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Africa Day 2013

special Report

Pan-Africanism & the African Renaissance



Africa Day 2013

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New York, USA - Africa Day 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity, which gave way for the establishment of the African Union. On May 25 of this year, the African Union held their 21st African Union Summit in Addis Ababa to mark this anniversary event. On June 26, a New York 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration for Africa Day was held in Manhattan, co-sponsored by the African Group and the African Union in partnership with the Universal Peace Federation and the United Nations African Ambassadors Spouses Group. The theme for this year's Africa Day was "Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance."

The celebration of Africa Day provides the opportunity to remember the great historical achievements of the founding fathers of the continental organization. Moreover, it presents a "forward-looking" platform regarding Africa's development, peace, and security. Different countries observe the day with various activities, such as panel discussions, speeches by pan-Africanists and political leaders, rallies, cultural entertainment, poetry, symposiums, and special university lectures.

Considering the recent focus of world leaders on Africa, and the renewed determination of the people of Africa for unity and development, celebration of Africa Day is of paramount importance. The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon graced the gala celebration and addressed more than 500 distinguished guests, comprising UN Ambassadors and dignitaries, African Union officials, and other high level officials of the diaspora. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon commended African countries for their continuous progress over the past 50 years while stressing that many challenges remain in the continent and accelerated action is needed to tackle them. He stated: "Several African countries are among the world's fastest growing economies, defying the global downturn. Opportunity beckons for ever greater numbers of people, and ever more international investors are taking notice.....Africans are writing a new narrative in their history."

The program began with a video presentation of the African Union since its historical beginnings. Representative of the Chair of the African Union, H.E. Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations, delivered remarks, recounting the important historical events in African Union's history, and the importance of infusing constructive

energy to accelerate a forwardlooking agenda for Pan-Africanism and renaissance in the 21st century.

H.E. Ambassador Téte António, Permanent Observer of the Mission of the African Union to the United Nations, delivered the message of H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Kiamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, giving tribute and praise to memories of the African heroes and founders who sacrificed for the vision of a united, integrated,









and prosperous Africa. He quoted the illustrious former President of Ghana, H.E. Kwame Nkrumah, stating that: "Africa, united, will emerge not as just another world bloc to flaunt its wealth and strength, but as a Great Power whose greatness is indestructible because it is built not on fear, envy and suspicion, nor won at the expense of others, but founded on hope, trust, friendship and directed to the good of all mankind."

In his remarks, Mr. Tageldin Ibrahim Hamad, Secretary General of the Universal Peace Federation, stressed three areas of special importance to the theme of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance: education of heart, the strengthening of marriage and family, and interfaith dialogue and cooperation. The outburst of "intellectual and artistic creativity" as well as a spiritual awakening are "both necessary and equal parts of an African Renaissance."

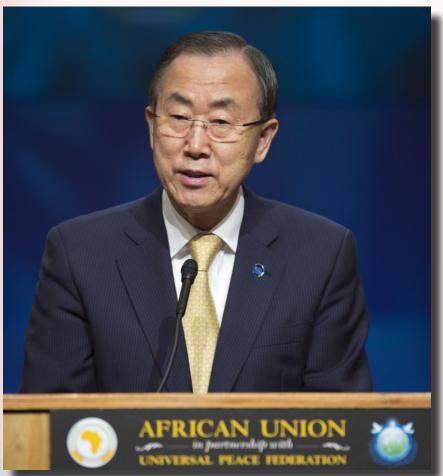
Madam Tihib Marie Claire Kogda-Somda, President of the United Nations African Ambassadors Spouses Group, and wife of the Ambassador of Burkina Faso to the United Nations, gave tribute to the pioneers of the Organization of African Unity, who laid the foundation for liberation and unity, and quoting a poetic singer, called on African leaders to work together to make the continent of Africa a "haven of peace" and an "island of prosperity" for the present and future generations. The spouses group sponsored the evening's African culinary buffet of more than 60 exquisite dishes, representing the various regions of Africa.

After a cake-cutting ceremony with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and photo taking, there were dynamic cultural performances from the five African regions: Adjaratou Tapani Demba, a Mali traditional singer representing the Western Region; Anna Mwalagho, the "Queen" of spoken Afro beat from Kenya, representing the Eastern Region; the Jomion Group, a Beninese musical group from the Western Region; Kaissa, with a vocal presentation from Cameroon, representing the Central Region; Khadidja Guenil from Algeria, singing Andalus music, representing the Northern Region; and the Mbazi brothers' band from Angola, representing the Southern Region of Africa.

