



**CONSULTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND  
EVALUATION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY,  
ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE  
February 14 to 16, 2013  
King Fahd Hotel, Dakar, Senegal**

**DEPARTEMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**  
**WITH THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT OF THE AFRICA GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE**



## **CONTEXT**

The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, adopted on January 30 2007 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union which entered into force on February 15, 2012 is an important document designed to organize political, economic, social and cultural governance in Africa. It is also an instrument to contribute to the institutionalization of democratic culture in Africa through the conduct of impartial, credible, honest and fair electoral processes, as well as taking into account the size of human rights in prospect of promotion and protection of human dignity.

Nineteen (19) member states of the African Union are now part to the Charter, namely Mauritania, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Lesotho, Zambia, South Africa, Guinea, Chad , Niger, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Cameroon, Malawi and Mali.

Twenty-five (24) countries have signed the Charter but have not committed to be part and Ten (10) States have neither signed nor ratified.

Strategic document of the African Union in the areas of Democracy, Elections and Governance, this Charter shall be known and applied to positively influence policy and strategic directions in relation to the components it covers, in accordance to the Decisions of the Executive Council (EX.CL/Dec.525 [XVI]) (EX.CL/619 (XVIII)). Such a goal requires, in addition to their strong mobilization, regular consultations between the various stakeholders that are Member States, institutions and programs of the Union bodies, the Regional Economic Communities, civil society and the media. This is a prerequisite for the effective and efficient implementation of the Charter.

Taking into account this requirement, the African Union Commission (Department of Political Affairs) intends to hold consultations with various stakeholders in order not only to define the strategic guidelines for its implementation, but also to incorporate in its approach the need for harmonization of existing mechanisms to ensure monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Charter, and if necessary initiate reflection on the development of a protocol ensuring the implementation and monitoring and assessment of its provisions.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

These consultations are planned from February to April 2013 and involved the efforts of the Department of Political Affairs to (1) engage in direct discussions with the Member States that have ratified the Charter on strategic directions for its implementation, (2) to initiate consultation to validate the work of the Expert on the evaluation of the Charter for the strengthening of implementation of the logical framework of monitoring and evaluation. These consultations will be held with the support of independent experts and writers of the Charter.



The first activity is to stimulate reflection on the strategic directions for the implementation of the Charter, bringing together representatives of Member States which have ratified, representatives of institutions and programs of the African Union, representatives of the Regional Economic Communities, reflection and study centers, civil society, media, private sector.... to identify concrete actions to be implemented in order to give practical content to this Charter.

The second activity is the adoption of a mechanism for the Department of Political Affairs to provide a logical framework for accurate monitoring and evaluation of the Charter, in perfect harmony with stakeholders with a view to structuring dialogue focus the notion of responsibility in promoting democracy, elections and governance on the continent.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of these consultations is to achieve the effective and efficient implementation of the Charter in order to positively influence the lives of African people on participatory, accountable and inclusive democracy issues.

They also aim to:

- Engage stakeholders: Member States, institutions and programs of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, civil society, media, partners ... for support and to support the implementation of initiatives in order to implement the Charter;
- Engage media professionals and disseminate to the public opinion of the Member States, initiatives and priorities adopted within the framework of the promotion and implementation of the Charter;
- Identify areas requiring reforms or actions to be taken to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Charter;
- Suggest the possibilities for application and reinforcement of existing decisions and resolutions taken by African bodies in relation to democracy, elections and governance, even their harmonization;
- Encourage partners to support the African Union initiatives and decisions of its bodies.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The Consultations should mainly lead to the following results:

- Identify the strategic directions contained in the Charter relating to the following thematic sections: Democracy, Elections, and Governance;
- Suggest to the African Governance Platform, an approach to translate into action the strategic orientations of the Charter;



- Identify through the experience of states that have ratified the Charter, the challenges to its implementation;
- Identify strategies for acceptance and support of the various stakeholders in the promotion and operationalization of the values conveyed by the Charter;
- Allow experiences sharing and good practices for the extension of the Charter;
- Continue efforts for the popularization of the Charter.

## **PROCESSING**

The Consultations will take place in two phases:

- 1- The workshop on the strategic directions for the implementation of the Charter will be held from February 14 to 16, 2013 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal. It will be co-organized by the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission and the Africa Governance Institute within the framework of their joint work program for the year 2013.

The workshop discussion will focus on:

- The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- The implementation of the guidelines of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- Strategies to strengthen the popularization of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the optimization of its application;
- The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the evaluation of governance in Africa.

The workshop will lead to the adoption of recommendations based on the orientations of the strategic plan.

- 2- The consultation for the validation of the work of the Expert on the evaluation of the Charter for the strengthening of implementation of the logical framework and monitoring and evaluation will take place in March and April 2013. This consultation will take place with the support of independent experts and writers of the Charter. The partners who participated in the drafting and promotion of the Charter will be involved indeed.

## **Documentation**

Are automatically considered as working papers:



- The Constitutive Act of the African Union;
- The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- The African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration;
- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- The AU Convention on the prevention and fight against corruption;
- The African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;
- The Durban Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa;
- The Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government;
- And Any other document considered as relevant.