

2009



**[CSOS' ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
CONSULTATION REPORT]**

Panorama Hotel, 18th September 2009, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Plenary Session I

Chaired by: Dr. Emmanuel Akwetey

The gathering started out with the moderator welcoming all of the participants and thanked all of them for taking their time to participate in this crucial event that would eventually play an important role in the continuing function of CCP-AU as an organisation.

Along with introducing themselves, participants were asked by the moderator to share their expectations, what they aspired this consultation to achieve.

Though these expectations varied to a certain degree most were directed towards looking for better ways of working together, to cooperate and reconcile the differences amongst each other so as to come up with a visible strategy on engaging the AU effectively and sustainably. A few also expected to first learn of CCP-AU's achievements, its strengths and weaknesses and on what elements to make improvements on so as to maintain a cooperative relationship with the AU. Furthermore, many believed that there was a need to interlink the civil society both at the regional and continental levels and as a complementary point, others sought to deliberate upon what the structure of the Centre would be like for it to be representative both of the regional and continental arena. On a more particular note, some sought for a clear distinction to be made between the role of CCP-AU as what it essentially embodies and what actions to be taken for CCP-AU to better perform as a community based organisation. Others also felt that there was a strong need for CSOs' to influence dialogue in AU on issues of justice, governance and Human Rights.

Following the formal introductions, the moderator gave the floor to Ms. Yemisrach Kebede, the Executive Director of the incumbent CCP-AU, to make a brief presentation on the background of the organisation. She started out her presentation by outlining CCP-AU's mission, vision and objectives and gave brief highlights on the works and activities carried out by CCP-AU since its formal establishment, namely CCP-AU conducted five continental conferences which brought together about 350 CSO actors. She also mentioned how CCP-AU had targeted the PRC in Addis to influence decisions of AU summits and that it was the only independent platform of its kind that enables CSOs to convene twice every year. She further touched up on the legal registration situation in Kenya.

She went on and listed the current members of CCP-AU's executive committee as OSJE, Afro Flag Youth Vision, African Youth Forum, Oxfam and Action Aid and also listed the working groups that had been put in place as well. As a final remark, Ms. Kebede posed two questions for the plenary to discuss upon and are as follows:

QUESTION

Following the presentation, for the sake of having an effective discussion, it was decided to have a break out session where participants were divided into two groups to deliberate upon the following questions:

1. What should the common platform of engagement be?
2. How do we envisage working together on this common platform?
3. To identify key areas of engagement on the common platform

Breakout Session 1

Group 1

Chaired by: Joyce Kevin Abalo

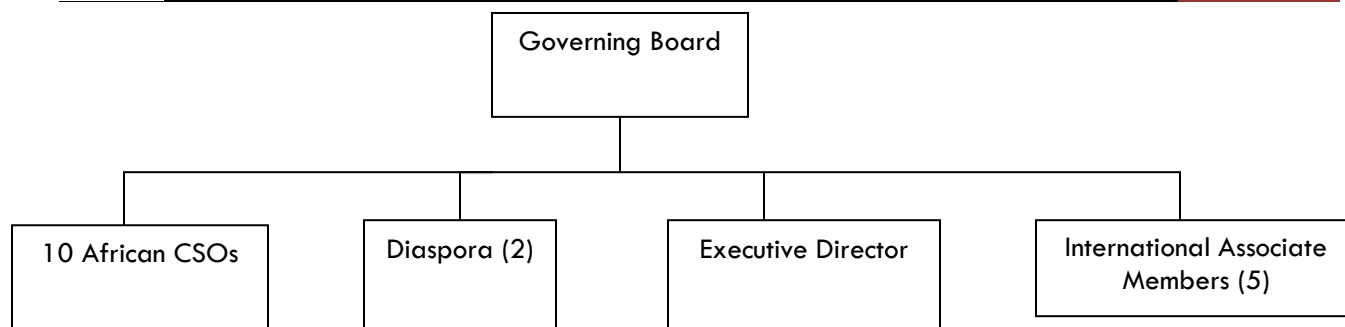
Rapporteur: Bhekinkosi Moyo

The Chair started out the discussion by posing the question if CCP-AU should be a membership organisation or a service provider one that could work to engage the African Union. This question raised up some of the following points:

