General.

MIN 10/3/2016: REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT– FOR NOTING

- 3.1. The report of the President was well received and noted.
- 3.2. Members applauded the President's efforts in ensuring that AOMA covers all countries of the continent by reaching out to Egypt and the Republic of South Sudan.

MIN 10/4/2016: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL – FOR NOTING

- 4.1. The report of the Secretary General highlighted several issues for members' deliberation and decision-making.
- 4.2. With regard to *Min 9/8/2015* of the previous Executive Committee meeting, the Secretary General brought to members' attention the need to find an alternative host for the 5th General Assembly after noting that Tanzania's Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) was unable to host the meeting.
- 4.3. It was noted that the Constitution of AOMA provided for the General Assembly to be held once every two years and that by this provision of the Constitution, the 5th General Assembly ought to be held by November 2016 to avoid contravention of the Constitution.
- 4.4. With regard to *Min 9/9/2015* of the previous Executive Committee meeting, the Secretary General tabled draft membership guidelines to assist members in consideration of pending membership applications upon approval.

- 4.5. It was resolved that the draft membership guidelines be circulated to members for comments before approval and adoption by the Executive Committee.
- 4.6. Pending membership applications were shelved for consideration after adoption of membership guidelines in the next Executive Committee meeting.
- 4.7. On the registration of AOMA, it was noted that the process is still underway and has reached an advanced stage.
- 4.8. Members also noted the various quotations presented by the Secretary General from consultants who offered to develop AOMA's strategic plan and work plans.
- 4.9. The revised quotation of Prof. Victor Ayeni from USD 19, 219 to USD 10, 250 exclusive of travel, per diem and accommodation was settled upon and members resolved that Prof. Ayeni be further requested to cover, as part of the consultancy, AOMA's resource mobilization strategy and an advisory on establishment of a permanent AOMA Secretariat.
- 4.10. It was further resolved that the Secretary General officially requests AORC for support in financing the development of the AOMA strategic plan and work plans, regional meetings and the Constitutional Amendment Committee.
- 4.11. A decision was reached that AOMA funds may be utilized to finance the development of the strategic plan and work plans should AORC funding be unavailable.
- 4.12. With regard to auditing of AOMA accounts, the Secretary General reported that renowned auditing firms that had been approached were reluctant to make an offer and the Executive Committee resolved that smaller but credible auditing firms be approached by the Secretary General as appropriate.
- 4.13. The report of the Secretary General was noted and approved save for the resolutions above.

MIN 10/5/2016: REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF AORC – FOR NOTING

- 5.1. The report presented on behalf of the Chairperson of AORC was well received and noted.
- 5.2. It was highlighted that AORC had contacted an additional 8 ombudsmen institutions regarding participation in a comparative study of the diverse legal systems employed by AOMA members. The preparatory meeting for the study will be held in June, 2016.
- 5.3. The AORC report also highlighted training needs assessment conducted with Arabic speaking members of AOMA and noted that AORC had so far trained 172 ombudsmen and officials from 28 African countries.
- 5.4. The first policy brief on best practice guidelines for ombudsmen institutions and newsletter published by AORC were noted and a recommendation made that the publications as well as other information on the AORC website be translated to French by AORC.
- 5.5. The Executive Committee also noted the importance of AORC and AOMA to liaise more frequently and urged the respective secretariats to continue to engage on funding prospects.

MIN 10/6/2016: REPORTS OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- 6.1. The report of the Central Africa region was presented by the region's coordinator, the Office of the Mediator of the Republic of Chad, and was duly noted.
- 6.2. The report highlighted the coordinator's efforts at promoting and strengthening solidarity among existing Ombudsman institutions in the sub-region while at the same time advocating for the creation of Ombudsman institutions in countries such as Cameroon.
- 6.3. The regional coordinator of the South region noted that he had not received any reports from the members of his region for presentation in the Executive Committee meeting.

- 6.4. All other regional coordinators were absent and had not availed their regional reports to the Secretariat ahead of the Executive Committee meeting.
- 6.5. The Executive Committee urged regional coordinators to ensure timely submission of their regional reports to the Secretariat for translation and presentation in future Executive Committee meetings.

