



SPECIAL AGREEMENT



Between the
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SECTOR

And the

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

HUMAN RESOURCES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT

on

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Special agreement

Between

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

On

The African Journalism Training on Science and Technology

PREAMBLE

Within the framework of the agreement signed on 24 January 2006 between the African Union (AU), (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), (hereinafter referred to as "UNESCO"); and jointly referred to as the "Parties";

CONSIDERING the Agreement signed by the "Parties" and in compliance with its article IX "Joint action", the Department of Human resources Science and Technology of the AUC and the Information and the Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO agree to collaborate in the areas of journalism education, particularly with regard to science and technology.

CONSIDERING that the media as important contributors to freedom of expression, the plurality of information, sustainable development and good governance, the "Parties" agree to cooperate to enhance the professional and institutional capacities of media journalism students and professionals in the region.

CONVINCED that the "Parties" will cooperate to strengthen journalism training particularly in science and technology by focusing on the potential Centers of Excellence and the potential Centers of Reference in journalism training in Africa (identified by UNESCO in 2007), as central hubs.

CONVICED that the collaboration between the parties will contribute to the achievement and implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on Information Society in 2003 calling upon all stakeholders to "*contribute to media development and capacity building*" and

- a. The implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA), the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education and the African Regional Action Plan on Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE). And also
- b. implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference on Science (Budapest, 1999) and those of the World Forum on Education (Dakar, 2000) and "the International Conference on Science, Technology and Mathematics Education" (Goa, 2001).

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I

Principles and Scope of the Partnership

1. The parties acknowledge that the collaboration will facilitate the realization of their shared aim of contributing to journalism training particularly in science and technology in Africa. The parties recognize that, given the scale and complexity of the challenges in this region, collaboration is essential to create synergies based on each party's strength.
2. The parties share a common understanding of the vital role of quality journalism and the media in communicating important aspects of life that are increasingly dependent upon science and technology and its applications. Inadequate development of media capacities hinders access to relevant information, preventing populations from making informed decisions that are essential for issues of both national and international security and to long-term social and economic development.
3. Bearing this in mind, the parties will cooperate to create both continent-wide and international synergies to reinforce journalism training particularly in science and technology in Africa to:
 - i) Provide support for the development of regional science and technology networks for journalism students and media professionals;
 - ii) Improve the range and scale of journalism training in reporting on science and technology in Africa;
 - iii) Develop a Centre of excellence in journalism training in science and technology in Africa.

ARTICLE II

Priority Areas of Cooperation

4. The parties will focus their common strategic and operational priorities using their comparative strengths and advantages, including;
 - a) Sharing knowledge including lessons learned, and evaluations of previous capacity-building initiatives targeting journalists in the region;
 - b) Selecting and developing collaborative activities to bring a clear benefit to journalism students and media professionals in Africa;
 - c) Developing of advocacy and capacity building programmes for the African journalism on Science and Technology ;
 - d) Explore the potential of co-financing joint programmes and projects, as well as involvement of other stakeholders and potential donors.

ARTICLE III

Consultations

5. The parties agree to meet at least once a year for periodic consultations to review the planning, implementation and outcomes of their cooperation, including discussion of results, challenges and opportunities.

ARTICLE IV

Focal Points

6. The parties hereby designate the following focal points for all purposes associated with this special agreement:
 - a) For the African Union Commission: Director of Human Resources, Science and Technology
 - b) For UNESCO: Director of Communication Development Division, Communication and Information Sector.
7. The focal points will be responsible for :
 - a) Establishing effective communication and liaison with the other party;
 - b) Facilitating the implementation of all aspects of this special agreement;
 - c) Monitoring the implementation of this special agreement and evaluating the cooperation activities that are undertaken between the two parties;
 - d) Identifying further opportunities for cooperation; and
 - e) Report to the HRST Commissioner and the ADG for Communication on the implementation of this agreement
8. The parties will, within 6 months of the signing of this special agreement, prepare a list of potential cooperation activities for an agreed period, based on each institutions strategies, programmes and budget.

ARTICLE V

Privileges, Immunities and Facilities of Both Parties

Nothing in this Special Agreement shall be interpreted or construed as a waiver or a modification of the privileges, immunities and facilities, which the "parties" enjoy by virtue of the international agreements and laws applicable to the organizations.

ARTICLE VI

Amendments

This Special Agreement shall only be amended by mutual written consent between the Parties. Any proposed amendments shall be notified in writing and the instruments

expressing these amendments shall be appended to and shall become an integral part of this Special Agreement.

ARTICLE VII
Dispute settlement

1. Any dispute that may arise over the interpretation or application of this Special Agreement shall be settled by direct negotiations between the Parties. Should this not provide a solution satisfactory to both Parties, the Parties shall submit the dispute to an arbitration procedure agreed upon by them.
2. No provision of this Special Agreement shall be understood as an expressed or implicit waiver of the privileges and immunities to which the Parties are entitled.
3. International Law shall be the applicable law governing this agreement.

ARTICLE VIII
Entry into Force, Duration and Termination

9. The present special agreement shall come into force upon signature by both parties, and shall remain in force for a period of three years from that date. If both parties express a desire to extend or replace special agreement they shall meet before the expiration of this special agreement to discuss the matter.
10. If the agreement between the African Union Commission (AUC) and UNESCO concluded on 24 January 2006 is terminated according to its clause XI, the present special agreement will be automatically terminated at the date of termination of the above-mentioned agreement of 24 January, 2006.
11. Each of the Parties may terminate this Agreement upon three months notice in writing to the other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized for this purpose by the respective organizations, have signed this Special Agreement.

**For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization**

Abdul Waheed Khan

**Assistant Director-General for
Communication and Information**



Signature:

Place and date:

Paris, France 8 July 2009

For the African Union Commission

Jean-Pierre Ezin

**African Union Commissioner for
Human Resources, Science and
Technology**



Signature:

Place and date:

Paris, France 8 July 2009