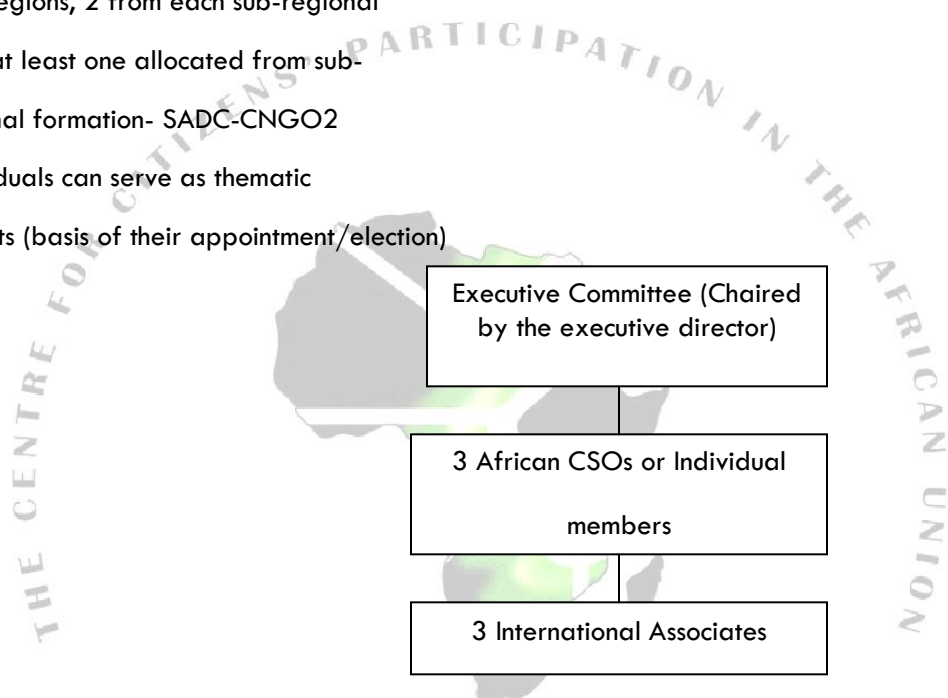
- For CCP-AU to be a representative of its members and be accountable to them, where the members would regard the Centre as the sole forum to engage with the AU and its organs.
- If the Centre is to be a members' representative organisation then it should be able to represent all of the five sub regional stages.

Recommendations:

- For CCP-AU to have a kind of a hybrid system composed of:



- Sub-regions, 2 from each sub-regional and at least one allocated from sub-regional formation- SADC-CNGO2
- Individuals can serve as thematic experts (basis of their appointment/election)



The Executive Committee is to be made up of the elected representatives from above and components to be chaired by CCP-AU Director and should be 3 African CSO's or individual members and 3 international associates.

- an Executive board made up of sub regional representation but would run as a service provider. The Director will answer to the board and also proposed a personal (individual) membership to avoid confusion of issues every time a representative of an organisation is changed. The same individual will represent its organisation in all meetings.

Suggested: to be inclusive and to not avoid INGOs, since they might assist in capacity building

How do we envisage to work together in the common platform?

Suggestions:

- CCP-AU to include in their mandate issues that had not been dealt with before, e.g. education, health, etc and for the Centre to coordinate and lead specialised organisations that work on such issues.
- The nomination and election of the members of the governance board to be left to the task force.
- In addition to the above assignment, the task force together with a hired consultant was also given the responsibility to work on what the future structure of CCP-AU would be like.

Action Points:

- ⇒ To hire a consultant to pool suggestions into a coherent operational document.
- ⇒ Agreed upon the establishment of a task force to analyse further the proposed structure.
- ⇒ The executive director of CCP-AU to submit a proposal to Trust Africa and others by October 8th, 2009.
- ⇒ To identify a consultant by October 15th, 2009
- ⇒ The consultant to submit a Report on the structure/coordination, staffing, financing, day to day managements, external/internal communications, etc along with the task force recommendation on 15th November, 2009.

To identify key areas of engagement on the common platform

Two main suggestions on key areas of engagement were put forward:

- to have broad working groups with specific components falling under them
- not to assign working groups solely set for AU Summit themes

Recommended Working Groups/Clusters:

⇒ Peace and Security

- Transitional Justice
- International/Regional Justice

⇒ Democracy, Governance, Human Rights and Leadership

⇒ Gender Equality and Women's Rights

⇒ Health, Education, Environment [the Centre to lead and coordinate the specialised organisations that are to be incorporated in this group/cluster.]

