



# CELEBRATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

## SYMPOSIUM, PANEL DISCUSSION AND DINNER

### A. Introduction & Context

Since its foundation in November 2010, African Diaspora Council of Switzerland, a national platform for the African Diaspora in Switzerland, has been working in partnership with the Federal Office of Migration on a pilot project of mapping the civil society of the African Diaspora in Switzerland. This involves a census of the African associations, business outlets, religious houses and meeting centers of the African Diaspora in Switzerland. The project also aims at initiating dialogue with Swiss integration authorities and diverse institutions charged with the integration activities. The mapping exercise that took place in two phases concentrated on 13 major cantons that count the most population of the African Diaspora in Switzerland. This led to a national election of the Executive Board and cantonal delegates of the African Council in June 2012. Each of the phases ended with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> congress of the African Diaspora in Switzerland.

The celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the African Union in Bern by the African Diaspora in Switzerland marks the closure of the SwissTour which works to identify and bring the civil society of the African Diaspora together with the Swiss authorities and institutions. It aims at consolidating the efforts of the SwissTour and at the same time demonstrate to the representatives of the African Governments in Switzerland on the real presence and capacity of the African Diaspora in Switzerland.

### B. Aims and Objectives

- 1- The event aims at consolidating the fruits of SwissTour by bringing all the parties and participants of SwissTour together in a festive atmosphere, thus reinforcing the position of the African Diaspora Council in Switzerland as an umbrella Organization of the African Diaspora in Switzerland and a formidable partner of the Swiss government and institutions in the process of integration, international cooperation and development.
2. It also seeks to solidify relations between the African Diaspora in Switzerland with the representatives of the Swiss and African Governments, institutions in Africa and the private sector, potential partners of the African Diaspora en route to international cooperation towards the execution of developmental projects for Africa.
3. At this moment that the African Diaspora is organizing itself on European level, the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the African Renaissance provides a special momentum to unify forces of the African Diaspora in Europe and enhance the building of networking among Diaspora groups. The invitation of African delegates from across Europe will set a mile stone to this effort. It offers the opportunity to familiarize, discuss, exchange, consolidate and forge ahead.

### **C. Activities**

The celebration will take place on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of December at the Rathaus Bern, Parliament of canton Bern, Postgasse 68, 3000 Berne 8**. The event will start by 10 am till dinner time. The people and government of canton Bern has made us honor to use this executive parliament for the event. About 200 participants are expected for the celebration.

Among the activities organized to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the African Union are symposium, panel discussion and a dinner accompanied with different cultural manifestations.

- The symposium will on the one hand expatiate on the journey so far of the African Union, the glorious past, the challenges of today and the perspectives for the future. On the other hand, it will elaborate on the gains of the SwissTour, its impact on integration of the African Diaspora in Switzerland, the current tendency and the expectations for the future and the contribution to Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.

- The panel discussion will concentrate on topics and reflections relating to the role of the African Diaspora in international cooperation and development. This aspect seeks to identify together with representatives of the African government and the host country, the nature and scope of the contributions of the African Diaspora towards the development of Africa... (see the concept as attached).

- The third phase, the socio-cultural evening will portray the rich and beautiful colors of the African culture with African rhythms, music, dance and exposition on the feminine heroes of the African Renaissance. A special fashion show will showcase a new trend in Afro-Euro fashion underscoring the fundamental similarities of the two ancient cultures.

- The evening will round up with a special dinner to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the African Union and the achievement of the African Diaspora Council in Switzerland.

- Delegates from the African Diaspora in Switzerland and across Europe are invited to continue the networking in Switzerland and across Europe. Politicians, technocrats and captains of industries are equally invited to grace the occasion with their knowledgeable inputs and thereby fostering business and economic ties and aims at adding much needed impetus to the development of the African private sector.

- The important of the media for such an event cannot be overemphasized. We have attributed a special role to the media by inviting both print and electronic media from both Switzerland and Africa. During the SwissTour and congresses of the African Diaspora, African Council built strong relations with the media in Switzerland. We shall consolidate on this effort during the celebration.

Further details can be read on the provisional program attached.

### **D. Impact & Outcome**

- The African Diaspora Council of Switzerland is solidified as the national platform for African Diaspora in Switzerland. As the official coordinator of African Diaspora within FIMM Swiss, Forum for the integration of Migrants in Switzerland, the new strength of the African Diaspora will add impetus to FIMM Swiss, thus contributing to the promotion of integration on the national level especially at this moment FIMM Suisse is building bridges across Switzerland towards the Migration session in the Swiss Parliament in 2015.

- Much awareness rose about Africa and the African Diaspora Council within the Swiss population through an extensive participation and wide range media coverage. This highlights the capacity and the seriousness of the African Diaspora in Switzerland. More confidence and thrust is built on the Diaspora to initiate, pilot and manage projects for African development.

- A new partnership is established between the African Diaspora in Switzerland and by extension in Europe and the African governments and institutions. This opens impeccable doors to needed collaboration and partnerships towards successful development of Africa.

#### **E. Budget and Finance plan**

The budget and finance plan are indicated in a separate document as attached.