Casa África

Africa and Spain, ever closer

Cindy & Nkuli, 2004. Nontsikelelo Veleko
Training Seminar for Cultural Managers
Djenné (Mali)
Inauguration of the Mediatheque in Casa África

Front cover

Dogon Country (Mali)
Fashion show. *África Vive* festival
Casa África headquarters
Desvelos exhibition. Angèle Etoundi Essamba
Niger River (Niger)
África Plural 3+3 exhibition. Seydou Keïta
By courtesy of CAAC – The Pigozzi collection, Geneva © Keïta
African night in *Territorios Sevilla*

Casa África

Casa África is headquartered in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.
The image shows the baobab, a tropical African tree,
which presides over the central courtyard.

"The opening of Casa África represents the setting up in the Canary Islands of a new instrument of particular relevance for enhancing the friendly relations that link Spain with the African world. Moreover, Casa África has been created with the vocation to be a meeting point and forum for reflection on African issues and it aspires to become a benchmark for all those who are interested in and sensitive to African reality, its challenges and potential".

H.M. King Juan Carlos of Spain

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Ricardo Martínez Vázquez
Director General Casa África

Casa África is an institution that aims to act as a meeting place offering the opportunity for reflection, with a view to promoting knowledge of the reality of Africa and to strengthening cooperation and relations between Africa and Spain in all possible spheres. The institution came into being in 2006, when the Spanish Government's *Africa Plan 2006-2008* was approved, although it did not have a physical headquarters until a year later. On 12th June 2007, Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain, accompanied by the President of Senegal, inaugurated the current building. Since then, it has striven to take shape as a privileged instrument of Spanish foreign policy, particularly in terms of Sub-Saharan Africa, and to become a factor of peace, stability and development in the world, firmly committed to the priorities of the international agenda and the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

From this perspective, the activities of Casa África strive to attain a double objective: to bring Spain and Africa closer together and to act as a voice for the African people. If it is to fulfil the first of these challenges, the institution must raise awareness of the multiple and fascinating realities of the immense African continent. To this end, it uses all the means within its reach, be they cultural, involving direct contact between African creators and Spanish audiences, or diplomatic, economic or those of different public opinion forums.

At the same time, Casa África works unceasingly to try to draw closer to the neighbouring continent, its organisms and population, in order to hear African analyses of the problems and reality on the ground. Knowledge of their priorities, concerns and opinions enables us to defend all these aspects and to voice them as and when necessary. Casa África wants to bring this other perspective closer to Spain and to help to strengthen Spanish-African relations. To this end, our major allies are the Spanish Embassies, to whom Casa África offers all its work and support, as well as our African partners, with whom Spain seeks to develop an atmosphere of collaboration on a regional level.

In order to fulfil this objective it is necessary to bear in mind that the image of Africa often presented in the western world is partial and manipulated, underlining conflicts and misery, and obscuring the positive aspects of the continent, with scant regard for responsibilities and people responsible. However, we must acknowledge that while injustice in Africa continues to the extent that children and the elderly die of hunger and lack of health care, its countries will never be able to advance towards a sustainable world, undertake democratic processes or consolidate the Rule of Law. Africa is often called "the forgotten continent". Perhaps that is what needs to be changed now.

Africa's past was rich, plural and diverse but centuries of slave trading, unscrupulous colonisation and postcolonial domination regimes have given rise to a period of impoverishment that has been aggravated by the current state of globalisation, unfairly

The Director General, Ricardo Martínez Vázquez, during the celebration of International Children's Day in Casa África.

increasing the deep gulf that separates us. The fight to reduce these differences in the 21st Century requires social commitment and solidarity from us all. This was the objective with which Casa África was founded as a public consortium that responds to the interests of civil society and to the Spanish Government's commitment to Africa.

Yes, Africa is a rich continent, above all thanks to its wonderful people and the generosity and friendly nature that is so typical of its countries. However, despite its natural resources, it remains the poorest region on the planet. Nelson Mandela used to say: "If people are hungry and there is no food for them; if they are sick and there are no medicines for them; if there is no work for them; if ignorance persists; and if the fundamental rights of all individuals are not respected; then democracy is an empty shell […]". The fight against poverty is the overwhelming priority in Africa, as poverty for many represents a complete lack of opportunities and options to be able to enjoy a minimally decent standard of living. What we are talking about here is personal dignity.

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights", according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Extreme poverty represents one of the most manifest attacks on personal dignity and constitutes a source of concern for the international community as a whole. Extreme poverty gives rise to terrorism; involuntary or forced migration; the trafficking of people, drugs and arms, and all the organised crime in general that feeds off the planet's disinherited population.

Casa África aims to be a useful, agile and flexible instrument, at the service of those who believe in Africa. It endeavours to act as a forum for reflection where people's consciences can be awakened in the current situation, leading them to join forces and propose specific solutions. Only if we integrate all perspectives and imbue multilateral, bilateral, public and private actions with coherence, will we be able to help Africa to occupy its rightful place in the globalized world of the 21st Century and be understood for what it really is: a continent facing huge challenges but that is brimming with wealth and opportunities.

This institution is the result of the joint efforts of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Canary Islands, led by the Regional Government and supported by Island Councils and the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, home to its headquarters. Casa Africa endeavours to increase awareness among Spanish society, promote knowledge of the respective realities, enhance economic, political, social and cultural cooperation between Spain and Africa, between Europe and Africa, and even between Europe and Africa, on the one hand, and Latin America on the other, as well as fostering debate on the major African issues.