⇒ Economic Justice

- Trade
- Tax
- Social Protection
- Agriculture/CAADP
- FDI
- Extractives, etc

⇒ AU Government/ Regional Integration

Group 2

Chaired by: Ibrahima Kane

Rapporteur: Abena Tabi

The deliberations within the group started out with the chair outlining the main points of discussion and he opened the floor for suggestions on ways to move forward.

On the Common Platform:

- Most of the group members pointed out that the identity of member organisations and differentiating what they stand for would prove quite essential for CCP-AU. While others chose to concentrate on how to accommodate all stakeholders, whether they be African or non-African, so as the African voice and a genuine African Agenda is kept intact and put forward.
- As a reconciliatory point, it was suggested to consider the separation of fund and leadership, that International Organisations should not be included in the governance board but could still remain active members of CCP-AU.

Recommendations:

- ⇒ An independent African membership organisation
- ⇒ Engaging with the AU Organs and institutions to promote the AU values and objectives.
- ⇒ To strengthen the opportunities for a substantive CSO engagement.

How do we envisage working together in the common platform?

Suggestions:

- Strong points have been forwarded on the need for strengthening the already existing Secretariat of the CCP-AU here in Addis. Some had pointed out that once the Kenyan registration had been finalised then registration by assimilation here in Ethiopia would be easier.
 - Since the bulk of the work would involve the AU Commission, there would be a need to build personal contacts
 - There will be no need for a single operational presence and so to consider the possibility of a sort of branch offices.
 - To maintain a strong Secretariat, it would be wise not to have a rigorous or elaborate structure that could make it difficult for NGOs or citizens to access CCP-AU.
- The need for concentration on thematic vs. regional clusters

- For CCP-AU to have continuity and strength, effective thematic areas should be developed.

Recommendations:

- ⇒ CCP-AU to reflect a democratic process which includes General Assembly electing an Executive Committee
- ⇒ The creation of regional and thematic focal points
- ⇒ Creation of a very strong Secretariat
- ⇒ The current statute to be revised based on the above three points

To identify key areas of engagement on the common platform

Suggestions:

- There was a strong case where engagement vis a vis the accessibility of information should be considered.
 - The sole focus on AU Summit would be quite redundant and that engagement throughout the year should be made, both leading up to and following up on the biannual Summits
- To consider a thematic area dealing with AU transformation.
- To identify thematic areas and to put up for discussion for the plenary e the components to be clustered under it.

Recommended thematic areas/clusters:

- ⇒ Economic Justice
- ⇒ Gender Equality
- ⇒ Democratic Governance and Human Rights
- ⇒ Peace and Security

⇒ AU Transformation

⇒ Provision of space for any group to operate based on its capacity [specific thematic issues to be dealt with specific organisations]

Plenary Session II

Chaired by: Ibrahima Kane

After the break out sessions, the two groups merged and presented their respective group recommendations. Following the presentations, the points of consensus were outlined, being the common platform, strengthening of the Secretariat with greater representative capacity and the thematic areas, as ways of solidifying collaboration of CSOs' engagement in the AU.

The Chair raised the essential question that dealt with the status of international organisations in CCP-AU and their roles in it as well. In response, all participants forwarded their ideas vis a vis these three following issues:

- International vs. African NGOs/CSOs
- Funding/financial support
- Governance

They first sought out to define what membership in this case really entailed and with that they reconciled on the fact that though most of the financial support would be provided by international organisations, we cannot exclude their partnership in fear of them undermining the efforts of the African/regional CSOs or organs. Therefore, so as to avoid this predicament, international organisations should not be included within the governing body.

Keeping in mind that CCP-AU should be inclusive to the extent possible, the Chair also underlined the importance of putting forward a genuine African agenda and to further deliberate on how to set up the CCP-AU structure so as to accommodate all of these factors.

Since the task force had been entrusted with this responsibility earlier, they decided that the team should also assign a consultant to deal with this matter. In addition, the task force was also

assigned to come up with a defined number of board members taking into consideration regional representation where the domain of the already existing RECs should be included in addition to representation from the Maghreb and Semite?? (Two seats).

