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8th UNESCO's International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Memory of the
World (MoW) Programme

Workshop (11-12 June 2007) and closed meetings (13-15 June 2007),
Tshwane, South Africa

TSHWANE MINUTE

TSHWANE: 15 JUNE 2007

We the participants, responsible for managing documentary heritage in Archives, Libraries, Museums, inclusive of all other collections in Africa, assembled here in Tshwane, South Africa, announce the establishment of an interim Regional Committee for the Memory of the World (MoW) for Africa.

NOTE:

1. That Africa has a rich tangible and intangible heritage in her own right.
2. That this heritage was generally ignored, removed, transferred, denied, neglected and destroyed during the colonial era. These losses have continued after colonialism through conflict and lack of awareness.
3. That due to limited resources at our disposal, lack of will and determination, apathy and ignorance, African documentary heritage continues to be neglected because of other pressing priorities of our Governments.
4. African peoples continue to experience problems regarding having access to their own documentary heritage.
5. That UNESCO has provided "Guidelines for Protecting and Safeguarding Documentary Heritage" in the official UNESCO languages and that it is not available in any African indigenous language.
6. UNESCO's plea to African Governments to establish an African Regional Committee of UNESCO's Memory of the World.

DECLARE:

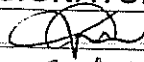
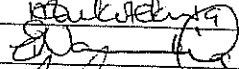

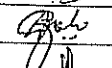
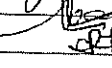



7. That the documentary heritage of Africa should be well preserved for access by present and future generations.
8. That African Governments should train their professionals in the heritage sector so that they are in a better position to give attention to the preservation of this important heritage.
9. That African Governments should make sure that appropriate budgets and resources for the preservation and awareness of documentary heritage are available.
10. That the Regional Committee will encourage and support the implementation of UNESCO's 'Guidelines on the Protection and Safeguarding of Documentary Heritage'.
11. That the Regional Committee will encourage and support the establishment of National Committees to take the lead in implementing UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme in their respective countries.

RECOMMEND

12. That a Steering Committee be appointed with the mandate to establish an African Regional Committee to be led by South Africa. The Steering Committee should be made of the African delegates present at the workshop (11-12 June 2007).
13. The first meeting of this Steering Committee take place as soon as possible but not later than December 2007.
14. That the Regional Committee in its work to safeguard the African documentary heritage benefits from and contributes to the African World Heritage Fund.
15. That the Regional Committee develops relationships with the AU and NEPAD in order for it to be placed as standing items on their agenda.
16. That the documentary heritage of Africa be promoted and popularized.
17. That the Regional Committee will encourage and support the sharing and exchange of relevant documentary heritage between countries within the confines of the law.

Issued on behalf of the delegates from the following African Countries:

18.[52 African Countries]

COUNTRY	REPRESENTATIVE	SIGNATURE
KENYA	JOHN G. MBERIA	
ZIMBABWE	MOLLY C. MUKOTELWA	
NAMIBIA	Ellen Ndeshe Namhila	
ETHIOPIA	ALMAZ ABUHAY	
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Tshwane: 15/06/07

ABBREVIATIONS:-

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

M.O.W: Memory of the World

NATCOM: National Commission for UNESCO

I.A.C: International Advisory Committee

I.C.A: International Council on Archives

AU: African Union

V.O.C: Dutch East India Company