As the *Strategic Plan 2009-2012*, approved by the Advisory Council in October 2008, indicates, the main challenge is to turn this institution into the benchmark for public diplomacy for Spain and Europe in their relations with Africa, while also playing a decisive role in ensuring that our neighbouring continent occupies the more prominent position it deserves in our collective imagination.

At the same time, Casa África was created with a clear vocation to be of use to Africa, to Governments, institutions and civil societies on the neighbouring continent, all of which entails facilitating and consolidating institutional relations with Africa, as well as those of the consortium's members and institutions of the Spanish State.

In order to comply with this mandate, Casa África has initiated a round of contacts with regional, sub-regional and national African institutions to include them in our work and to incorporate their vision into the actions undertaken by Casa África. These agents include the African Union (AU), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Intergovernment Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East Africa Community (EAC). It has also linked in with and involved civil society in the activities carried out by the institution, working with universities, social agents, Spanish NGOs and African associations in Spain.

The headquarters of Casa África is also home to the Technical Secretariat of the African-Spanish Women's Network for a Better World, created in Maputo (Mozambique) in 2006 thanks to the initiative of the Prime Minister of Mozambique. The Network's Secretariat organizes professional encounters and workshops on the empowerment of African and Spanish women.

Thus, the decision to locate the headquarters of Casa África in the Canary Islands was a bold political move, turning the traditional rhetoric that represents the Islands as a platform for Africa and Europe into concrete reality. Casa África was founded in the Canary Islands with a clear mandate to serve as an instrument to give real substance to and make good use of the archipelago's privileged geostrategic position and to work on specific themes and proposals together with the Spanish Government and the Regional Government of the Canary Islands.

Our objective is to feed foreign policy proposals with appropriate content, making good use of the highly valuable experience with Africa present in many sectors of the Canary Islands. The Regional Government of the Canary Islands, the Island Councils and the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria have proved to be a very effective, useful complement in the materialisation of the strategic definitions contained in the *Africa Plan*, which will now be expanded thanks to a specific plan for Africa in the Canary Islands.

Africa and Spain, ever closer (*África y España, cada vez más cerca*) is Casa África's motto; an expression that summarises its mission and its challenge. Africa is the real protagonist of this project and it is the voices of Africa, in the first person, that should be heard. This is the only way to ensure that our neighbouring continent is really in charge of its own destiny, the active protagonist of its development and that it ceases to be an unknown quantity on this side of the ocean. This is the only way to ensure that justice is done. And that Africa and Spain will establish increasingly closer ties.

Pages 10 to 21
Dogon Country (Mali).
Women in Bouaké (Côte d'Ivoire).
Dogon Country (Mali).
Iyatawa (Nigeria).
Training workshop in Bamako (Mali).
Birni district in Zinder (Niger).

WHO WE ARE

Paulino Rivero Baute
President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands

As the President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands, I have had the opportunity of accompanying Casa África as it has taken its first steps forward. Thanks to the efforts of its highly-qualified staff and the work that the various participating institutions and experts have carried out, Casa África has, in a very short period of time, become consolidated as a space for encounters and exchanges between all those organizations working in, for and on Africa.

Since its inception, in June 2007, the number of political, cultural, cooperation, social and economic activities that this institution has promoted has continued to grow, thereby boosting mutual knowledge between Spain and Africa.

The decision to locate Casa África's headquarters in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has helped to reinforce the role that the Canary Islands are destined to play as a platform for cooperation with the neighbouring continent, thanks to their geographical proximity and the level of development achieved as compared to the surrounding countries.

Over the last decade, relations between the Canary Islands and the countries along the West African coast have become a key factor in the archipelago's strategic external projection objectives. In the specific case of Africa, our objectives include the need to create an area of stability and economic prosperity with nearby countries, for the mutual benefit of all concerned.

An important part of the exterior action policy carried out by the Government of the Canary Islands over recent years has been focused precisely on setting up a mature, fluid and permanent dialogue with our neighbours that will enable us to advance in the opening up of new spheres of collaboration and in the drawing up of an integral policy towards Africa.

As a result of this work, the development cooperation policy of the Canary Islands has started to be recognised and understood by African countries as an initiative that is close to them, both geographically and in understanding, and adapted to African reality. Based on the principal objective of fighting against poverty, it facilitates the transfer of knowledge and experiences in strategic development fields.

Our presence in Africa also includes an action plan to facilitate the setting up of Canary Island businesses, of which there are already more than 150 up and running on the continent, and the consolidation of a network of institutional, academic and social contacts and exchanges that will help to strengthen those links that already exist between the two shores of the Atlantic.

In this context, Casa África has become a fundamental instrument not only for the consolidation of Spanish foreign policy but also for the strengthening of the role that the Canary Islands aim to play in the region. To this end, it carries out awareness-raising work with different agents and bodies as well as programming and carrying out numerous activities aimed at broadening society's perception of the reality and opportunities offered by the African continent.

Casa África headquarters in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Casa África Consortium

The African continent is becoming the focus of considerable worldwide debate and challenges in the 21st century. However, serious poverty, sickness, food insecurity, injustice, violence and repression continue to persist, and clearly constitute threats to stability, peace, growth and well-being in African societies.

This situation has led to increased immigration and has generated growing awareness and a sense of deep solidarity in Spanish public opinion. In this regard, Spanish cooperation with so-called least developed countries and in particular Sub-Saharan Africa is growing significantly and beginning to play a more prominent role. In fact, the region is a new priority area for Spanish foreign policy.