Plenary Session III

Chaired by: Hakima Abbas

After all participants had gathered around following the lunch break, the moderator directly delved into discussions and gave the floor to Mr. Desire Assogbavi, Head of Oxfam's Liaison Office with the African Union, of the to make his presentation.

He started out his presentation by trying to lay out key issues of discussion and how to harmonise the various initiatives that exist in engaging the continental body. Mr. Assogbavi felt that over the last 5 years, there were many attempts to coordinate CSOs' engagement of those bodies and that this consultation would try to create a discussion forum that will help all that were present to learn better from the various engagement initiatives, in order to explore ways and options of harmonising their actions for a better use of their resources and to agree on a concrete plan of action.

He then continued on listing the different organisations that work on and with the AU and suggested that the work being done around the AU should be regarded through three main components:

- The Executive/operational body, the AUC based here in Addis and on which most of the attention was put on
- The parliament, the real representative of the African citizens based in South Africa
- The judiciary body which Mr. Assogbavi thought has totally been abandoned by the AU

He emphasised the fact that when thinking of engaging the AU or encouraging good governance and its operation in the national level, we'll have to see it through all of the three dimensions and that they should all be equally addressed.

He further pointed out that there seemed to be a consensus on the need to build on what already exists, to better coordinate reinforce and strengthen the current CCP-AU Secretariat. He also mentioned the need of agreeing on communication channels, whether to disseminate information through list-serve, websites, etc so as to share information amongst ourselves to avoid repetition and replication.

Moreover, he felt it important to consider how to proceed with AU leadership and organs, to consider the AUC as a whole but also to look at ECOSOCC and CIDO since they were meant to be the leeway for CSOs to reach the AU, so as to have a better impact and add value to the functioning of AU as a whole.

As a way to move forward, he thought it important to come up a strategic plan and made several suggestions:

- Whether to consider engaging countries on an individual basis or to take sample case studies depending on the issue taken under consideration
- On the location of CCP-AU, to consider the fact that strong decision making bodies are based here in Addis and that Capitals usually resort to them on various issues since they know what's really happening here at the AUC centre
- To reconsider if continental conferences are necessary or may be to consider having a more focalised experts meeting
- Also to think about engaging the various Capitals and not only to focus on the AU organs, so as to reverse the decisions of individual countries as well.

With these suggestions, Mr. Assogbavi ended his presentation and opened the floor for more discussions, comments and questions.

On two particular questions, the moderator referred them to be addressed to the Executive director of CCP-AU since they revolved around the workings of CCP-AU. The questions are as follows:

- If relations exist between CCP-AU and the organisations that Mr. Assogbavi had listed earlier and what it looked like? and;

- How many of these listed organisations were affiliated to or have applied for membership in CCP-AU.

On the question of affiliation, Ms. Kebede responded that these organisations had been affiliated one way or another, whether through institutional or activity support and that they had started the work much prior than CCP-AU and that they will continue on with that work. However, she pointed out that this does not prevent CCP-AU from conducting its coordinating/facilitating role for the national or grassroots or African led/country based CSOs that do not have the financial capability or the access that many of these organisations have. Mr. Assogbavi reinforced this argument by pointing out that some organisations are more strong and have better know how on one matter/issue than on others and in similar manner, another organisation may function better on another different issue and so he believed that focus should be on looking for ways on how to build on these experiences and that further emphasis should be put on how we could complement one another.

Questions on the definition of membership was also raised and after an excessive discussion, and while concluding the discussion, the moderator pointed out that the issue of membership was discussed on the first session but that it had remained unresolved and that the task force should deal with this issue and come back with concrete answers, although she indicated that there was some consensus about what that might look like. Further consensus was also reached on the fact that CCP-AU should remain a platform for the civil society and that this will not change the fact that people/organisations will work individually on the AU and that CCP-AU should be considered as a place where we coordinate and harmonise our activities.

Ms. Abbas continued on and explained that the following session will deal with how to use this platform (CCP-AU) effectively and Mr. Assogbavi's presentation she had laid out the following framing questions for the two groups to deliberate on:

1. How do we comprehensively engage the AU and its organs, the AUC, PAP, ACHPR, Court, etc?
2. What type of information do we need and how do we coordinate this info?
3. How do we engage the AU Civil Society bodies like the ECOSOCC, CIDO?
4. How best to approach advocacy at the national level?