The evening had all elements of solemnity and historical importance, as well as an exceptional banquet of sumptuous dishes, vibrant entertainment, and a night filled with enthusiastic dancing to energetic African music.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Statement at the Celebration of Atrica Day in New York, Ame 26, 2013



I thank the African Group, the African Union, the African Ambassadors Spouses Group and the Universal Peace Federation for inviting me to share in tonight's celebration.

Of course, it was a month ago in Addis Ababa that I had the pleasure of marking the 50th anniversary of the Organization of African Unity and its successor.

That was a memorable gathering, not least because I had just visited several African countries and had seen once again the excitement and dynamism that characterize so much of the continent.

Africa is a continent on the move. Peace prevails in most African countries.

Extreme poverty is declining, income is rising and there have been important inroads against deadly diseases.

Several African countries are among the world's fastest growing economies, defying the global downturn.

Opportunity beckons for ever greater numbers of people. And ever more international investors are taking notice.

Of course, deep challenges persist. But Africa's overall trajectory is clear. Africans are writing a new narrative in their history.

A more stable and prosperous Africa is on the horizon, but to get there we still need to resolve the underlying causes of conflict.

I know that Africans are determined to strengthen democracy, protect human rights, fight corruption and enhance governance.

The United Nations will continue to work with you to ensure the equitable

distribution of resources, increase agricultural productivity, and tap the talents of Africa's people, especially women and youth.

I am also committed to accelerating our work towards the Millennium Development Goals, and making sure that Africa's priorities and concerns are reflected in the post-2015 development agenda.

Africa is among the regions most vulnerable to climate change. I am determined to press for a global agreement in 2015. The plan announced by President Obama yesterday is a step in the right direction. If we act now, we can still avoid the worst impacts.



Achieving these objectives will require considerable effort and investment, and I continue to urge the international community and private sector to fully support this cause.

I place great importance on close ties between

the United Nations, the African Union and the continent's regional and sub-regional organizations.

These cover an increasingly broad range of activities – from peacekeeping and mediation to peacebuilding, electoral assistance and the rule of law; from economic and social empowerment to sustainable development.

The entire UN system is committed to supporting Africa's efforts, including through a new era of heightened coordination with the World Bank.

Fifty years ago, the founders of the Organization of African Unity showed great resolve and collective purpose in leading the world against colonialism and apartheid.

One of the leaders of that movement – one of the giants of the 20th century – is now in hospital, in critical condition. I know our thoughts and prayers are with Nelson Mandela, his family and

> loved ones, all South Africans and people across the world who have been inspired by his remarkable life and example.

Let us all show similar conviction and sense of purpose today in working to improve well-being and opportunity for all Africans.

The United Nations will continue to be Africa's close partner in this journey.

Thank you.





H.E. Amb. Tereda Alemu

Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Rations, Representative of the Chair of the African Union

The celebration of Africa
Day this year is indeed
special. It marks a
significant milestone in the
history of our continental
organization. It was fifty
years ago on 25th May
1963, that the Founding
Fathers, inspired by the
ideals of Pan-Africanism,
rose to the occasion and
created the first and, still
the only, Pan-African
Organization of independent
African States.

The celebration of Africa Day this year is special; not only because 2013 marks the Golden Jubilee of the OAU/AU. It is special also because, in a way, the period we are in is a time of

hope and confidence in the future of Africa — the future of a people who were deemed to count for nothing in the 1980s amid the overwhelming pessimism of those assumed to know Africa, with very few daring to contradict that narrative.

Though complacency is hardly justified about the African condition — and indeed for sure damaging and not justified at all because of the so many challenges we still face and for which we need friends — it is nonetheless incontrovertible that times have changed in Africa, and for the better.



Africa Day 2013

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It is therefore in this spirit that we express profound appreciation to all those who have joined us here today to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our Pan-African Organization — the OAU/AU. We are particularly grateful to our Secretary-General — a true friend of Africa — for having been in Addis for the same occasion on the 25th of May, and for being here again today. Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General.

Excellencies.