For this reason, the Government has been working for several years to establish ways of bringing us closer to neighbouring African countries since Spanish foreign policy has traditionally concentrated on the Mediterranean and on some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa such as Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique and Angola. It is therefore particularly important for Spain to urgently promote and reinforce cooperation within the framework of the Government's *Africa Plan* and also provide the means required for global and bilateral relations with African countries.

In view of this challenge, it was decided to create a body which would act as the main instrument for achieving these aspirations, recognising and enhancing the Canary Islands' role as a centre for international relations and a meeting place of cultures to promote peace, solidarity and dialogue between peoples (see the Collaboration Agreement in Appendix I).

When constituting Casa África, the consortium took into account the proximity and historical ties between Africa and Spain (particularly the Canary Islands), and the fact that both territories had traditionally ignored each other. Casa Africa's main objective, therefore, is to reverse that tendency and make the most of the proximity of the regions to help the neighbouring continent to lead its own development processes with the support of Spain's recent experience.

Casa África seeks to find out how the neighbouring continent tackles all these and other matters and how to develop associations between the different actors in Spanish and African societies (universities and companies, as well as cultural, social, development, scientific and economic, institutions, among others) that can reinforce both regions' capabilities and respond coherently to global challenges with joint planning.

Casa África is a tool of public diplomacy at the service of Spain's foreign relations. It was constituted as a public consortium on 26th June 2006 in the context of the Spanish Government's *Africa Plan* and comprises the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Regional Government of the Canary Islands, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The Island Councils of Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and Tenerife also participated up until December

Images of Casa África, in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

2009, promoting and consolidating Casa África's work. Its objective is to bring Africa and Spain closer together through activities in cultural, political, social and economic fields.

According to the institution's statutes (see Appendix II), the Casa África Consortium is an inter-administration body with its own legal personality and full legal capacity to act. The consortium's general aims are to:

Create a space for meeting and exchange between public and private institutions and civil societies in Spain, Africa and Europe based in the privileged Atlantic enclave of the Canary Islands.

Promote the global development of Spanish-African relations and promote all types of institutional economic, scientific, cultural, educational, academic and cooperation activities to improve mutual understanding between Spain and the African continent.

Facilitate access to information on Spain and African countries for citizens in both territories and in particular through new information technologies, with specific programmes for school children and young people.

Promote the Canary Islands as a meeting place for Spain, Europe, Africa and Latin America.

Support regional integration processes in the framework of the *European Wider Neighbourhood Action Plan for the outermost regions*.

Serve as a forum for African diplomatic missions based in Spain to disseminate information about their countries.

Promote knowledge and intensify relations between the European Union and African countries, especially in the context of *the Cotonou Agreement.*

Pages 26/27
The streets of Antananarivo (Madagascar) as seen by the photographer Pierrot Men.
Pages 28/29
Boundiali Country (Côte d'Ivoire).

Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain greeting Abdoulaye Wade,
President of Senegal, during the inauguration of Casa África.

To help the consortium fulfil the above commitments, it has availed itself of the following organisational structure:

High Patronate of Casa África

The High Patronate is a collegiate organ which promotes, guides and sponsors programmes and activities that help to fulfil the consortium's objectives. Its Honorary Presidents are Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain, and it also includes representatives of African and Spanish institutions with a particular interest and presence in the African continent, as well as the members of the Governing Council (the highest governing body of the consortium).

Honorary Presidency
Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain

Presidency
Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé
Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and President of the Governing Council from 2006 to 2008 and from 2010 to 2012

Paulino Rivero Baute
President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands and President of the Governing Council from 2008 to 2010

Patrons

Jean Ping. Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union
Mohamed Ibn Chambas. President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Abdoulie Janneh. Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa
Elena Espinosa Mangana. Spanish Minister of the Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs
Ángeles González-Sinde Reig. Spanish Minister of Culture
Silvia Iranzo Gutiérrez. Spanish Secretary of State for Trade
Mario Cabrera González. President of the Island Council of Fuerteventura
José Miguel Pérez García. President of the Island Council of Gran Canaria
Pedro San Ginés Gutiérrez. President of the Island Council of Lanzarote
Ricardo Melchior Navarro. President of the Island Council of Tenerife
Carmen Caffarel Serra. Director of the Cervantes Institute
Javier Gómez-Navarro Navarrete. President of the Spanish National Council of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Navigation
Gerardo Díaz Ferrán. President of the Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations (CEOE)
Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro. President of La Caja de Canarias
Juan Badosa Pagés. President of the Spanish Company of Credit Insurance for Exports (CESCE)
Javier Sánchez-Simón Muñoz. President of the Port Authority of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Pedro Rodríguez Zaragoza. President of the Port Authority of Santa Cruz de Tenerife
Eduardo Bautista García. President of the Managing Council of the Spanish Society of Authors Composers and Publishers (SGAE)
Antonio Vázquez Romero. President of Iberia
Pedro Agustín del Castillo Machado. President of Binter Canarias
Enrique Locutura Rupérez. Executive Vice-president of the Repsol YPE Foundation
Felipe Benjumea Llorente. Executive President of Abengoa (Innovative Solutions for sustainable development)
Raymundo Baroja Rieu. Managing Director of DISA Group
Vicente Boluda Fos. President of Boluda Gruop
Antonio Armas Fernández. President of the Armas Shipping Line Group
Juan Miguel SanJuan y Jover. President of SATOCAN, S.A.
Juan Rodríguez Ramírez. President of Cororasa, S.A.

Ángel Lossada, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Spanish Government, and Ricardo Martínez Vázquez, Director General of Casa África, during the *Workshop on the strengthening of International Cooperation on terrorism-related criminal issues in* ECOWAS.