5. The sustainability of efforts, how do we continue to support CCP and other efforts?
6. The timing and structure of citizens conference, whether it's worth having smaller issue based conferences or to keep on with the continental ones. When to have these conferences? At the moment, we have them just before the Summits which may not be as necessarily effective as having them way prior to the summits, does it mean we need regional conferences, etc

Various comments on these questions were forwarded and Ms. Abbas summarised, acknowledging the fact that there was an outstanding question if whether this would mean expanding the role of CCP-AU. Furthermore, she pointed out that decision making should be left to the governance board. This view however was opposed by Mr. Kagoro since he thought it would render this whole experience meaningless and that the purpose of this consultation was to make its outcomes binding decisions. As a reconciliatory point, Ms. Abbas reiterated saying that on points of convergence this might be possible but in case of divergence, forward them to the task force and hence emphasis should be put on further consensus building for further decision making. With this note, she asked participants to once again have a break out session to discuss in detail the aforementioned points.

Break Out Session 2

Group 1

Chaired by: Ms. Joyce Kevin Abalo

Rapporteur: Bhekinkosi Moyo

Discussions within the group started out by answering the framing questions:

How do we comprehensively engage the AU and its organs, the AUC, PAP, ACHPR, Court, etc?

The group had an extensive discussion and agreed on one point that there is a need to develop a process of identifying or scoping CSOs that are working around these organs so as to identify their strengths, weaknesses and areas to collaborate on and so in terms of practical recommendations CCP-AU can:

- Focus on coalition building with these institutions or CSOs that are already working in these areas
- Prioritise joint programming
- Be able to amplify the voices of these groups e.g. instead of simply working around the themes of the summit to actually work on agendas brought forward by these groups that normally did not get the platform
- develop a new venture of CSOs that are engaging with the AU and other organs from a thematic perspective and then to also investigate the readiness of the AU itself to include civil society
- target individual commissioners at the AU through thematic focus
- acknowledge new developments like the NEPAD where with its new mandate NEPAD is actually thinking of doing a scoping study of pan African CSOs working on different thematic areas and then hold a pan African civil society meeting and so this may be a way of beginning to develop a process of engaging the NEPAD

What type of information do we need and how do we coordinate this info?

It was suggested that CCP-AU should provide information way ahead of meetings regarding may be the agenda, decisions, issues, etc and to go about it in such a way:

- CCP-AU along with the task team to develop a communication strategy which will deal with both the internal and external medium
 - a long term view when developing communication tools must be taken
 - to develop a short video on frequently asked questions about how to engage the AU (for instance)
- CCP-AU to hold monthly discussions on thematic areas so these could be public dialogues as well as policy dialogues which can also be arranged according to themes
- to consciously institutionalise some of the successful initiatives at individual levels e.g. there were thoughts that the late Tajudeen and others would come together to have these

dialogues and so CCP-AU to take this opportunity to institutionalise what had been done in the individual level

- Useful to develop a database of all institutions that have attended CCP-AU conferences
- To engage the media like IPS, Media Institute for Southern Africa, Media Institute for Western Africa, PANOS, Fahamu and others
- In developing the communication strategy, there's a need to pay attention to
 - capacity building,
 - Providing incentives as well as recognition. It was established that for journalists to continue on reporting on what we are doing a need to develop an award for best reporting journalist on the work we are doing around the AU and other similar initiatives
- Finally, it's important to start approaching communication giants like MTN and others because they actually share the philosophy and the approach of integration around the continent

How do we engage the AU Civil Society bodies like the ECOSOCC, CIDO?

The group discussed that in the past national organisations were not coordinated to participate in the processes, for example in election of ECOSOCC and so it might be useful to be proactive in assisting national organisations to partake in these processes. However, it is important to be aware of some of the constraints that are involved but the overall idea was the need to build on numbers and contents in terms of research productivity, advocacy, visibility, etc to materialise on the new vision that was beginning to build up and once strength is built, it would be unavoidable for ECOSOCC and CIDO to recognise this voice that is emerging. Therefore:

- Useful to consider organising joint convening and events with ECOSOCC or CIDO
- To establish a team that continues to dialogue with ECOSOCC and CIDO on collaboration.
- The ECOSOCC clusters might be a useful link to CCP thematic focus areas but important to have a long term view and make ourselves indispensable through research, vision, content,

visibility, etc and that we should maximise pressure in Addis through the permanent representative committee

The sustainability of efforts, how do we continue to support CCP and other efforts?