What makes the OAU/AU a unique intergovernmental organization — very different from many others — is that it grew out of a century old peoples movement— the Pan-Africanist movement. What lay behind that Movement — the abuse, the so

many dehumanizing practices, beginning from the transatlantic slave trade and the colonial experience on the mainland and slavery in the diaspora — are the common experiences of Africans and peoples of African descent. The mission that the OAU later assumed was, at the most fundamental level, the same mission that drove Marcus Garvey, Martin Delany, Edward Blyden, W.E.B. Dubois, Henry Sylvester Williams in their Pan-Africanist Journey. There were also Pan-Africanists that served as a bridge between that People's Movement and what later became the OAU in 1963. I am referring here to people such as Kwame Nkrumah and others who were at the 1945 congress at Manchester and who later played a catalytic role in the formation of the OAU.

The OAU did begin with a lot of hope. And it did accomplish a lot, in the freeing of Africa from colonialism, in laying the foundation for economic integration, and for peace and stability in the continent. But we all realize that by the mid-1970s, in economic terms, Africa was by far worse off than during the 1960s. By the 1980s our marginalization appeared to have been sealed.

Part of the theme for the Golden Jubilee anniversary is African Renaissance—and this is not without sufficient reason. We are now indeed in a new beginning in Africa, as is witnessed in the general good performance of many

African economies, even during the period when the international economic situation is not so conducive for economic progress. This does not mean that there are no skeptics about how much the current situation justifies optimism about Africa becoming another global growth pole. But there is no question that with a more effective international partnership for development, indeed Africa has a great possibility justifying confidence in the renaissance of Africa. Of course, the global context has also changed, making it far easier for Africa to build partnerships based on the pursuit of







mutual interests. And we know where our interests lie. It is an insult to the African intelligence when insinuations are made suggesting that we need guidance when we select partners.

It is my earnest hope that by the time Africa celebrates the centenary of the OAU in 2063, we will have a continent free from the scourge of conflicts and abject poverty where many African countries will have achieved upper middle income status and the standard of living of large populations of the African people will have been significantly

improved. As previous generations were inspired by the ideals of Pan-Africanism to fight for their freedom and dignity, for sure, current and future generations will be guided by the same Pan-African spirit to struggle for Africa's socio-economic emancipation to realize the African Renaissance. It is then that the dignity of Africans, and peoples of African descent, no matter what their station in society, will be respected fully and by all.

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Pan-Africanism & African Renaissance



Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance

N.E. Amb. Téte António

Permanent Observer of the Mission of the African Union to the United Halions

Today's Africa Day celebration in New York is not "business as usual."

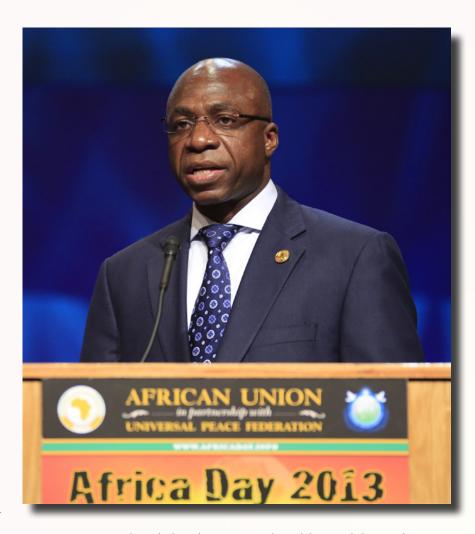
Today is a special day of historic significance — the 50th Anniversary of the Organization of the African Unity, now the African Union. Indeed, it is not a one-day commemoration but a year full of tribute and praise to the memory of the eminent Founders of the Organization of Africa Unity, the visionaries of a united, integrated, and prosperous Africa.

Exactly one month ago, on May 25, 2013, a unique a historic event took place in Addis Ababa attended by Heads of states and governments, the UN Secretary-General, and numerous officials and high-level representatives of international regional organizations.

I am pleased to recall H.E. Nkosozana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, paying specific tribute to the African heroes who

fought in the struggles against slavery, colonialism, and apartheid and who made the supreme sacrifice in the struggle for the liberation of Africa.

It is needless to stress the magnitude of Africa's legacies and heritage imparted to us by those who launched the Pan Africanism ideals and values. It is with great pride that I venture to quote one of Africa's illustrious sons, President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, who in one of his landmark speeches emphasized that "Africa, united, will emerge not as just another world bloc to flaunt its wealth and strength, but as a Great Power whose greatness is indestructible because it is built not on fear, envy, and suspicion, nor won at the expense of others, but



founded on hope, trust, friendship and directed to the good of all mankind."