Meeting with the Madrid Club in Accra (Ghana) to analyse the impact of the crisis on the African continent.

Visit to Casa África by the Mayor of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Jerónimo Saavedra, and the Vice-President of the European Centre of Studies on Migratory Flows (CEMIGRAS), Manuel Ferrer.

The International *Water and Cooperation in Africa* Meeting was jointly organised by Casa África and the United Nations. Participants included Pabo Martín Carvajal, Director General for Relations with Africa of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands, and Luis Padilla Macabeo, Secretary General of Casa África.

The President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands, Paulino Rivero, together with Ricardo Martínez Vázquez, General Director of Casa África, and Elsa Casas, Regional Commissioner for Foreign Action of the Government of the Canary Islands during a meeting of the Economic Council of Casa África.

José Manuel Soria, Vice-president of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands, during the seminar entitled *Africa, the new Chinese frontier*, organised in collaboration with con Casa Asia.

Governing Bodies

Governing Council

The Governing Council: is formed by a number of representatives from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and from the Regional Government of the Canary Islands together with one representative from the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The Presidency of the Governing Council rotates every two years between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands. The Council first met in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on 26th June 2006 and was presided over by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Presidency
Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé
Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and President of the Governing Council from 2006 to 2008 and from 2010 to 2012

Paulino Rivero Baute
President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands and President of the Governing Council from 2008 to 2010

Ángel Lossada Torres-Quevedo. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Diego López Garrido. Secretary of State for the European Union
Soraya Rodríguez Ramos. Secretary of State for International Cooperation
Francisco Javier Elorza Cavengt. Secretary General for Consular and Migratory Affairs
Elena Madrazo Hegewisch. Director of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
Alfonso Lucini Mateo. Director General of Foreign Policy
María del Carmen de la Peña Corcuera. Director General of Foreign Policy for Africa
Rafael Conde de Saro. Director General of International Economic Relations and Energy Affairs
Alfonso Díez Torres. Director General of Integration and Coordination of General and Economic Affairs of the EU
Maria del Carmen Moreno Raymundo. Director of Cooperation with Africa, Asia and Western Europe
Carlos Alberdi Alonso. Director of Cultural and Scientific Relations
José Manuel Soria López. Vice-president of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands
José Miguel Ruano León. Regional Minister for the Presidency, Justice and Security of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands
Elsa Casas Cabello. Regional Commissioner for Foreign Action of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands
Javier González Ortiz. Secretary for Presidential Affairs of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands
Alberto Delgado Prieto. Deputy Regional Minister for Culture and Sports of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands
Pablo Martín-Carbajal González. Director General for Relations with Africa of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands
Jerónimo Saavedra Acevedo. Mayor of the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

The Governing Governing Council's Delegated Commission
Is formed by two representatives from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, two from the Regional Government of the Canary Islands and one designated by means of a biannual rotation among the other institutions in the consortium. The Commission's first meeting was held in Las Palmas on 14th July 2006.

The Director General
The Governing Council appoints the Director General based on a proposal from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation chosen from people of recognised prestige and experience in international relations and especially in African affairs. The Director General's Office is supported by a General Secretariat which acts as the secretariat for all the management and advisory bodies. The Director General has a three-year renewable mandate.

Advisory bodies

The Diplomatic Council

Comprising African ambassadors accredited to Spain. This body was constituted on 8th February 2007 in Madrid with participation from representatives of the Embassies of Angola, Algeria, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, the Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Djibouti and Zimbabwe. The Diplomatic Council has a Permanent Commission of five representatives. The first meeting of the Diplomatic Council's Permanent Commission was held in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on 1st April 2008.

The Economic Council

Comprises personalities of recognised prestige and experience together with representatives of institutions and entities in the area of economic and business relations with Africa. It was constituted on 27th April 2009 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and comprises the following institutions:

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
The African Development Bank (AFDB)
The UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
The Department of Trade and Investment of the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade
The Presidency of the Economic and Social Council of the Canary Islands
The International Relations Department of the Spanish Confederation of Employers' Organisations (CEOE)
The Vice-Presidency of the Spanish National Council of Chambers of Commerce
The Las Palmas Regional Trade Office of the Spanish Institute of Foreign Trade (ICEX)
The Export Promotion Agency of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands (PROEXCA)
The Presidency of PromoMadrid
The Worldwide Foreign Trade Agency (IVEX)
The Trade Promotion Agency of Andalusia (Extenda)
The General Secretariat of the Canary Islands-Africa Regional Chapter of the International Cargo Handling & Coordination Association (ICHCA)

Meeting of Casa África's Advisory Council.

Meeting of Casa África's Economic Council.