MIN 10/7/2016: AOMA FINANCES AND STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

- 7.1. The Secretary General tabled a report detailing membership contributions and arrears for the years 2015 and 2016 together with the current AOMA Financial Statement and account of expenditure which were duly noted.
- 7.2. It was resolved that the Secretariat would send further reminders to members on pending membership contributions.

MIN 10/8/2016: THE 5TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 8.1. The Executive Committee noted the gesture of the Public Protector of Zambia to host the 5th General Assembly in August 2017 in the event of unavailability of an alternative host in 2016 as highly welcome but resolved that the Secretary General formally invites any member of AOMA willing to host the Assembly in 2016 to communicate their willingness to the Secretary General with all reasonable dispatch.
- 8.2. It was agreed that the proposal of the Public Protector of Zambia would be adopted in case there were no other alternatives.

MIN 10/9/2016: REPORT OF THE AOMA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT COMMITTEE

- 9.1. The Public Protector of Zambia reported that there was no report from the Constitutional Amendment Committee as the Committee had not convened to undertake its work since the regional meeting on whose sidelines the Committee had planned to meet did not take place.

- 9.2. The Executive Committee resolved that the Secretary General would officially write to AORC to request for support in financing the work of the Constitutional Amendment Committee.

MIN 10/10/2016: WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR PREVENTION OF TORTURE – IVORY COAST

- 10.1. The Special Representative of the Mediator of Cote d'Ivoire informed members of a proposed workshop dubbed "*National Mechanisms for Prevention of Torture*" that will be organized in Abidjan in early 2017 by the office of the Mediator in collaboration with the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) and the Association for Prevention of Torture (APT). Members interested in participating in the workshop would be required to sponsor their own travel and accommodation costs. The information was duly noted.

MIN 10/11/2016: PROPOSAL FOR AOMA OBSERVER STATUS IN THE AFRICAN UNION

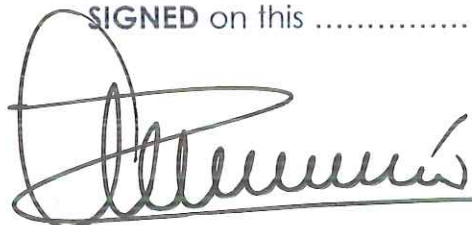
- 11.1. The President noted that AOMA had received observer status in the African Union (AU) and proposed nomination of former President of AOMA, Dr. Paulo Tjipilica, to the AU as AOMA observer. Members agreed to this proposal, noting the contribution Dr. Tjipilica had made in advancing the objectives of AOMA during his tenure.
- 11.2. It was subsequently resolved that the President would officially write to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Angola to communicate the nomination of Dr. Tjipilica.

MIN 10/12/2016: AOB

- 12.1. It was noted that membership applications from the Military Ombud of South Africa and the Provincial Police Ombudsman of Western Cape were still pending and awaiting adoption of membership guidelines tabled by the Secretary General. These applications were adjourned to the next Executive Committee meeting.

- 12.2. A new membership application from the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt was also duly noted.
- 12.3. It was agreed that the President will coordinate and liaise with the Secretary General, Chairperson of AORC and Former President of AOMA, Dr. Tjipilica, to secure accreditation of AOMA with the UN.
- 12.4. Like it had been noted in the previous Executive Committee meeting, members were informed that the minutes of the 7th Executive Committee meeting had not been sent to the Secretary General.
- 12.5. Regarding the next Executive Committee meeting, it was resolved that the Secretary General will officially write to the Office of the Ombudsman of Namibia to consult on the Office's availability to host the 11th meeting of the Executive Committee in August/ September 2016, before the 5th General Assembly. It was proposed that the offices of the ombudsmen of Ethiopia and Kenya be considered in case of unavailability of Namibia.
- 12.6. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 16h30.

SIGNED on this day of 06/06/2016



HON. DR. OTIENDE AMOLLO, EBS
SECRETARY GENERAL, AOMA

SIGNED on this 5th day of June 2016



HON. DR. FOZIA AMIN
PRESIDENT, AOMA

