

CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE 6th AOMA GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE/

Enhancing the Fight against Corruption in Africa

Kigali – Rwanda, Marriott Hotel, 28th – 30th November 2018

1. Background

The African Ombudsman and Mediators Association (AOMA) will be holding its 6th General Assembly in November 2018 as provided for by Article 13.1.(a) of the Constitution of AOMA which states that "the Association Members shall meet once every year".

The AOMA General Assembly opens opportunities for Members to share knowledge and international best practices in handling citizen's complaints, especially in addressing administrative justice and strengthening Good Governance. The 5th General Assembly held in Durban, South Africa, on 4th November 2016 adopted with consensus that Rwanda is the Host of the next General Assembly which will take place in November 2018. During that General Assembly, AOMA celebrated the 50th years of existence of Ombudsman/Mediators institution in Africa, particularly the first African Country to appoint an Ombudsman was Tanzania in 1968.

To date there are now 40 Ombudsman/Mediators at national level of government in Africa.

The background of the Association shows that, since 1990, African Ombudsman have come together for regional conferences every second year. These Conferences have been held across the African continent.¹

¹<http://aoma.ukzn.ac.za/about-us/vision-mission.aspx>

2. Vision

The AOMA has established its vision which is "to be a leading international Association of Ombudsman/Mediators Offices, Practitioners and Scholars dedicated to the promotion of open, accountable and people-centered democratic governance in Africa".

For achieving this vision, core values must be observed and the following are the most important:

- Integrity: Reflects the ombudsman institution to being a trusted, competent, honest and reliable organization;
- Independence and impartiality: Refers to the ombudsman's belief that it must discharge its role without deference, fear or favour to any individual or authority;
- Human Rights: This relates to the ombudsman's fundamental commitment to human rights and human dignity, and to serving humanity with respect and compassion;
- Justice and fairness: Refers to a fundamental commitment to natural justice and the rule of law as well as timely and quality service regardless of a person's background or dispositions;
- Equality: The ombudsman is an essentially people-centered organization that promotes inclusion and access for every person to its services;
- Accountability and Transparency: The ombudsman must be an accountable, transparent, open and responsive institution; more so that it demands the same of those organizations it has oversight.

3. Mission

AOMA's overall mission is to advance the development of the Ombudsman/Mediators institution for the furtherance of good governance, the rule of law, and human rights in Africa.

The AOMA has established the African Ombudsman Research Center (AORC) as a center for coordinating AOMA's activities and supporting Ombudsman/Mediators institutions in providing information and training. AORC is acting also as a point of liaison with all participants involved in enhancing corporate governance in Africa.

Furthermore, the AORC conducts research on the comparative analysis of legal systems governing Ombudsman in Africa in order to show best practices which may serve for members to improving the interventions in their respective Countries.

4. Governance of AOMA

The Association has organs structured as following:

- General Assembly is the highest governing body;
- Executive Committee is the governing and managing body of the Association;
- Secretariat which provides the secretariat support to the Executive Committee and the Association;
- African Ombudsman/Mediators Association Sub-Regions: These Sub Regions serve to coordinating all activities of the Association within the six Sub-Regions: Northern Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean

The Constitution of AOMA in its article 4 has defined objectives of the Association, which comprise among others:

- (a) To encourage the establishment, development and promotion of African Ombudsman/Mediators institutions;
- (b) To foster mutual support, co-operation and joint activities through information sharing, training and development of Ombudsman/Mediators and staff;
- (c) To promote good governance including the observance of human rights, transparency and administrative justice;
- (d) To support and promote the autonomy and independence of Ombudsman/Mediators Offices;
- (e) To foster affiliation and maintain liaison with other Ombudsman/Mediators Offices, Institutes and Associations, international bodies and organizations interested in the progress of Ombudsman/Mediators activities and human rights;
- (f) To identify and carry out any other relevant activities which the members may deem appropriate.

5. Rationale of the General Assembly

Noting that the General Assembly and Regional Meetings offer great fora for sharing and reflecting on the modalities of promoting good governance by the Ombudsman and Mediators in Africa, the 5th General Assembly has elected, with consensus, Rwanda to host the 6th General Assembly, Regional Association Meetings and the Executive Committee Meeting to be held in November 2018.