The Advisory Council

Comprises personalities of recognised prestige in relations with Africa appointed by the Governing Council based on proposals from consortium members. The council was constituted on 27th March 2009 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and its members are as follows:

Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro. President of the Spanish Red Cross and former President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
Adán Martín Menis. Former President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands
Eduardo Sánchez Jacob. President of the Spanish Coordinating Body for Development NGOs (CONGDE)
Irene Bello Quintana. President of the Canary Islands Coordinating Body for Development NGOs.
Mane Cisneros Manrique. Director of the Tarifa African Film Festival
Antonio Pérez-Portabella. President of Institut Catalunya Africa
Itziar Ruiz-Gimenez Arrieta. African Studies Group (GEA) and President of Amnesty International Spain
José Gómez Soliño. Director of the Centre for African Studies at the University of La Laguna (ULL)
Francisco Giner Abati. Professor of Anthropology at the University of Salamanca
José Antonio Alonso Rodríguez. Director of the Institute for International Studies, Complutense University of Madrid
Ferrán Iniesta. Professor of African History at the University of Barcelona
Manuel Lobo Cabrera. Former vice-chancellor of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Juan Manuel Molina Lamothe. Spanish Ambassador at large for international African bodies
Elvira Dyangani. Exhibition organiser and expert in contemporary African art
Yassine Fall. Senior economic adviser, UNIFEM
Ndeye Bineta Diop. Executive director of FAS (Femmes Africa Solidarité)
Mbuyi Kabunda. Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Basel
Victor Manuel Barbosa Borges. Former Cape Verde Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities
Donato Ndongo. Author and journalist from Equatorial Guinea
Leandro Mbomio Nsué. Sculptor and President of the Council of Scientific and Technological Research (CICTE) in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Joel George Martins. Executive director of Pax Africa
Ousseynou Wade. General secretary of the Biennale of Contemporary African Art in Dakar – Dak'Art

WHERE WE ARE

Casa África's headquarters are located
in an emblematic building constructed in 1946
and refurbished including African touches.

Jerónimo Saavedra Acevedo
Mayor of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

We unashamedly proclaim how proud we are to have the headquarters of Casa África in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. And also that, right here in our midst, it represents a forum for thought as to what the continent really is and where it is going. A forum in which the vision and opinion of Africans themselves take precedence, eschewing paternalistic attitudes, rejecting stereotypes and underlining all those factors that enable us to appreciate the human, social and cultural wealth of a land that continually surprises us with its creativity and freshness.

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, a city of the sea and of cultures, hosts many of Casa África's activities, thus offering all the attractions of the city as an exceptional complement to the mission, objectives and message of Casa África.

The diversity and variety of the attractions on offer, together with events such as the *International Film Festival*, WOMAD or the *Festival of Theatre and Dance*, goes to show how sensitive the city is to the abundant cultural wealth of our neighbouring continent.

The location of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, its strategic position, the historical ties that draw our relations with Africa closer, the movement of port traffic and the setting up here of African companies wishing to facilitate their business relations are factors that characterise this city that welcomes an organisation such as Casa África, which has played an increasingly active and enterprising role since its inauguration.

The motto of this consortium of public diplomacy, Africa and Spain, ever closer, clearly represents the principles that underpinned the setting up of Casa África in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, a city whose cosmopolitan character and multicultural vocation are reflected in all its activities, one of which is this book, a first-rate compendium of Casa África's mission and strategy.

Casa África Consortium

Casa África's headquarters are located in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in an emblematic building built in 1946, which has been carefully restored with African touches. The city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has a long history and a significant tradition linked to Africa and was also the base port for most sea voyages to America in times gone by. Nowadays, it has the busiest Spanish airport in terms of passengers per year after Madrid and Barcelona and its port, Puerto de La Luz, plays a key role in maritime traffic between Africa and Europe.

From this privileged position, geographically African, politically and economically Spanish and European, Casa África promotes the Canary Islands Archipelago as a meeting point between Spain, Europe, Africa and Latin America.

The Canary Islands, one of Spain's autonomous communities and one of the European Union's outermost regions, have a special commitment to Africa. Due to their geographical proximity, the Islands have historically developed economic and cooperation relations with nearby countries, establishing friendship links promoted by the regional Government with State and European Union support. These links have been strengthened in recent years through development cooperation projects and the internationalisation of Canary Islands companies, among other factors.

On the basis of its status as an outermost region of the European Union, the Regional Government of the Canary Islands has consolidated a stable framework for cooperation in the surrounding area, systematising its action in its own *Africa Plan*, which complements the Spanish Government's plan and reflects the political will to contribute towards creating an area of security and prosperity. The Canary Islands authorities' desire to consolidate more profound relations with Africa has played an important part in the decision to base Casa África in the Canary Islands.

In addition to housing the institution's administrative offices, the headquarters have facilities for public events:

The Nelson Mandela Auditorium
With seating capacity for around 100 people, it is often used for workshops, presentations and public meetings.

Boardroom
With a capacity for 38 people, it hosts a variety of meetings.

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The Cathedral of Saint Anne in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Photograph by Tato Gonçalves.

Drawings in the sand on the Las Canteras beach, as part of the *Mareas Migratorias* (Migration Tides) project. Photograph by Guillermo López.

DZzzz concert by Nástio Mosquito,
during the inauguration of the *Africalls?* exhibition in Casa África.

The *International Encounter of Creative Women*
is one of the initiatives of Casa África with which it aims to promote
the African cultural industry in Spain.

Agnès Agboton, a narrator from Benin,
during a session of workshops and story-telling in Casa África.

Exhibition rooms
The Guinea Ecuatorial, Kilimanjaro and Sahel Rooms provide a total of 300 m^2 of exhibition space.

Videoconference room
With seating for 14 people.

Central patio
For concerts, open-air film screenings and cultural workshops, among other activities.

Casa África Media Library
This is a documentation and multimedia centre specialising in African studies, with particular emphasis on the Sub-Saharan region. Its bibliographic and audiovisual collection (accessible online through the website www.casafrica.es) consists of documentation on Africa, generated on the continent itself and in the West, and an extensive collection of dictionaries in African languages. The subjects covered include: Cooperation and Development, Human Rights, Governability, Legislation, Gender, Economics, Environment and Natural Sciences, Public Health and Medicine, History, Geography, Literature, Art, Cinema, Music and Philosophy.

