

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE AFRICAN UNION (AU)
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)**

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The African Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

RECALLING the cooperation agreement of 10 July 1968 between the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

RECALLING the adoption of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, on 11 July 2000, in Lomé (Togo), establishing the Union whose tasks and activities are, inter alia, to accelerate the integration of the Member States of the African Union in the fields of education, science, culture and communication, in particular through its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme,

RECALLING also that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was created for the purpose of advancing, through the educational, scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of mankind for which the United Nations Organization was established and which its Charter proclaims,

NOTING that the African Union has inherited the agreements, conventions and treaties concluded under the aegis of the OAU,

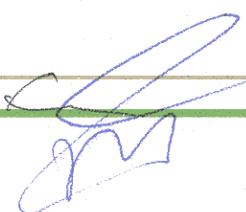
DESIROUS of coordinating their respective efforts in pursuit of their common goals within the framework of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Constitution of UNESCO,

The African Union (hereinafter referred to as "the Union ") and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter referred to as "UNESCO"),

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS :

Article I
Cooperation

1. The Union and UNESCO agree to cooperate through their appropriate bodies.
2. This cooperation will extend, inter alia, to the following fields:
 - (i). education ;
 - (ii). human resources, natural sciences and technology;
 - (iii). culture ;
 - (iv). human and social sciences ;
 - (v). communication and information ;
 - (vi). dialogue among civilizations ;
 - (vii). culture of peace (post-conflict and reconstruction) ;



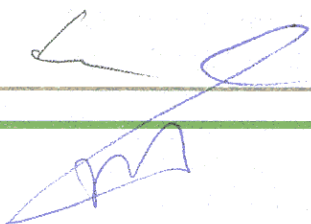
- (viii). management of natural resources and the environment ;
- (ix). crosscutting youth and gender issues ;
- (x). pandemics and epidemics; and
- (xi). the harmonization and coordination of regional and subregional organizations in UNESCO's fields of competence.

Article II Consultations

1. The Union Commission and the UNESCO Secretariat will consult each other regularly on the fields of competence specified in Article I of this Agreement.
2. In order to achieve effective coordination of the efforts of the two organizations and avoid duplication:
 - (i). The Union will inform UNESCO of programmes in the fields specified in Article I of this Agreement. It may study any proposal that UNESCO submits to it concerning its programmes.
 - (ii). UNESCO will inform the Union of programmes concerning its regional activities in Africa. It may study any proposal that the Union submits to it concerning its programmes, particularly in so far as it bears upon the support that UNESCO gives to the implementation of the Union's NEPAD programme.
3. The two organizations will engage, as appropriate, in specific consultations on the choice of the most appropriate means for them of ensuring the full effectiveness of their respective actions.
4. Every two years the Union and UNESCO will in turn convene a Joint Commission at their respective headquarters. This Joint Commission, which is a mechanism of consultation on the implementation of the strategic plan of the Union and the medium-term strategy of UNESCO, will serve as a source of momentum and guidance for the political support to be given to UNESCO's cooperation with Africa by the Union Commission as an important intermediary with African Heads of State and Government. The Joint Commission will also make proposals and recommendations on joint activities whose means of implementation will be spelled out. The follow-up given to the Joint Commission's proposals and recommendations will be a useful indicator for assessing the implementation of this Agreement.

Article III Reciprocal representation

1. The Union will invite UNESCO to attend the meetings of its organs as an observer, in accordance with its procedures in force.



2. UNESCO will invite the Union to send observers to sessions of the General Conference, meetings of the Executive Board and other meetings of interest to the Union convened by UNESCO.

Article IV
Meetings

In appropriate cases and within the framework of meetings convened by either organization, each party may request the cooperation and participation of the other. The scope of such cooperation and participation will in each instance be the subject of mutual agreement having regard to any relevant resolution adopted by the organization responsible for convening the meeting.

Article V
Technical assistance, assistance for research and
assistance in other related areas

Requests for assistance addressed jointly by one or more Member States to either organization will be the subject of consultations between the two organizations.

Article VI
Statistical and legal information


The Union and UNESCO will cooperate to ensure the best use of statistical and legal information and the most efficient utilization of their resources in the collection, analysis, publication and dissemination of such information and to reduce the expenses incurred by the governments and organizations from which such information is obtained.

Article VII
Mutual assistance

The Union and UNESCO will cooperate to encourage their African Member States to ratify Conventions voted by their respective decision-making bodies.

Article VIII
Exchange of information and documentation

Subject to such measures as may be necessary to safeguard the confidential character of certain documents, the two organizations will engage in a full exchange of information and documents concerning the fields specified in Article I of this Agreement.



Article IX
Joint action

1. The Union Commission and the UNESCO Secretariat may agree, by special agreements, to take joint action for the attainment of objectives in the fields specified in Article I of this Agreement.
2. These special agreements will set out the modalities for the respective participation of each of the two organizations in such action and will determine the financial cost to be borne by each of them.

Article X
Implementation of the Agreement

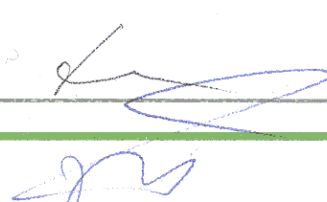
The Chairperson of the Union Commission and the Director-General of UNESCO will consult each other regularly on matters relating to this Agreement. In this connection, they may take the measures needed to ensure effective cooperation and liaison between the two organizations.

Article XI
Entry into force, amendments and duration

1. This Agreement will enter into force on the date of its being signed by duly authorized representatives of the two organizations.
2. The provisions of this Agreement may be amended by mutual agreement between the two parties.
3. Each of the parties may terminate this Agreement upon six (6) months' notice in writing to the other party.
4. This Agreement annuls and supersedes any previous agreement between the parties, in particular the cooperation agreement of 10 July 1968.

Article XII
Provisions relating to other organs of the African Union

For the Union, the Commission is the organ responsible for the implementation of this Agreement. The Union may conclude additional protocols within the framework of this Agreement with UNESCO in the fields of competence of other organs of the Union.




In witness whereof, the Chairperson of the Union Commission and the Director-General of UNESCO have signed this Agreement in four copies, in English and in French, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO)



Koïchiro MATSUURA
Director-General

For the African Union



Alpha Oumar KONARE
Chairperson of the African
Union Commission

24 / 1 - 2006

Date :