Advocacy at national and regional level, the group members thought had been addressed in previous plenary so they moved on to the issue of sustainability and looked at it in terms of three perspectives: resources, time and structure

- In terms of resources they saw the need for a very strong and focused secretariat since currently it's quite weak but at the same time to be careful not to make it too big to a point where it would become unmanageable. In this respect, the group saw:
 - The need for some commitment for Seat funding to kick start all of these processes and the new structure and that it might be useful to phase activities instead of doing them all at once, for instance instead of having two continental meetings to have one, etc
 - The need to develop a fund raising strategy
- In terms of time, when looking at the decisions that AU, RECs and others have made, it provides the opportunity to use them as leverage and so the need for a strong structure that is evolving and flexible to some of these developments is amplified

The timing and structure of citizens conference, whether it's worth having smaller issue based conferences or to keep on with the continental ones. When to have these conferences? At the moment, we have them just before the Summits which may not be as necessarily effective as having them way prior to the summits, does it mean we need regional conferences, etc

- often main target are the biannual AU Summit and this is where when going forward the need to arrange a bigger group meeting arises and only for political purposes. But as for other thematic meetings,
 - actually possible to arrange and align them with ministerial meetings at regional levels
 - This would further mean that we have to track ministerial meetings

- To have one citizens' conference which we can do a month before the main summit mainly in July.

Group 2

Chaired by: Ibrahima Kane

Rapporteur: Yemisrach Gebru

Discussions within the group started out with the chair outlining a brief background of CCP-AU and pointed out that the main medium of engagement were the continental conferences where participation was various and upon their completion, communiqués were developed then shared among contacts. Discussions were made along these lines:

1. Principle of Engagement
2. Coordination
3. National vs. Regional vs. Continental
4. How CCP-AU to accommodate all these processes

How do we comprehensively engage the AU and its organs, the AUC, PAP, ACHPR, Court, etc?

- When considering ways of engaging the AU, then it is important to consider that interests vary (Peace and Security, Democracy and Governance, ...)
- Members of the group agreed that most of the work had been on ad hoc basis and that now there was a need to have more well organised system with regular information providing for stakeholders and to look for ways to coordinate the work and to ensure all are in the same page to meet with AU values and implementation
- Mostly activities and initiatives of engagement are done after the doors have been closed - after policies have been adopted or passed out and hence to make input on AU decisions/policies and when AU doesn't have the capacity or enough know how on a subject matter , not to approach them in a manner of telling them what to do but to add value as partners

Recommendations:

- ⇒ When it comes to engaging different organs, to develop different modalities
- ⇒ To assign specific interlocutors when dealing with specific AU organs
- ⇒ The motive of engagement embedded in the thematic areas
- ⇒ The fact that when engaging a body like AU, influence or strength or face value very important and so CCP-AU should be able to command respect
- ⇒ To consider advisory role of CCP, to have the tree result of the forest so as not to end up with nothing after big discussion
- ⇒ CCP-AU to create links and develop contacts, there would be no need to go to Midrand to engage parliament instead to resort to CCP-AU
- ⇒ in addition to technical advisory role, being actually there and understanding the background and dynamics quite important

What type of information do we need and how do we coordinate this info?

Group members agreed that sharing of information in the form of reports, etc was quite critical and so to consider:

- ⇒ When circulating information, without enough background analysis then not very useful
- ⇒ When we have information to disclose then people would notice that they are being monitored and are of interest and so would bring about more result
- ⇒ The use of ICT to disseminate information is crucial
- ⇒ CCP-AU to be a hub of information dissemination (through list-serve for example)
- ⇒ Having contacts of important people and this might show how important CCP-AU as an organisation is commanding respect

- ⇒ CCP-AU to give broad information, factsheet, calendar updates so as to explain a certain issue if open for to CSO and participation so as to instigate specific interest

How best to approach advocacy at the national level?

