



Original: French

Conference of Diplomatic Careers Training Schools and Institutes

on the theme

***Training Policies in African Diplomatic Careers Training Schools
and Institutes: How to contribute to a more relevant and effective
training for the diplomatic careers in a context of strengthening
integration dynamics in Africa?***

CONCEPT PAPER

**7 - 9 May 2018
Ouagadougou (Burkina-Faso)**

I. Context and justification

The question of African integration has, for decades, been at the heart of the post-colonial African States' development strategists. It has been the subject of much debate and has produced a number of important contributions and reports in the direction of more innovative proposals, capable of strengthening Africa's position in the concert of nations. These meetings, which were very useful in the past, are still relevant today, at a time when Africa seems to be returning more and more to the center of a number of issues of global importance. It is in this protean environment that the issue of diplomacy comes into play as it constitutes one of the major axes of support for the dynamics of integration of a geographical space, such as the African continent, one of the essential characteristics of which is complexity and, above all, diversity.

As a geographical and political space, Africa is one of the continent's centers of unparalleled cultural diversity, a mosaic of young and highly dynamic populations, in an environment of abundant opportunities that have not been sufficiently exploited. Such a situation obviously calls for serious reflection. A reflection that should take into account the reality of an increasingly dynamic and interdependent world in which Africa unfortunately still arrives as determined by the old conventions which continue to structure its relationship with itself and with the World in general.

The dynamics of integration, formerly undertaken under various terms, have recorded various fortunes, sometimes going as to their denial by those, even that they were supposed to serve. For example, at one point in history the Pan-Africanist discourse was considered outdated and its relevance queried, until the beginning of the rebirth of an African political consciousness, renovated and more integrated, motivated by different events of continental scope, and the gradual emergence in Africa of a new type of Leadership.

These important transformations have led to the development of a new approach in the training policies of the African elite, following the experience of the postcolonial years, during which the strategies of the States had consisted only of replacing numerically the administrators of yesteryears, without necessarily noting that the priorities have actually changed, still less the very nature of the State.

Even today, the question of the peculiarity and reappropriation of the State in Africa by Africans themselves remains relevant, just as the question of its destination which remains until then subject of discussion.

As the regional integration strategies are multiplying and that we observe with interest the signing of the Inter-African Free Trade Area Agreement by the Heads of States in Kigali on March 22, 2018, it raises the question as to how to make such initiatives viable and sustainable, without African youth and elite having a rethink of their training in general, and the proper training of its diplomats in particular.

A few years ago, indeed, the Pan-African Inter-Governmental Organization (CAFRAD), in its internal reform strategy, took the initiative to build a new and innovative approach of its action. It has thus set up, a program focused on the continental mutualization of training and support strategies for the African elite, in its march towards its regional

integration. Therefore, in addition to the national schools of administration and universities, CAFRAD has set up a program called "Pan-African Conference of Diplomatic Careers Training Schools and Institutes". This program has given rise to two editions, the third of which will focus this year on the training policies in diplomatic careers training schools and institutes, after the success of Rabat (Morocco) and then Yaoundé (Cameroon).

II. Objectives

The objectives of this meeting are multiple. It aims, among other things, at:

1. The evaluation of training policies in diplomatic careers training schools and institutes;
2. The establishment of integrated training programs for diplomatic professions in Africa, so as to enable young Africans and young African diplomats to have shared training profiles;
3. The promotion of exchanges amongst teachers in African diplomacy schools and facilitate meetings amongst trainee diplomatic professionals likely to build a more integrated diplomacy in Africa;
4. The creation of a Pan-African forum of the young diplomat which could, eventually, strengthen the network of African diplomats.

III. Expected results

- Establishment of an integrated training programs for diplomatic professionals in Africa;
- Reinforcement and formalization of the inter-African cooperation in diplomacy professions' training by the diplomatic careers training Schools and Institutes;
- Establishment of a committee that shall be responsible for adopting a quality charter in terms of training in diplomacy professions;
- Adoption of a three-year training policy evaluation conference in the African Diplomatic Schools, under the auspices of CAFRAD, alongside the annual conferences of the diplomatic careers training Schools and Institutes.

IV. Topics for discussion

1. The Diplomatic Careers Training Policy between "Sovereignty and Universalism" of Diplomacy Training in Africa;
2. The condition of diplomats training in Africa and the question of the transversality of training;
3. Strategic Studies in the Diplomat Training in Africa;
4. Constraints and obstacles in diplomatic career training in Africa;
5. Research and development in diplomatic studies;
6. Regional Integration in the Diplomatic Career Training Policy;
7. Reciprocity in the recognition of states and their diplomats.

Panels

- Inter-institutional cooperation in training for diplomacy professions;
- The internship in the training of diplomats in Africa (problem of a regional policy of the internship in training to the profession of diplomats in Africa).

V. Target audience

This conference is intended primarily for the senior staff of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of External Relations, Ministries in charge of Internal and External Securities, African Agencies for Economic and Cultural Cooperation of African Countries, Embassies, Diplomatic Studies Institutes and Strategic Studies Institutes.

VI. Methodology

The proceedings will be conducted in plenary session. They will be facilitated by resource persons benefiting from a long experience. These resource persons will introduce the presentations and lead the discussions. These will result in proposals, which will be the subject of a report that will be presented with recommendations and an action plan. Presentations and the report will be published.

Venue: Ouagadougou (Burkina-Faso)

Date: 7- 9 May 2018

Duration: Three days

Working languages: French & English.

For more information about the conference or CAFRAD, please visit our website: www.cafrad.org or contact us at the following address:

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