I am equally honored to recall the great African historian, Cheikh Anta Diop, when he envisioned that "Africa can and will only advance through African integration, which can be realized through the Federal United States of Africa."

Today, as our ardent prayers are poured out for one of Africa's greatest heroes, Madiba Nelson Mandela, we are also reminded of his dreams for Africa when he said: "I dream of the realization of the unity of Africa, whereby its leaders combine in their efforts to solve the problems of this continent. I dream of our vast deserts, of our forests, of all our great wildernesses."



In her address on the occasion of the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the African Union, H.E. Nkosozana Dlamini Zuma conveyed the following key messages:

The Founders of the OAU followed in the footsteps of sisters and brothers, stolen and sold from African shores, who through struggles broke the shackles of slavery. They followed in the footsteps of our people from across Africa – North to South, East, West and Central who resisted colonialism and subjugation. They followed the declaration of independence of the first Black Republic of Haiti, more than two hundred years ago. Pan Africanism united and inspired our people across the continent and globe never to accept oppression.

Today, as we debate Pan Africanism, fifty years after the OAU was formed, we have to ask some tough questions about our dream for Africa for the next fifty years and the Pan Africanist values that continue to inspire us.

Many of the themes we are concerned with today also occupied the OAU Founders in 1963:

Firstly, the Founders swore their solidarity when they vowed that all of Africa shall be free, recognizing that they cannot be free when their brothers and sisters were still under the yoke of colonialism and apartheid. They, therefore, in word and deed, through supporting the liberation movements and by advocating in international forums, fought for the total liberation of all Africans. Today, there is an impression that solidarity is a thing of the past. And yet in Somalia, which not so long ago the world gave up as a hopeless cause, it was African sons and daughters who fought and laid down their lives to create peace and keep the peace, placing it onto the road to recovery. This is but one example in our recent history. There is no greater example of solidarity than in the sacrifices of African peacekeepers across the continent, and at some

point in the near future we must build a memorial in honor of those who lost their lives from all over the continent. When we, therefore, talk about African solutions to African problems, it is because we know that we can only permanently silence the guns if we act in solidarity and in unity.

Secondly, we have, with some notable exceptions, largely achieved self-determination. However, the self-reliance and economic independence that our Founders spoke of remain elusive, and social inequalities are on the rise. The Pan African commitment to independence and self-reliance remains important today – as we seek to integrate, expand, and modernize our infrastructure, to industrialize, and to develop our human capital and our agriculture.

Thirdly, we must accelerate our integration. "It appears obvious," one of the Founders said, "that the irresistible pressure of technology must lead to the constitution of economically powerful geographical blocks...we have the choice of participation in the modern world as a solidly constructed group... or standing aside from the main economic stream." We must therefore act with greater speed and a sense of urgency to create Free Trade Areas and towards an African Common Market, create the five regions as building blocks of the Union, and facilitate the free movement of peoples and goods.

Fourthly, our greatest resource is our people, especially our young population, whose energy, creativity, and courage must drive Africa's renaissance. Investment in their education and training and more generally in science, technology, research, and innovation therefore remains critical to drive Africa's modernization and development in all spheres. In this regard, the role of African business, entrepreneurs, and professionals must be strengthened, so that they too contribute to the Pan African vision. Our women must be empowered as a critical ingredient to the continental development.

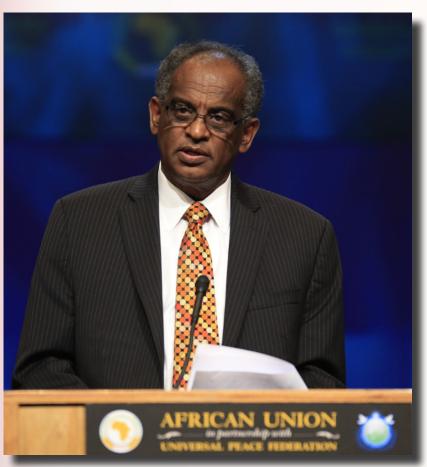
Let us take forward these key messages as a reaffirmation that we are celebrating an organization today that has stood the test of time. While we can boast of remarkable achievements, we also lament the remaining challenges and hurdles that continue to impede our efforts to reach the goals of an integrated and prosperous Africa.

As we push towards the mark of celebrating another 50 years, let us seize the opportunities of the "African Moment" – Africa that is on the rise – Africa on the move as the next frontier!