Regarding the national arena, CCP-AU not only to serve its organisational members rather each thematic group should have specific concentration:

- ⇒ Efforts of national governments to be taken under consideration
- ⇒ CCP-AU to prepare an information package so as to help national NGOs to create observatories in order to lobby for implementation of the decisions
- ⇒ After each AU session, debriefing is very important and so coordinating on these issues at national level very important

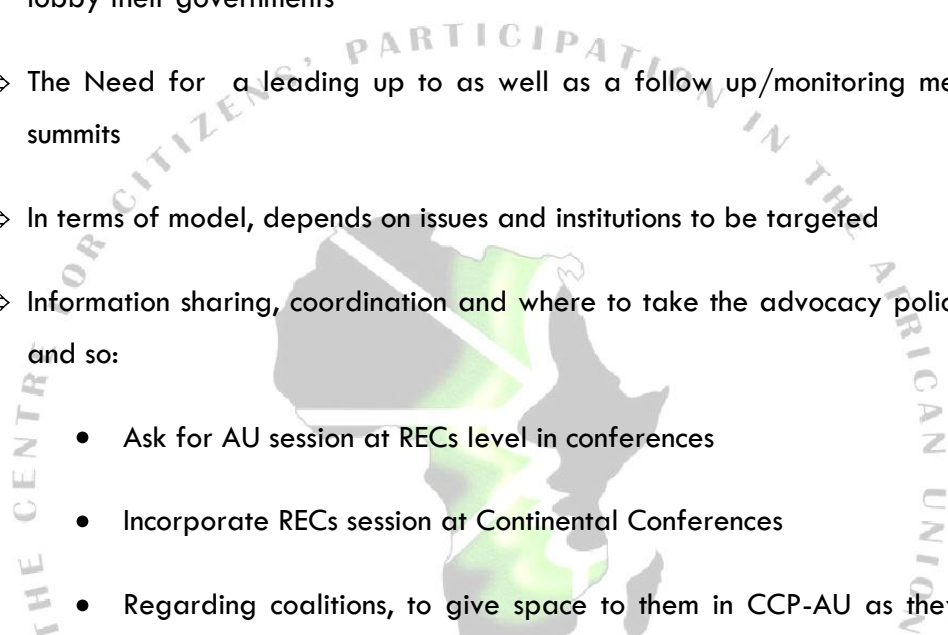
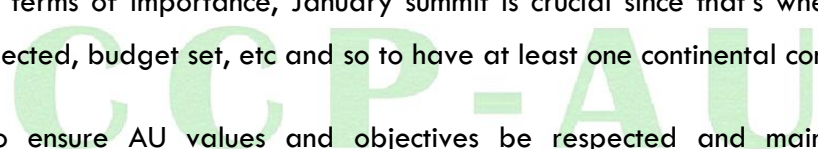
The sustainability of efforts, how do we continue to support CCP and other efforts?

Group members agreed to regard CCP-AU as a membership organisation that exists to serve the civil society and citizens at large and also to consider coordination as a process, engagement being the end product. Therefore there was:

- ⇒ For instance instead of CCP-AU always looking for funds before each conference, to have funding for three years solely for the conferences...
- ⇒ A need of a smart partnership of thematic groups, mapping of CSO activity (national, regional, continental) should be the main task of CCP-AU
- ⇒ Identification of key actors and players, ambassadors ministries
- ⇒ Meet and greet service, contact building
- ⇒ Setting up of a team to carry out these tasks and to develop a coordinating mechanism within the Secretariat
- ⇒ To consider success stories ISS, ACC, NGO Forum and the task force to catalogue best practices

The timing and structure of citizens conference, whether it's worth having smaller issue based conferences or to keep on with the continental ones. When to have these conferences? At the moment, we have them just before the Summits which may not be as necessarily effective as having them way prior to the summits, does it mean we need regional conferences, etc

Conferences could be seen as platform for discussion and harmonisation.

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- ⇒ To pass thematic issues or conference issues to onto national actors so as for them to lobby their governments
 - ⇒ The Need for a leading up to as well as a follow up/monitoring mechanism after summits
 - ⇒ In terms of model, depends on issues and institutions to be targeted
 - ⇒ Information sharing, coordination and where to take the advocacy policy is important and so:
 - Ask for AU session at RECs level in conferences
 - Incorporate RECs session at Continental Conferences
 - Regarding coalitions, to give space to them in CCP-AU as they specialise in their own fields
 - ⇒ In terms of importance, January summit is crucial since that's when the chairperson is elected, budget set, etc and so to have at least one continental conference at this time
 - ⇒ To ensure AU values and objectives be respected and maintained, CCP-AU to facilitate helping people to have meetings

Plenary Session III

Chaired by: Hakima Abbas

After the respective presentations of the two groups, the moderator indicated that there were areas of convergence, especially on documenting success stories or best practices, in the sense there was a need to map both what was being done and how to go about it; the ideas of database, factsheets etc; and on analysis of how to engage. The rest of issues, she forwarded for discussion.

