

AFRICAN UNION
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Concept note

Virtual (webinar) Meeting of the Assembly of Academicians of ACALAN

16 October 2020

Background

The statutes of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) adopted by the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, (Assembly/AU/Dec.95 (VI), held in Khartoum in January 2006, make provision for the existence of the Assembly of Academicians which perform advisory functions. According to article 18 of the statutes, the Assembly:

- i. Receive and consider the results of the deliberations or presentations of the Board on subjects relating to scientific, technical and cultural topical issues;
- ii. Examine and discuss issues submitted to it or any other scientific issue, and independently express their opinions;
- iii. Draft their Rules of Procedure and submit same to the Board for approval;
- iv. Consider the Plan of Action prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Committee and submit same for consideration and adoption of the Board;
- v. Encourage researchers to transmit to the Assembly the most significant results of their work;
- vi. Advocate the ACALAN cause worldwide in addition to their scientific contribution,
- vii. Perform any such function in line with the objectives of ACALAN.

Furthermore, article 19 of the statutes states that “The Assembly shall meet every two years in ordinary session, at ACALAN Headquarters or in any other Member State at the latter’s invitation.” During the March 2017 statutory meeting the Assembly was enlarged from 8 members to 18 members.

Taking the foregoing and pandemic of Covid 19 pandemic into consideration, the ACALAN Secretariat is organizing a statutory meeting (webinar) of the Assembly of Academicians on 16 October 2020.

The objective of the meeting is to:

- i. Consider ACALAN's report 2019 and validation of ACALAN's 2021 Programme;
- ii. Consider and validate the Dar e Salaam Framework for Action for the recognition and promotion of Kiswahili as a language of wider communication in Africa Project
- iii. Validate the ACALAN 10-year Strategic Plan (2020 – 2030) in consultation with the Committee and submit it for consideration and adoption of the Board;
- iv. Validate questionnaire for language policies in Member States,
- v. Integrate young academicians in the assembly,
- vi. Examine and discuss issues submitted to it to independently express their opinions;

Participants

In accordance with the statutes and the rules and procedures of ACALAN, only the members of the Assembly of Academicians of ACALAN, and the Secretariat will participate in the meeting.

Expected outcomes

- vii. ACALAN's 2019 report and 2021 programme considered and validated;
- viii. The Dar e Salaam Framework for Action for the recognition and promotion of Kiswahili as a language of wider communication in Africa Project considered and validated
- ix. The ACALAN 10-year Strategic Plan (2021 – 2030) validate in consultation with the Committee to be submitted it for consideration and adoption by the Board;
- x. Questionnaire for language policies in Member States validated,
- xi. Young academicians Integrated in the assembly,
- xii. Issues submitted to the Assembly to independently express their opinions examined and discussed.