Long live African unity! Long live the African Union! God bless Africa and God bless us all! I thank you for your kind attention.

Tageldin Ibrahim Hamad

Scoretary General, Universal Peace Federation



I believe that education of the heart and intellect, the strengthening of marriage and family, and interfaith dialogue and cooperation are essential in developing an African Renaissance. Renaissance means rebirth.

Thank you for coming to this special celebration of Africa Day and the 50th anniversary of the Organization of the African Unity/ African Union, with a theme dedicated to Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. Your presence brings great dignity and value to tonight's celebration. It

is my high honor to have this opportunity to share a few words with you this evening.

I have only the greatest admiration for all those who serve the African Union, especially Ambassador Téte António. Moreover, my great respect to the Permanent Representatives of all African Member States to the United Nations. My sincere appreciation to the United Nations African Ambassadors Spouses Group, who helped assure the success of tonight's program, particularly in the preparation of the delicious African cuisine.

On behalf of the Universal Peace Federation's Co-Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and President, Dr. Thomas Walsh, let me say that UPF is deeply committed to our ongoing work in Africa and proud to work with the African Union for the celebration of Africa Day. This is the third year of our partnership. It is a relationship that has been meaningful, uplifting and productive.

The work of UPF is dedicated to the promotion of peace. We understand peace very broadly, as including not only the cessation of conflict between nations but also the establishment of positive, harmonious relationships on all levels of human society. Thus we seek to create peace within the family, the community,

the society, the nation, and the world, and among governments, religions, cultures, and civilizations. Moreover, peace is not the exclusive responsibility of governments; after all, each one of us has a role to play, in our families, our neighborhoods, our places of work and worship, our nations, and the world.

We Africans are a unique people, and we have our own proud history. African peoples have known times of unbearable suffering and times of triumph and victory. One of our greatest strengths is our unity. This is why the African Union is so important. It represents the pan-African vision of our being one family, sharing a common destiny. At the same time we recognize that we are all







members of the whole human family as one global human family under one God.

I want to mention three areas that I believe are of special importance to our theme of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. These are education, the family, and interfaith dialogue.

I believe that education of the heart and intellect, the strengthening of marriage and family, and interfaith dialogue and cooperation are essential in developing an African Renaissance. Renaissance means rebirth. This concept of rebirth has been used to describe a new outburst of intellectual and artistic creativity, and, at the same time, it is commonly used as a term to describe a spiritual awakening. I believe both are necessary and equal parts of an African Renaissance.

As Africans we face a time of great opportunity. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission Dr. Nkosozana Dlamini Zuma, declared at the 50th Anniversary Celebration in Addis Ababa that, "This is Africa's time."

Today US President Barack Obama is scheduled to be in Africa. Also former US President George W. Bush is going to be in Africa this week. Last month the Vice Premier

of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Wang Yang, was in Africa.

This month a \$32 billion budget was announced at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development. Forbes magazine reported in the June special issue that Julian Robertson, the billionaire and founder of the most successful hedge funds ever, said, "If I were younger, I would be investing in Africa." It seems that the whole world is coming to Africa.

This is a very positive development.

Tonight, allow me to say to all my African brothers and sisters congratulations! We have come a long way, but we have only just begun. Let us work together to make sure this moment of unprecedented opportunity leads to the peace and development we all desire.

I thank you for your participation in this program, and look forward to our ongoing collaboration for peace and human development throughout all of Africa and the entire world.



Madam Tihib Marie Claire Kogda-Somda

President of the United Lations African Ambassadors Spouses Group — ULIAASC, Spouse of the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso

It is a real pleasure for me to speak on behalf of the African Ambassadors Spouses Group to welcome you at this double commemoration of Africa Day and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity, which became the African Union a decade ago.

I take this opportunity to express the gratitude of African Ambassadors spouses for the honor done to them each year to take part in the celebration of this day.



Allow me also to thank Universal Peace Federation, which joins us for celebrating this important event.

At this historic moment, we need to have a pious thought for the pioneers of the creation of the Organization of African Unity, those who fought for the liberation of Africa and laid the foundations of its unity. This is an opportunity for us to pay them tribute, because they deserve both our admiration and gratitude for having dedicated their efforts and even their lives to the ideal of African unity.

On this anniversary of the Organization of African Unity / African Union, we should

also be allowed to magnify the continent once conquered and Balkanized but which has rediscovered its dignity and its path to progress. Hence the theme of the celebration: "Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance," which is timely.

