MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ESTABLISHING THE FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION

BETWEEN

THE AFRICAN UNION

AND

THE PAN AFRICAN LAWYERS UNION
Memorandum of Understanding Establishing the Framework for Cooperation and Collaboration between the African Union and the Pan African Lawyers Union

The African Union, hereinafter referred to as the AU, and the Pan African Lawyers Union, hereinafter referred to as PALU,

Reaffirming their mutual commitment to Africa’s political and economic development, including the promotion of peace and security, democracy, good governance, and sustained socio-economic progress;

Confirming their support for the strengthening of the unity of Africa under the Rule of Law; the promotion and protection fundamental human rights;

Recognizing the need for stronger partnerships between governments, and professional organizations within Africa and the Diaspora;

Convinced that the promotion of the ideals of the AU can only be enhanced by the Promotion of legal reforms and the harmonization of laws on the continent as well as by developing and maintaining reciprocal arrangements for the practice of law in Member States with a view to achieving uniform standards of justice and judicial administration;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I
Areas of Cooperation and Collaboration

Subject to the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding, and in compliance with their constitutional instruments as well as their relevant policies and procedures, the parties shall, in particular, co-operate in undertaking activities in the following priority areas to:

1. promote political, cultural and socio-economic integration of the continent;
2. promote sustainable peace;
3. promote regional and international jurisdictions;
4. strengthen the unity of Africa under the Rule of Law;
5. consolidate existing efforts and develop new initiatives aimed at creating greater awareness and respect for the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights;

6. promote legal reforms and the harmonisation of laws on the continent;

7. As a tool towards the promotion of integration as conceived in the constitutional instruments of both parties:
   i. promote the establishment, maintenance and fostering of relationships, co-operation, mutual support and exchange of ideas among Bar Associations, Law Societies and their members throughout Africa;
   ii. bring together Bar Associations, Law Societies and lawyers throughout Africa while respecting the diversity of legal and judicial systems and cultures;

8. support and defend the independence of Bar Associations, Law Societies, Lawyers, the Judiciary and judges, in order to improve the administration of justice, and foster the achievement of sustainable development in Africa;

9. develop and improve effective systems of legal aid and legal services to the public;

10. promote, develop and advance the science of law and jurisprudence;

11. develop and maintain reciprocal arrangements in the practice of law in Member States with a view to achieving uniform standards of justice and judicial administration;

12. To these ends, to promote and effect co-operation among all national and International Bar Associations and Law Societies that have and maintain similar interests, aims and objectives, and to develop and carry out joint programmes and projects with such organisations.

**Article II**

**Modalities of Cooperation and Collaboration**

The AU and PALU shall:

1. Consult one another on areas of co-operation referred to in Article I for the purpose of achieving the objectives set out in this Memorandum of Understanding and to seek agreement on the most effective manner of
undertaking the specific activities. To this end, the parties may set up the appropriate structures for such consultations as and when necessary.

2. Identify issues within their programmes where there is complementarity and in which their cooperation would add value and create synergies.

3. Jointly commission studies, co-organize meetings and seminars, and disseminate reports.

4. Engage all sectors of society in order to involve the peoples of the continent in its development.

**Article III**

**Financing**

1. The parties, to the extent feasible and within the confines of their rules and procedures, shall endeavour to seek funding for carrying out joint activities. In the event that a party obtains such funds, it shall be responsible for the management and accountability of the use of such funds.

2. The AU shall depending on available resources seek ways and means of making grants to PALU.

3. PALU shall provide from its membership and at the request of the AU, experts who may assist it the execution of specific missions under conditions to be agreed upon prior to any such missions by both parties. In such cases only out pocket expenses may be covered;

**Article IV**

**Amendment, Duration and Termination**

1. This Agreement may be amended by the mutual written consent of the parties.

2. This Agreement may be terminated by prior written notification being given by one party to the other party; the termination shall become effective three (3) months after receipt of such written notification provided that its provisions shall survive termination to the extent necessary to permit an orderly settlement of existing operations and the discharge of obligations between the parties as well as other concerned stakeholders.

**Article V**

**Entry into Force**

The MOU enters into force upon signature by the duly authorised representatives of the AU and PALU.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Representatives of the AU and PALU duly authorized by their respective competent authorities have signed the present Agreement in English and French.

Done at........................................this ................... day of ................................Two Thousand and Six.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
The African Union (AU)

H.E. Alpha Oumar Konare
Chairperson of the AU Commission

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
The Pan African Lawyers Union

Akèré T Muna Esq.
President of the Pan African Lawyers Union