

- d) Harmonizing cultural policies for Africa and the Diaspora;
- e) Strengthening knowledge production and sharing by using technology to break down barriers of ignorance and foster dialogue between the Continent and the Diaspora;
- f) Preserving and protecting the development and ownership of Cultural Diversity through education, trade, social development, media and cross-sectoral partnerships;
- g) Creating and implementing policies on Cultural Diversity as a fundamental motivating factor for good governance, peace keeping and security in Africa and the Diaspora;
- h) Strengthening the role of culture and traditional knowledge in social cohesion;
- i) Reversing cultural terrorism, restoring and preserving the cultural properties and legacies belonging to Africa and the Diaspora as a critical factor for sustainable development

Outcomes of the Conference

Consensus was reached on the need to:

- a) Encourage Member States in Africa and the Diaspora to accelerate the ratification of the Convention, integrate it in local legislation, ensure harmonization of cultural policies and involve all stakeholders in post-ratification strategies;
- b) Develop an action plan with time frames for evaluation to ensure delivery at local level;
- c) Implement practical programs on research, curriculum development, cultural tourism and artistic exchange – and integrate them across sectors, nationally, regionally and inter-continentially;
- d) Reaffirm the role and significance of African consciousness, African-centred education, women, youth and elders in the promotion of Cultural Diversity.

Plan of Action

The conference adopted the following plan of action:

1. Roles and Responsibilities of the State
 - a. Accelerate ratification of the Convention on Cultural Diversity and integrate its content in local laws and regulations;
 - b. Develop post-ratification policies and strategies based on inclusion, sustainability and cross-sectoral partnerships;
 - c. Allocate resources and budgets for activities and programmes that protect and promote Cultural Diversity;
 - d. Establish mechanisms for information, research, data collection, monitoring and evaluation;
 - e. Prioritize accountability and report back to Africa and Diaspora on development;
 - f. Empower creative industries through training on rights, intellectual property, patenting, ownership and management.
2. Roles and Responsibilities of Citizens – Civil Society
 - a. Compile cultural statistics on NGOs, structures and practitioners within arts and culture;
 - b. Encourage partnerships with all role players including public and private sector on local, regional and international level;
 - c. Form lobby and pressure groups to monitor and evaluate impact of strategies;
 - d. Embark on fund raising initiatives;
 - e. Examine and revitalise the role of indigenous knowledge and traditional leadership.

3. Roles and Responsibilities of Cultural Practitioners
 - a. Set and maintain standards of excellence in production and service delivery pertaining to Cultural Diversity;
 - b. Form structures for monitoring, evaluation and lobbying;
 - c. Develop and maintain skills database of artists and practitioners within creative industries;
 - d. Develop and implement inter- and intra-regional research programs on cultural and artistic expression.

4. Roles and Responsibilities of inter- and intra-regional bodies
 - a. Develop models of best practices from successful arts and culture programs and projects from the Continent and the Diaspora;
 - b. Foster awareness, recognition and cooperation, through collaboration between governments and communities in Africa and the Diaspora;
 - c. Encourage discussion and exchange around policy-making in countries where there are no existing cultural policies;
 - d. Establish a Working Group on Cultural policies to ensure that policy-making, protection and harmonization stays on the agenda;
 - e. Create awareness programs about links and synergies between Africa and the African Diaspora;
 - f. Avail and create platforms, programmes and resources for youth to ensure and bridge inter-generational gaps and foster posterity.

Activities and Timeline

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE	ACCOUNTABLE STAKEHOLDERS
Ratification of Convention and developing of post-ratification policies and strategies	September 2007	Member States/governments
Monitoring and evaluation Develop structures and pressure groups	September 2007	Member States/governments Civil Society and Creative Industries Host of follow-up conference (Jamaica) (Mali)
Cumulative impact analysis (what difference has been made)	September 2008	Member States/governments Civil Society and Creative Industries

Conclusion

The conference recognizes the vital role of Cultural Diversity as an effective tool in education and campaigns combating xenophobia, intolerance, community fragmentation and conflicts in Africa and the Diaspora.

We call upon Member States in Africa and the African Diaspora to acknowledge culture as an object of universal value and not personal properties of individuals, groups and governments. As people of Africa and the Diaspora we reaffirm that we are truly united and committed to protect, promote and defend the rights to our Cultural Diversity.

Adopted on 14 September 2006 in Sun City – South Africa