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Image of the *Bienvenidos al Paraíso* (Welcome to Paradise) exhibition by the South African artist Nontsikelelo Veleko in Casa África.

OUR MISSION

Her Majesty the Queen of Spain in the courtyard at Casa África
accompanied by participants in the meeting of Red Cross National Societies
from Central and West Africa.

Miguel Ángel Moratinos
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Africa has become a strategic and political priority for Spanish action overseas. We have designed bilateral strategies with Africa and our African partners for social, economic and institutional development, while collaborating in multilateral spheres and bodies. The new policy on Africa is a defining feature of this country's new international action, the objective of which is to foment effective multilateralism and implement Spanish society's collective responsibility and its commitment to the International Community. This policy is coupled with the solidarity for which Spain is known, with parliamentary consensus and action coordinated with all the Autonomous Communities, and with the political initiative which has led to the opening of six new Embassies, Consulates, AECID Technical Offices and Cervantes Institute teaching centres. The creation of Casa África as a privileged tool at the service of this policy is the latest, and perhaps most emblematic, action taken to date.

The wish to give preferential attention to Africa has been a constant factor in the foreign policy of the governments of Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, as illustrated by the figures for Official Development Assistance (ODA). While the annual average ODA for Africa between 2001 and 2004 was 150 million euros, in 2007 alone the figure stood at 1.19 billion, nearly 40% of the total Spanish Official Development Assistance.

Africa offers outstanding capacities and opportunities to confront future challenges and demands, to overcome its structural barriers. This demands that Spain adopt an integral approach in the projection of its profile and activity in the region. The neighbouring continent is gradually putting into place the structures it requires and creating a multilateral architecture of growing importance as it becomes aware of the global challenges linked to human security. The fight against hunger and poverty; sustainable development; climate change; promotion of international law and the geo-strategic and political location of Africa in a context of globalisation and interdependence all favour the extension and enhancement of Spain's political, diplomatic, social, cultural and economic relations with Sub-Saharan Africa.

To manage and plan the growth of our profile and relations with this region, the Spanish Government approved the first *Africa Plan 2006-2008*, the results of which exceeded initial forecasts and which met its objectives satisfactorily. Thus the second *Africa Plan*, covering 2009-2012, aims to renew and drive forward the commitment of Spanish society and that of its government with this neighbouring continent, while proposing new strategies and objectives.

The *Africa Plan 2009-2012* has been debated in the Foreign Affairs Commission in Parliament, and taken on board the contributions of the various political groups, and those from the Panel for Africa, which brings together representatives from civil society, the private sector and from the regional cooperation system. The whole process has been enriched with meetings and debates such as Casa Africa's Seminar for Reflection on Relations between Spain and Africa, held in October last year. African and European representatives from regional and

multilateral bodies, the private sector and civil society travelled to the city of Las Palmas in the Canary Islands to give thought to and propose lines of action, incorporating new focuses and criteria, which aim to consolidate and further some of those contained in the first 2006-2008 *Plan*.

We continue to be committed to the principles of coordinating stakeholders, and to policy coherence, while enhancing a regional approach, the role of the Alliance of Civilizations, and the promotion of citizens' rights. The plan's three mainstream objectives respond to the following commitments: to protect human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability, the main forces behind each of the lines programmed for our international action in this region.

Spain is creating a new sense of neighbourhood with Africa and in order to extend and enhance the mechanisms for dialogue and effective coordination Casa África has been created. The Plan sets out new actions and responses to shared challenges and expresses the commitment of Spanish society and government, while responsibly defending Spain's interests as a European country with an intense Mediterranean and Atlantic vocation and acting as a bridge between continents.

Woman from Marafourda (Nigeria).

Casa África: lines of action

On 23rd October 2008, the Governing Council of Casa África approved the *2009-2012 Strategic Plan* governing the institution's actions for the next three years. The challenge is for Casa África to become a benchmark for public diplomacy for both Spain and Europe in their relations with Africa, while also collaborating decisively to help the neighbouring continent play the leading role it deserves in the Spanish and European collective imagination. Africa is facing major challenges but at the same time it has great potential, with its wealth of natural resources and opportunities.

To fulfil its mission, Casa África works with two complementary objectives which are organised around the priorities marked by the Spanish Government's *Africa Plan*. Firstly, it attempts to bring Africa closer to Spain and attract the attention of Spanish public opinion in the form of universities, experts, employers, the mass media and citizens in general, by including knowledge and participation from Africa and its institutions. The challenge consists of publicising the value of the African continent through activities in all spheres, especially in cultural, social, political and economic fields.

Casa África's other major objective is to work closely with African institutions and societies to discover where their interests lie, helping to identify their potential counterparts and promote contact between them. The institution therefore aims to act as a voice for African priorities in Spain and the European Union.

The strategic lines, approved by the Governing Council, represent the priorities which will define the consortium's activities and can be summarised in the following:

1. Systematise a *modus operandi* with the best specialists on Africa in international development cooperation, culture and the academic, university, business and diplomatic worlds by using their knowledge in Casa África's activities.

2. Promote studies and knowledge of the African continent.

3. Develop a major website with information about Africa.

4. Contribute towards creating cooperation and collaboration networks in economic, cultural, academic and social fields, among others.