A famous African singer who left us last May, GG Vickey, sang these words: "Glory to you African people, your destinies are blessed. In defiance of all prejudices, proud and always smiling, Africans built Africa in joy. Long live with a bright future. At the cost of their sweat and even their blood, your children will make you the most beautiful country."

What hope, what determination that artistic wisdom inspires! Africa has huge advantages in terms of human resources with the youngest population in the world with a lot of energy, creativity, and talent which is a growth potential for the economic revival of the continent. However, it is necessary to mobilize this potential, strengthening mechanisms for job creation through employment strategies which give more attention to rural development, investment in agriculture, and women's empowerment.

Africa is also full of huge economic potential that can be exploited through investment, industrialization, and trade. This will improve employment prospects as well as basic social services, especially health, education, and sanitation.

The African economy is promising. It was even stronger in the last decade, making more and

more of the continent an emerging market and a potential hub for global growth.

The transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union in 2002 was inspired by a more comprehensive and realistic approach to integration.

Richly endowed with natural resources and with an exceptionally young population, Africa has everything to succeed. Africa needs the world, as the world needs Africa. Let's work together to make our continent a haven of peace and an island of prosperity, not only for the present generation but also for those to come.

Long live African unity.

Long live the friendship between peoples.

Long live strong international cooperation.

Thank you.













Africa Day 2013

Performers:

ADJARATOU TAPANI DEMBA - MALI (WESTERN REGION)

Adjaratou Tapani Demba brings us the West African traditional art of singing. In her native Mali, she is known as a *djeli* – a kind of oral historian, peacemaker, and performer who is born into the responsibility of keeping alive and celebrating the history of the Mandé people of Mali and other West African countries. In addition to concerts, Tapani performs at other domestic ceremonies within the West African immigrant communities of Boston, New York City, and beyond. As a Malian traditional singer, Adjaratou Tapani Demba sings songs of her country's history.

ANNA MWALAGHO - KENYA (EASTERN REGION)

Anna Mwalagho is an internationally recognized actress, comedian, poet/spoken word artist, African dancer, singer/songwriter and storyteller. She has won numerous national awards in her native country, Kenya, and here in the U.S.A, where she is recognized as the Queen of spoken Afro beat and also "Mama Africa."

JOMION GROUP - BENIN (WESTERN REGION)

Compared to other African countries, Benin has a small land mass. But the West African nation is a giant in music traditions and innovation. Jomion and the Uklos are a fabulous example of Beninese music with this live performance for Music Time in Africa. Jomion and his brothers come from Cotonou, the nation's largest city. They formed as a musical group (the Uklos) after singing and playing for years in church, under the pastorship of their father.

KAÏSSA - CAMEROON (CENTRAL REGION)

A child of the culturally rich Republic of Cameroon, Kaïssa's passion for music was fueled by the romance of Paris, where her family relocated when she was still young. Kaissa's vocal ability began to turn heads in studios throughout the City of Lights, and when the opportunity to join French multimedia artist CharlElie Couture's European tour arose, Kaïssa stepped on the bus and never looked back. Kaïssa's voice is a unique instrument – an electric mix of character and clarity, strength and fragility, total control and unbridled joy.

KHADIDJA GUENIL - ALGERIA (NORTHERN REGION)

Khadidja was born in Algeria, where she had always felt influenced by music. She grew up listening to Andalus music, which is a musical tradition from the Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) and "classical" music, commonly referred to as Ala. As the title suggests, Ala traces its roots to Andalusia (southern Spain). Part of the repertoire of the Andalus music includes romance and religious songs which attract more young vocalists and musicians to the Andalus tradition; this has kept Andalus music alive for centuries.

MBAZI - ANGOLA (SOUTHERN REGION)

This band is made up of brothers from Angola that sing traditional music.

A Feast of Food and Culture

Indeed this is so, Africa is known for its diversity; this is especially true of its cuisine. More than sixty dishes will be in display, ranging from yellow rice, couscous from the northern part of Africa accompanied by kofta meat, why not try matapa succulent cassava leaves that will leave you craving for more? The spices fill the room with an aroma from the eastern coast of Africa. From further inland, we have brabousko and fish from freshwater lakes in Africa, and do not miss the whole roast lamb with morsels practically falling off and dozens of other exquisite dishes that define an exceptional banquet... so **Karibu Sana** to Africa's table.