The first to forward a comment was Mr. Kagoro, who brought on the table two main issues to consider. Firstly, he thought it wise to first constitute the task force based on regional and thematic representation. He proposed a group of not more than seven and not less than five to constitute the team. Secondly, he raised the issue of engagement of the national level and purported that there would be national issues of continental significance and vice versa. Hence, he suggested following a cyclical approach in this matter and for the working groups to undertake the task of information sharing and communication. He put it as a word of caution stating “to bite small chunks at a time” since all of it could not be handled by the Secretariat.

Other participants like Mr. Kane and Mr. Abiy forwarded shared their concerns on the fact that a task force composed of seven people would be unmanageable or difficult to convene and that three or four people that have a good knowledge about CCP-AU would be sufficient to constitute the task force. Some others like Dr. Akwetey voiced their opinions that this team should have know how of the national vs. regional vs. continental dynamics and to be careful not to burden the CCP-AU Secretariat more than it could handle.

Through a request from a participant, the purpose of forming a task force was also elaborated:

- To compile everything that had been developed and said at the consultation
- To help the executive director develop TORs
- To Engage a consultant who will do a report that is going to be looked at by the task force along with the executive director and for both to give feedback to the consultant before it is presented to those present here
- To propose ways of structuring, (regional vs. thematic representation)

In brief, the moderator summarised the above discussions and put forth that there will be a transitional period in which a task force will be set up based on the consensus from the consultation and for the areas that need more elaboration, TORs are going to be developed for the consultant and that consultant will look at what was suggested and will in turn give suggestions, scenarios, for the areas of divergence and how to build on the working groups. Then, the task force will deal with this and come up with a final proposal for the way forward beyond the transition period and asserted that funding for this project has been secured.

However, members had yet to agree on the timeframe and numbers/constitution of the task force. A very elaborate discussion ensued regarding this issue and since most of the decisions entailing themes, the common platform and how and with whom to work have been agreed upon and the fact that the task force was only to aid in the operationalisation and phasing of the implementation of all this, it was decided that the time frame should not span more than six months. After taking into consideration that the members of the task team will have their own jobs to attend to but not disregarding the fact that they would have to still work under the constraint of time, by taking the middle ground, the deadline for deliverables was set at January where the consultant was expected to look at the different scenarios presented above to move on to operationalisation and the task force was then expected to come up with a plan of action to move forward.

The only matter left was with whom the task force was to be constituted. The basis of constitution was agreed upon as follows:

- 3 from East, South and West Africa
- 1 from women's group
- 1 from experts group
- 1 from INGOs
- 1 from Media

On this basis, the following names had also been agreed upon:

- Bhekinkosi Moyo, due to his sustained interests in structure and other issues like that
- Hakima Abbas, to bring in media and other related interests on board

- Ibrahima Kane and Brian Kagoro, as representatives of INGOs and conveners
- Don Deya, representing East Africa
- George Mukundi, representing Southern Africa
- Dr. Emmanuel Akwetey, representing West Africa

Following these decisions, three participants put forth their AOBs:

- Year of African Peace, on 2010 where CCP-AU to consider taking advantage of the request of collaboration on activities called by the Peace and Security Department of AU
- World Cup 2010, which will be visiting Africa and for CCP-AU to take advantage of the huge trade and investment initiatives and opportunity for massive publicity
- Workshop on Governance and Cooperation, a Latin American, Asian and African initiative to be held here and to get invitations from Executive Director of CCP-AU

On a final note, the moderator passed the floor to Ms. Kebede to wrap up the consultation. Ms. Kebede thanked all of the participants for their work and input. She indicated that it was by far the most productive meeting that CCP-AU had since they last met about a year ago. Lastly, she assured the participants that the Secretariat will take the lead in organising the task force and begin communications as soon as possible. She once again forwarded her heart felt thanks to all who attended.

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