Noting that the Ombudsman/Mediator institutions provide the much needed platform for accountability, good governance and responsible government in Africa;

Pursuant that avenues for discussion of good practices, capacity building, experience sharing by the continent's Ombudsman/Mediator institutions would play a role in developing a coherent approach for greater impact and efficiency in execution of their mandates;

Providing this important platform was a key factor that led to establishment of AOMA and AORC;

Rwanda in general and The Office of The Ombudsman of Rwanda in particular, have opportunity to host the mentioned high profile meeting in order to share Africa's and Rwanda's experiences in promoting rule of law, strengthening good governance and respect of human rights with other partners from all over the continent. It will be also an opportunity to us to learn from best practices from other Countries.

6. Objectives of the 6th AOMA General Assembly

6.1. General Objective

In consideration of the constitutional objectives mentioned above, the 6th General Assembly has an overall objective of strengthening the network of the African Ombudsman/Mediators institutions by assessing their contribution to the good governance in Africa.

6.2. Specific Objectives

Specifically the General Assembly aims to achieve the following:

- a) Discuss the way of strengthening and re-aligning the Ombudsman/Mediators in changing African environment with regards to rule of law, good governance, Transparency and accountability as well as fight against corruption;
- b) Build competencies of the Ombudsman/Mediators to promote good governance and accountability through capacity building, research, information sharing and benchmarking;
- c) Evaluate partnership with international bodies, Institutes and other Stakeholders for effective promotion of good governance in Africa and in capacity building of Ombudsman/Mediators institutions.

7. The methodology of the 6th AOMA General Assembly

The 6th General Assembly will be composed of four main activities: Conference, AORC Training for Ombudsman/Mediators and staff, Executive Committee Meeting and the General Assembly Meeting. Due to the diversity of participants in terms of communication, it is planned that the activities of the General Assembly will be facilitated with simultaneous translation in the four languages used in the AOMA namely: English, French, Portuguese and Arabic.

7.1. Conference

The General Assembly will start by the international conference, which will last for one-day time. The Conference will bring together, apart AOMA General Assembly Members, Government Officials from different African Countries, Representatives of Development Partners and International Organizations, Distinguished Scholars and Practitioners, Think tanks, Civil Society organizations, Media Specialists and Practitioners. The Conference will be organized under the theme: **“Promoting Transparency and Accountable Governance/ *Enhancing the Fight against Corruption in Africa*”**.

This Theme of the 6th General Assembly takes into consideration the AOMA Vision and the fact that the African Union dedicated this year 2018 to **“*Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation*”** as adopted in the AU 30th Assembly of Heads of State and Government held from 22 – 29 January 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

However, the challenge that remains is the commitment of institutional approaches to combating corruption and other governance challenges on one hand and bridging the gap between norm-setting and norm-implementation through appropriate measures at local, national, regional and continental levels on the other hand.

The AOMA shall discuss how it can contribute to the promotion of the rule of law and respect of principles of Good Governance including Citizen-centered governance, Transparency and Accountability as well as combating corruption, which impedes the access to Justice and equal opportunity in Africa.

Considering that AOMA has limited financial resources, the Panelists for the Conference would be mainly Ombudsman / Mediators Members of AOMA who will attend the 6th General Assembly.

With that regard, sessions of the 6th AOMA General Assembly shall include Keynote speeches and panel discussions. Speakers and Panelists will be drawn from the whole continent considering the six sub-regions of AOMA. They will include, Ombudsman/Mediators, Scholars and Practitioners specialized in different aspects of governance, accountability and fight against corruption in Africa and beyond.

Focus Areas/Sub-themes:

A. Accountable governance for sustainable development in Africa

- Good governance as a prerequisite of sustainable development in Africa
- Citizen-centred Governance and Accountability
- Impacts of Regional Economic Integration on governance in Africa

B. Integrity and Fight against corruption in Africa

- The role of Ombudsman/ Mediators in fighting against corruption in Africa;
- The role of African Union in fighting against corruption in Africa: Current Status, challenges and the way forward;
- Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in Politics and Public Institutions

7.2. AORC Training Component

The last General Assembly was held alongside training for Ombudsman/Mediators and staff organized by AORC – the training and research arm of AOMA. It is expected that similar training will be organised alongside the 6th General Assembly. The training usually assists to boost attendance by a larger number of Members, and because the training participants are usually funded by AORC, it helps to defray the costs of participation, which would otherwise be borne by participating members.

The training generally takes two days. But with the proposed agenda this year, the training will be conducted on the second day and it may be run side by side with the Executive Committee Meeting.

7.3. Executive Committee Meeting before the 6th AOMA General Assembly

There has been established a tradition of holding an Executive Committee Meeting a day before the General Assembly. This helps to fine tune and address emerging issues just before the D-day. In an Elective General Assembly, this also helps to facilitate a smooth transition and handover of office.

