

Permanent Observer Mission of the
AFRICAN UNION to the
United Nations

الاتحاد الأفريقي



Mission Permanente d'Observation
de l'UNION AFRICAINE auprès
des Nations Unies

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AG Handing-over Notes
December 2012 – January 2013

AFRICAN GROUP NEW YORK

HANDING-OVER NOTES

Between

H.E. Mr. Charles-Armel DOUBANE
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Central African
Republic to the United Nations

Out-going Chairman

And

H.E. Mr. Raymond Serge BALE
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Congo to the United Nations

In-coming Chairman

January --, 2013

**OUTLINE OF AFRICAN GROUP ACTIVITIES DURING
THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2012**

1. During the month of December 2012, the African Group successfully pursued a range of activities on various matters under the distinguished leadership of **H.E. Mr. Charles-Armel DOUBANE, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Central African Republic to the United Nations**. The major achievements and activities included the following:

A. MEETINGS OF THE GROUP:

December 3rd, 2012

The Chair convened an emergency meeting with the Sub-regional Coordinators, at Ambassadorial level. The following agenda items were considered:

1. Africa's Representatives in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals;
2. African Group's strategy for representation of Africa in the United Nations system.

December 6, 2012

The Group considered the following agenda:

1. Briefing by H.E. Mr. Kadré Désiré OUEDRAOGO, President of the Commission of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), on the situation in Mali;
2. Briefing on the Secretary General's reform agenda, particularly mobility, by:
 - Ambassador Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary-General for Management;
 - Ambassador Won Soo Kim, Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Change Implementation; and
 - comments by Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz, Under-Secretary-General, Special Advisor on Africa;
3. Other Matters

December 19, 2012

The Group considered the following agenda:

- 1) Briefing by African Members of the United Nations Security Council, on the situation in Africa
- 2) Establishment of African Group Steering Committee to develop strategy for strengthening Africa's presence at the United Nations : equitable representation of Africans in the UN Human Resources

3) Candidatures:

- a) African Representation in the Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals;
- b) Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission;
- c) Vice-Chairman Bureau of ECOSOC for 2013;
- d) Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organization for 2013;
- e) Bureau for the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for 2013.

4) Other Matters.

SUMMARIES AND CONCLUSIONS OF MEETINGS ARE CONTAINED IN ANNEX I

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES:

The Chair of the Month undertook a number of important activities on behalf of the Group in the exercise of his duties. These included:

(i) Bilateral/Multilateral Engagement on behalf of the Group:

The Chair represented the Group in the consultations convened by the Facilitator (PR of Brazil) together with Chairs of other regional groups to bridge consensus on the representational modalities in the open working group on sustainable development goals.

(ii) Statements on Behalf of the Group(Annex V)

- Statement at the Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on “Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, held on December 10, 2012;
- Statement at the Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to the “Commemoration of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, held on December 17, 2012.

C. ENDORSED CANDIDATURES:

The following African candidatures were endorsed :

- **Kenya** – to serve in the Bureau for the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the term 2013-2014
- **Tunisia** – Organizational Committee of the Peace Building Committee
- **Sudan** - Vice President in the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council

II. **ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2013**

Follow-up of the Group's Decisions and Conclusions emanating from its meetings:

(a) Annual Retreat

In the framework of the Group's established practice of organizing Annual Retreat of the Group and, in the context of interaction between the Group and Mr. Kandeh K. YUMKELLA, Director General of UNIDO and Special Representative of the UNSG's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative" at the Group's meeting held on October 19, 2012, planning of the Group's annual retreat to be held within the first quarter of the year would be paramount.

(b) Consolidating the Group's momentum on its over-arching focus on "Defining Africa's Place in the UN System and Multilateral Environment":

- (i) Strengthening Africa's presence at the United Nations – Equitable Representation of Africans in the UN Human Resource
- (ii) Advancing Africa's Interest within the priorities of the Sixty-Seventh Session of the UN General Assembly:
 - Implementation of the RIO+20 Outcome
 - Post 2015 Development Agenda

The Group decided to establish Working Groups at Ambassadorial to provide strategic direction to advance the Group's goals on the above matters. Bringing conclusion to the establishment of these two Working Groups as a first priority in the new year would be a positive step forward.

The Group has also put forward a request to the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General for a meeting between the latter and the Troika of the African Group. It is anticipated that said meeting would take place early this year. The incoming Chair may wish to see how best to accelerate progress on this matter.

(C) Strengthening the Effectiveness of the African Group Candidatures Committee

The endorsement by the Group of the new guidelines of the Candidatures Committee remains pending. The process of selection of the new membership of the Candidatures Committee has been launched at the level of the various sub-regions. Also, in accordance with established practice, the New Chart of Vacancies

for elections to be held in 2013 will be reviewed by the Candidatures Committee with a view to dissemination to the Group by the **second week of January 2013**. The Deadline for submission of Candidatures to the various sub-regional coordinators is **March 31, 2013**.

b) Other Pending Issues:

Candidatures: The following Candidatures remain pending:

- **Vice-Chair** of the Bureau of the **Committee on Non-Governmental Organization** for 2013;
- **2 seats** allocated to Africa out of the seven Members to be elected by the General Assembly for the **Organizational Committee of the Peace-building Commission**;
- **Southern Africa Region** to submit its Representatives to serve in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

III **ANTICIPATED BRIEFINGS:**

The in-coming Chair may wish to consider briefing requests for inclusion on the agenda of the Group's meetings on the basis of interest and priority to the Group. The following requests have been made for briefing to the Group:



ANNEXES:

- I. Summaries/Conclusions of Meetings:
- II. Candidatures;

- III. Statements on Behalf of the Group;
- IV. Requests for briefing