



## Second International Conference & Annual Thabo Mbeki Africa Day Lecture 25- 27 May 2012

*“The African Union after a Decade: Putting African Unity First means Putting Humanity First.”*

### INTRODUCTION

The Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA) in collaboration with the Tshwane University of Technology’s (TUT) Institute of Economic Research on Innovation (IERI) and the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute (TMALI), DST, NRF, DITSONG and will host an international conference from 25- 27 May 2012 in Pretoria at the TUT Pretoria Campus. There will be an exhibition during the day on 25 May 2012 at the DITSONG followed by the annual Thabo Mbeki Africa Day Lecture at UNISA in the evening at UNISA Campus. The next two days will be devoted entirely in presenting scientific works to explore in depth the African Union and the way it succeeded or failed to carry out the functions it mandated itself to do.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The launch of the African Union (AU) in Durban, South Africa in July, 2002 heralded significant advances in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid. The AU symbolised the opening of the construction phase of African political, economic, social, science, engineering and technological unity. Whilst the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was established mainly for ending colonialism and apartheid, the AU explicitly sought the building of full African integration. AU affirmed the logo, the spirit, hope, and the imagination that Pan- African integration is possible, desirable and necessary after the formal ending of the phase of colonialism and apartheid. The AU represents Africa's freedom and happiness to take independent action in pursuit of the opportunities emergent in completing Africa's integrated economy. It affirms the willingness of African States to join a **unity project identity first** to be able to know how, together **united** rather than **fragmented**, they can deal with and respond to the challenges Africa faced from the relics of the colonial legacy and the current processes of globalisation.

This conference is a follow up initiative from the 25 – 27 May 2010 international Symposium. The conference will be held annually and sustainably to continue the production of refined high scholarship, broad, deep and continuous Africa-wide education and the promotion of grassroots and bottom up citizen expressing and citizen organising activism. The focus in 2011 is on the AU, which was created by Africans to reverse the damage created by the Scramble for Africa and actualise the

full integration of Africa. Why does the African Union fail to take united action in the face of an attempt to ‘re-colonize Africa’? Africa is able to make declarations and adopt good and relevant policies, but implementation of such policies in a united manner remains a goal to be realised. The recent vivid case is the failure to act with unity with the recent NATO interventions in Libya. It is thus relevant to ask the question: Ten years after its establishment, has the AU lived up to its expectations and aspirations of Africans? Has Africa managed to solve Africa’s problems free from the manipulation of others that often do not have Africa’s interests or values at heart? Has the AU delivered in the peer review, peace keeping, security, development, infrastructure, economic areas related to promoting Africa’s overall standing in the world? Or was the expectation on AU too much and hence misplaced?

## **THE PILLARS AND SUB THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE**

The overall theme of the conference is *‘the African Union after a Decade: Putting African Unity First Means Putting Humanity First!’* The pillars and sub-themes of the conference are as follows:

### **Pillar 1: From the OAU to the African Union: State nation, Society and the Good Governance in Africa**

- 1.1 AU proclamations on Africa’s democracy
- 1.2 The architecture of peace and security in Africa
- 1.3 Regional Economic Groupings and the AU
- 1.4 Clash of values and interests in the AU
- 1.5 Role of pivotal States in the AU
- 1.6 State Pan Africanism vs African Nation Pan Africanism, the African nation and Renaissance
- 1.7 Does the Sahara divide or Unite Africa?
- 1.8 The role of African Diaspora to ensure the renaissance of the continent

### **Pillar 2: Peace and Security Architecture and its impact on Africa**

- 2.1 The role of AU Peace and Security Council
- 2.2 UN Security Council – Capacity development to AU
- 2.3 The World Court of Justice
- 2.4 The International Criminal Court (ICC)
- 2.4 UN Human Rights Commission
- 2.5 The ‘Arab Spring’ and its wider impact in Africa
- 2.4 The challenges of Arab – African Unity
- 2.5 Interventions of African Union in Peace and Security on the continent
- 2.6 Governance and management of national resources in conflict resolution

### **Pillar 3: Africa in the World Economy/Africa in the World Trading System**

- 3.1 Multilateral governance of world trade and its effects on Africa/Africa in the WTO: pros and cons for Africa.
- 3.2 The impact of the international financial institutions in the economies of Africa during the post-colonial era and first decade of the AU.

- 3.3 Managing abundant African mineral resources for the advancement of the continent.
- 3.4 Trade integration in Africa for Africa's advancement.
- 3.5 International trade and investment during the first decade of the AU
- 3.6 The implications of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) for Africa
- 3.7 Can Africa meet the MDGs as it is or through an integrated African national economy?

**Pillar 4 Afropolitanism, Afro-centricity, Pan-Africanism and Negritude**

- 4.1 Putting Africa first for building cosmopolitan humanity
- 4.2 From Lusophone, Anglophone and Afrophone to Africaphone
- 4.3 African science, technology, engineering, knowledge and innovation for Africa's advancement
- 4.4 Drought, famine and food security
- 4.5 Elite corruption and the impact on African economic growth and human wellbeing
- 4.6 South Africa's relations with the rest of Africa
- 4.7 Role of Africa in international relations
- 4.8. Combining tradition and modernity for African Transformation
- 4.9. African Humanism: Ubuntu
- 4.10: Building an African Centred Language systems for African education.

**The Steering Committee for the conference local organising:**

- 1. Dr. Matlotleng Matlou, CEO at AISA
- 2. Ms Siphokazi Ndudane ,Director at SIGLA
- 3. Dr. Maureen Tong acting Head of TMALI
- 4. Prof. Mammo Muchie, SARChI-IERI at TUT

**ORGANISERS:** AISA, SIGLA at Stellenbosch, SARChI-IERI- TUT, NRF, DST, DISONG, DTI and TMALI. And other partners who wish to join are welcome especially African embassies, RECs, women, civil society, youth, and so on

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Date for abstract submission: **October 31, 2011**

Date for full paper submission: **March 1, 2012**

**Participants:** African policy makers, scholars and public intellectuals.

**One of the Keynote Speakers:** Nahas Angula, Prime Minister of Namibia.

**Abstract and full papers should be emailed to [AkporBO@tut.ac.za](mailto:AkporBO@tut.ac.za) & [nbohler-muller@ai.org.za](mailto:nbohler-muller@ai.org.za)**

**Conference Venue:** Pretoria

**Output:** Books and Journals

The book from the First Symposium will be launched during the Conference