7.4. Regional Meetings

Being an Elective General Assembly, there may be need for members to meet in their respective Regions to address issues of mutual concern before the Assembly. Availability of breakaway rooms is desirable and it is why this is budgeted for.

7.5.AOMA General Assembly

The General Assembly is constitutionally required to be held at least once every two years; it is deductible, from the dates of last General Assembly, that the coming Assembly should be held in November 2018. **The AOMA General Assembly will be co-chaired by all Members of the Executive Committee.**

8. Date and Venue

The 6th General Meeting of AOMA will be held in **Kigali - Rwanda from 28th to 30th November 2018 in Kigali Marriott Hotel noting that the arrival time of participants is on 27th November and departure on 1st December 2018.**

9. Budget

I. COST TO BE NEGOTIATED BY THE HOST COUNTRY

A. MEETING

DAY	Item	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Cost (Rwf)	Cost (USD) ²
DAY 1	EXCOM Meeting				
	Venue: Meeting Package	39,606	20	792,120	916
DAY 2³	AOMA Conference				
	Venue: Conference Package	39,606	150	5,940,900	6,876
	Briefcase: Conference Bags/paper folders	10,000	100	1,000,000	1,159
	Badges ⁴	2,000	100	200,000	231
DAY 3	AORC Training (the whole day) / Regional Meetings (evening)				
	Venue: Conference Package	39,606	100	3,960,600	4,584
DAY 4	AOMA GENERAL ASSEMBLY				
	Venue: Conference Package	39,606	100	3,960,600	4,584
	Farewell Diner (evening)	24,000	100	2,400,000	2,778
SUB TOTAL				18,254,220	21,128

B. COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

N°	Item	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Cost (Rwf)	Cost (USD) ⁵
1.	Banners				
2.	cross road Banners	51,200	6	307,200	355.5
3.	Pull up Banners	78,000	6	468,000	541.6
4.	Back Drop Banner with stand	200,000	1	200,000	231.4
5.	Digital Billboard	118,000	3	354,000	409.7
6.	Car stickers	3,000	20	60,000	69.4
7.	Name Tag	2,000	50	100,000	115.7
8.	Videography	180,000	3	540,000	625
9.	Photography	150,000	1	150,000	173.6
	SUB TOTAL			2,179,200	2,521.9

² The rate of exchange on 21st May 2018 is 1\$ for 864 Rwf

³ In the opening ceremony, there will be invitees who will not participate in the AGM, that is why on the following day, the number of participants will be reduced

⁴ The price considered was given by Imprimerie Papeterie Nouvelle (IPN)

⁵ The rate of exchange on 21st May 2018 is 1\$ for 864 Rwf

C. HEALTH, TRANSPORT FACILITIES⁶, CULTURAL TROUP FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFTS

N ^o	ITEM	Unit Cost	Number	TOTAL Cost (Rwf)	Total Cost (USD)
1	HEALTH SERVICES				
	Ambulance	300,000	3 days	900,000	1,041.6
	Emergency quit	300,000	3 days	900,000	1,041.6
	General Practitioner	50,000	3 days	150,000	173.6
	Nurse	25,000	3 days	75,000	86.8
	Driver	15,000	3 days	45,000	52
2	Executive M.C	-	-	-	-
3	Executive Committee and Head Regions transport	128,720	5 days	2,574,400	2,979.6
4	Executive Bus	142,600	5 days	2,852,000	3,300.9
5	Cultural Troup	1,500,000	1 evening	1,500,000	1,736
6	Gifts	10,000	50 persons	500,000	578.7
SUB TOTAL				9,496,400	10,990.8
TOTAL				29,929,820	34,640.7

II. BUDGET TO BE COVERED BY AOMA

N ^o	ITEM	Unit of Measurement	Unit cost (USD)	Number of Units	Total cost (USD)
GENERAL ASSEMBLY					
1	Accommodation for 50 officials, delegates and speakers for 4 days	Person	300	50	15,000
2	Translation of documents for the General Assembly	Documents	10,000	Variety	10,000
3	Honorarium for resource persons	Person	300	10	3,000
4	Simultaneous interpretation services (English, French, Portuguese and Arabic)	Days		3	56,050
TOTAL					84,050

N.B: After consulting the companies which provide the simultaneous interpretation, the best is charging an amount of 48,427,200 Rwandan Francs for three days which is equivalent to 56,050 USD. Their contacts are the following: Nyarutarama Estate, KG 331ST, Villa N^o 6. B.P 5234

Kigali Rwanda, TIN: 100 104 955

Office Landline Tel: +(250)788 304 662 Mobile: +(250) 788 300 380 | 788 302777

. E-mail:symposiasarl@yohoo.fr / Website:www.symposiaconsult.com

We recommend that the Secretariat takes in charge this service and be assured that the translation and simultaneous interpretation service is of high quality for the success of the 6th AOMA General Assembly.