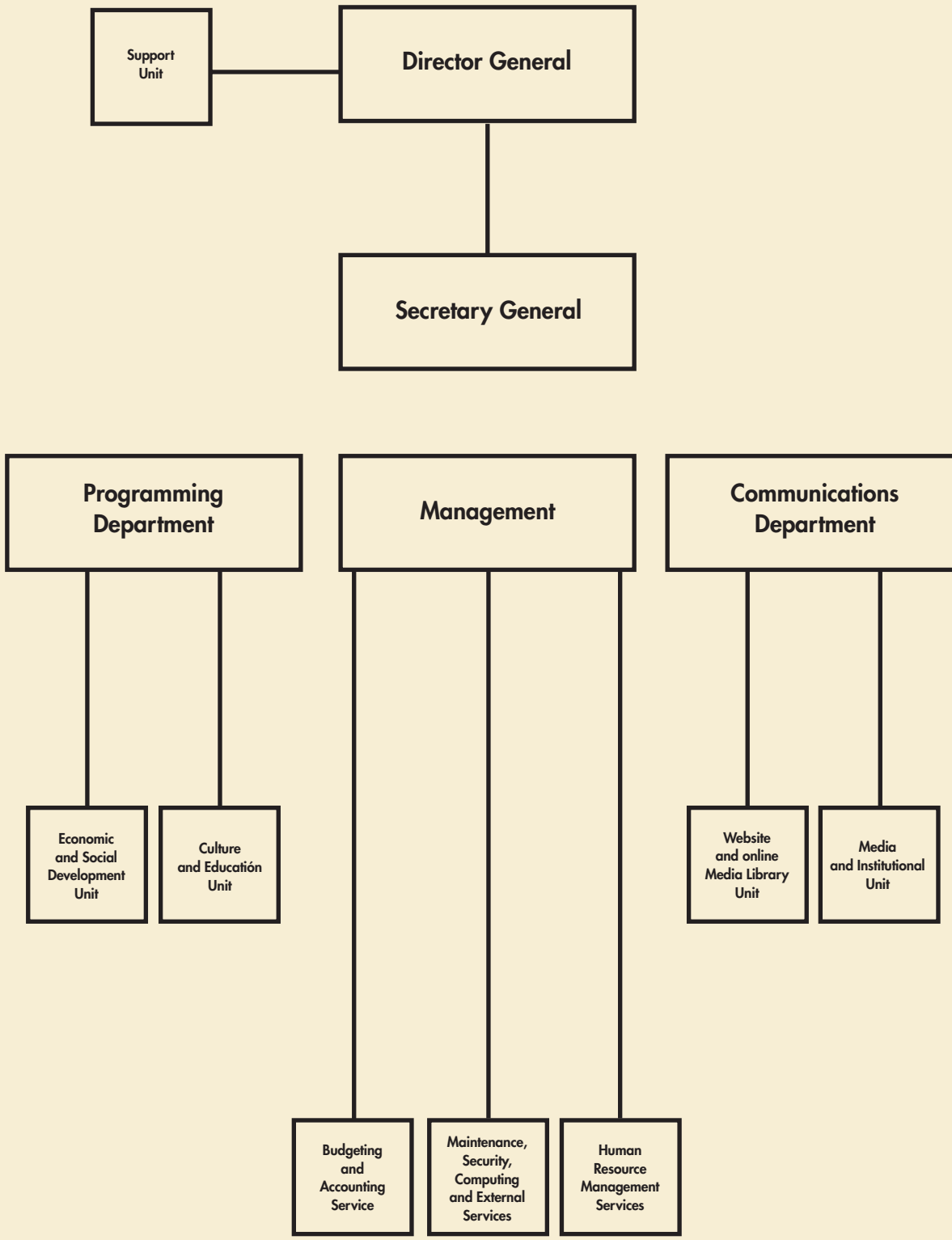
5. Be a useful institution for channelling African interests towards Spain.

6. Help to produce consistent public policy.

7. Explain and present Casa África in the appropriate forums in Africa and Spain.

The strategic lines pay special attention to the Canary Islands and the mandate in the statutes to help boost the Islands' nature as a privileged platform for Spanish foreign relations in Africa.

Organizational Structure of Casa África.


Support Unit
Director General
Secretary General
Programming Department
Management
Communications Department
Economic and Social Development Unit
Culture and Educatión Unit
Website and online Media Library Unit
Media and Institutional Unit
Budgeting and Accounting Service
Maintenance, Security, Computing and External Services
Human Resource Management Services

Meeting of the Governing Council in May 2009 held in the Palacio de Viana, Madrid.

María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, first Vice-president of the Spanish Government, at the *IV Conference of African Women Entrepreneurs* held in Cairo (Egypt).

The Director General of Casa África, Ricardo Martínez Vázquez, and the Spanish Ambassador in Ethiopia, Antonio Sánchez-Benedito, with the President of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

Casa África is a young institution whose mission and strategic lines have been clearly defined by the *2009-2012 Strategic Plan.* In the year after the plan was approved, lines of action have been specified to ensure the plan is fulfilled, adapting the organizational structure to the new needs.

The lines of action, together with the *Strategic Plan*, define Casa Africa's activities. They are basically intended to improve mutual knowledge between Africa and Spain and guide Casa Africa's efforts in order to transmit a faithful image of Africa to the Spanish population, fight against stereotypes and bring added value to the work of other institutions.

The lines of action also support, fuel and meet the objectives defined in two of the basic documents inspiring Casa África's daily work: the Spanish Government's *Africa Plan* and the *National Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations*, as well as the Regional Government of the Canary Islands' own *Africa Plan.*

The Director General, Management Committee and Secretary General

In view of these considerations and to comply with the lines of action and the Strategic Plan, Casa África has three main departments or sections led by its single decision-making executive, the Director General who works with a Management Committee and is supported by the Secretary General and the Support Unit.