⁶ The transport will be provided for four (4) days using four (4) cars and four (4) buses for delegates.

THE 6th AOMA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TENTATIVE PROGRAM:

PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE/ ENHANCING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN AFRICA

Kigali – Rwanda, 28th – 30th November 2018

Tentative Program

DAY ONE : WEDNESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2018		
CONFERENCE		
08:00 – 09:00	Registration	PROTOCOL
OPENING SESSION		
09:00- 09:05	Welcoming Remarks	M.C: Mrs. Yankurije Odette (Deputy Ombudsman in charge of Preventing and Fighting Injustice / Rwanda)
09:05 – 10:00	Opening Remarks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President of AOMA 2. Hon. Begoto Miarom, (Chairperson, AU Advisory Board on Corruption) 3. Chief Parliamentary Ombudsman / Sweden 4. Hon. Murekezi Anastase (Chief Ombudsman/Rwanda)
10:00 - 10:30	Keynote Speech:	Guest of Honor
10:30 – 11:00	HEALTH BREAK AND GROUP PHOTO	
PLENARY SESSION		
11:00-13:00	<p><i>Accountable governance for sustainable development in Africa:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good governance as a prerequisite of sustainable development in Africa. • Citizen-centred Governance and Accountability. • Impacts of regional economic organisations on governance in Africa 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Shyaka Anastase, (CEO, Rwanda Governance Board/ Rwanda) 2. Mr. Adama Toungara (Médiateur de la République de Côte d'Ivoire) 3. Mostafa al-Sharbatly (Ombudsman/Egypt) 4. Advocate BUSISIWE Mkhwebane: Public Protector of South Africa <p><i>Moderator:</i> Hon. Monique Andreas Esoavelomandroso Médiateur de la République de Madagascar</p>
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH	
PLENARY SESSION		
14:30 – 16:30	<p><i>Integrity and Fight against Corruption in Africa:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of Ombudsman/ Mediator in fighting against corruption in Africa • The role of African Union in fighting against corruption in Africa: Current Status, challenges and the way forward • Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in Politics and Public Institutions 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Augustine Makgonatsotlhe (Ombudsman / Botswana) 2. Hon. Laure Olga Gondjout (Médiateur de la République du Gabon) 3. Dr. Roger Koranteng (Commonwealth) 4. Leonard Ngaluma (Commission Secretary, Commission on Administrative Justice, Kenya) <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Usta KAITESI (Deputy CEO of Rwanda Governance Board /Rwanda)</i></p>
16:30 – 18:30	Regional Meetings	<i>Breakaway sessions</i>

DAY TWO : THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2018		
07:00 – 09:00	Registration	PROTOCOL
09:00 – 11:00	AORC Training for Ombudsman/Mediators and staff	
10:30 – 11:00	HEALTH BREAK	
11:00 - 13:00	AORC Training for Ombudsman/Mediators and staff	
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH	
14:30 – 16:30	AORC Training for Ombudsman/Mediators and staff	
16:30 – 18:30	VISIT TO KIGALI GENOCIDE MEMORIAL SITE	
DAY THREE: FRIDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2018		
<i>AOMA General Assembly Meeting co-chaired by the Executive Committee Members</i>		
07:00 – 09:00	Registration	PROTOCOL
09:00 - 09:15	Opening remarks	President of AOMA
PLENARY SESSION		
09:15 – 10:30	Amendment of the Constitution of AOMA	
10:30 – 11:00	HEALTH BREAK	
11:00 – 12:00	Strategic Plan of AOMA	
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Report of the Executive Committee</i>	The President of AOMA
13:00 -14:30	LUNCH	
14:30 - 15:00	<i>Election of the AOMA Executive Committee</i>	
15:00 – 16:00	RESOLUTIONS AND CLOSING SESSION	Guest of Honour
<i>16:00-18:00</i>	KIGALI CITY TOUR	RCB
19:00 – 22:00	FAREWELL DINNER	Rwanda Ombudsman Office