The Director General directs and supervises all Casa África activities and makes proposals to the Governing Council on action to be taken to achieve the consortium's aims. To this end, he prepares a list of matters so that the president can draw up the agenda for each meeting of the Governing Council and executes the agreements adopted by the Council in his areas of responsibility. He also presents and supervises the draft budget, its implementation and settlement and the statements of account and balance sheets.

Moreover, the Director General is responsible for promoting Casa Africa's institutional and external relations in political and institutional, social economic, cultural and scientific spheres. To this end, he produces and presents the annual preliminary plan for activities, which he submits to the Governing Council for approval. He promotes and directs the programmes and projects developed by the Council. Finally, he represents the consortium when the president is not available and attends meetings of all the institution's bodies but does not have the right to vote.

He also reports to the Diplomatic, Advisory and Economic Councils on the annual activities plan and is the channel for permanent relations between the bodies of the Governing Council and the aforementioned advisory councils. The Director General reports to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation on the Consortium's activities and in emergencies he is also charged with taking the necessary legal and administrative action to defend the consortium's interests and rights, giving immediate account of such action to the Governing Council, through its president.

The Management Committee comprises the Director General, the Secretary General and the three department directors (Management, Programming and Communications), as well as the Head of the Director General's office Support Unit, who acts as the Committee's Secretary. The committee's function is to support the Director General in Casa Africa's decision-making process through debate, proposal, coordination and documentation.

The Secretary General assists the Director General in the tasks and functions he delegates to him. The Secretary General represents Casa África and stands in for the Director General in his absence. One of the General Secretary's essential functions is to coordinate and support the two management bodies (the Governing Council and the Delegated Commission) and the three advisory bodies, (Diplomatic, Advisory and Economic councils) for which his office always acts as secretariat.

The Programming Department consists of the Economic and Social Development Unit and Culture and Education Unit. The Communications Department is made up of the Web and online Media Library Unit and the Media and Institutional Image Unit. Finally, Management is responsible for budgets and accounting, the computer, logistics and security services, and outsourcing.

Open-air photographic exhibition
Desvelos, by the Cameroon artist Angèle Etoundi,
held in the Avenida de la Constitución in Sevile.

Programming Department

The Programming Department has a twofold objective. Firstly, it coordinates all the activities in which Casa África takes part and organises to guarantee consistency and assesses whether or not to participate in new initiatives. In other words, the department ensures that new activities are in accordance with the established strategic lines and that the anticipated results of each activity help to fulfil Casa África's basic mission and the objectives of both the *Africa Plan* and the *National Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations.*

Furthermore, the Department ensures consistency in programming thereby guaranteeing a balance between all activities in terms of time and subject. Thus, when various departments are involved in organising the same activity the Programming Department is responsible for the correct start up and coordination of the activity.

This is the case of initiatives such as *África Vive* (Africa Lives), an annual event which lasts for two months around Africa Day (25th May) and consists of a whole series of cultural, social, political and popular activities organised throughout the country to bring Africa closer to Spain and raise awareness among the Spanish population.

Economic and Social Development Unit

Political and strategic area

The Economic and Social Development Unit attempts to respond to the foreign policy priorities of the Casa África consortium. The institution's actions are organised around the objectives stated in the *Africa Plan* and the *National Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations* through which the Spanish Government has adopted a multitude of commitments towards the African continent.

Casa África also supports the Regional Government of the Canary Islands' *Africa Plan*. In this area, it is worth distinguishing between three basic types of action: advisory, support for execution, and monitoring commitments.

With this aim, Casa África has organised initiatives such as the *Ministerial workshop on institutional strengthening of the Spain-ECOWAS Fund for migration and development (Seminario ministerial de fortalecimiento institucional del Fondo España-CEDEAO de migración y desarrollo)* to channel proposals from ECOWAS countries through the fund; the *International Conference on Climate Change And Renewable Energies* organised in collaboration with Casa Asia, AECID, Fundación La Caixa and the IPCC intergovernmental panel; and the *Peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa issues and Spanish and European responses* seminar *(La Paz y la Seguridad en África Subsahariana problemática y respuestas española y europea),* organised in collaboration with Fundación Alternativas and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Casa África lends considerable support to the *WOMAD* festival in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria with a view to increasing and consolidating the presence of Africa and African artists at one of the most important festivals in our country.

Economic relations

The main intention is to improve knowledge of the economic situation in Sub-Saharan Africa and to promote meetings between economic actors on both sides for the exchange of experiences and the transfer of know-how and good practices.

Activities with this objective are based on supporting diffusion of the *African Economic Outlook* –produced by the OECD, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank- and other reference texts in economics. This Unit also organises seminars to improve the scant information available on regional integration processes.

Casa África endeavours to improve economic and commercial relations between Africa and Spain with a view to contributing to African economic development. To this end, the institution promotes meetings between employers and other economic agents, coordinating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and its institutions, and with equivalent bodies at regional level (in particular, from the Canary Islands) and in collaboration with African economic and trading regions (ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD and CEAC). Examples of these meetings include INVESTOUR, an investment forum organised in the framework of the International Tourism Trade Fair in Madrid (FITUR) with support from the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) to promote sustainable tourism development in Africa and the *International Conference on Microcredit for Development: Asia and Africa* (*Jornadas Internacionales de Microcréditos para el Desarrollo: Asia y África*) organised in collaboration with Casa Asia, AECID and Microbank to promote micro-financing, economic development and the eradication of poverty in Asia and Africa.

Social Affairs

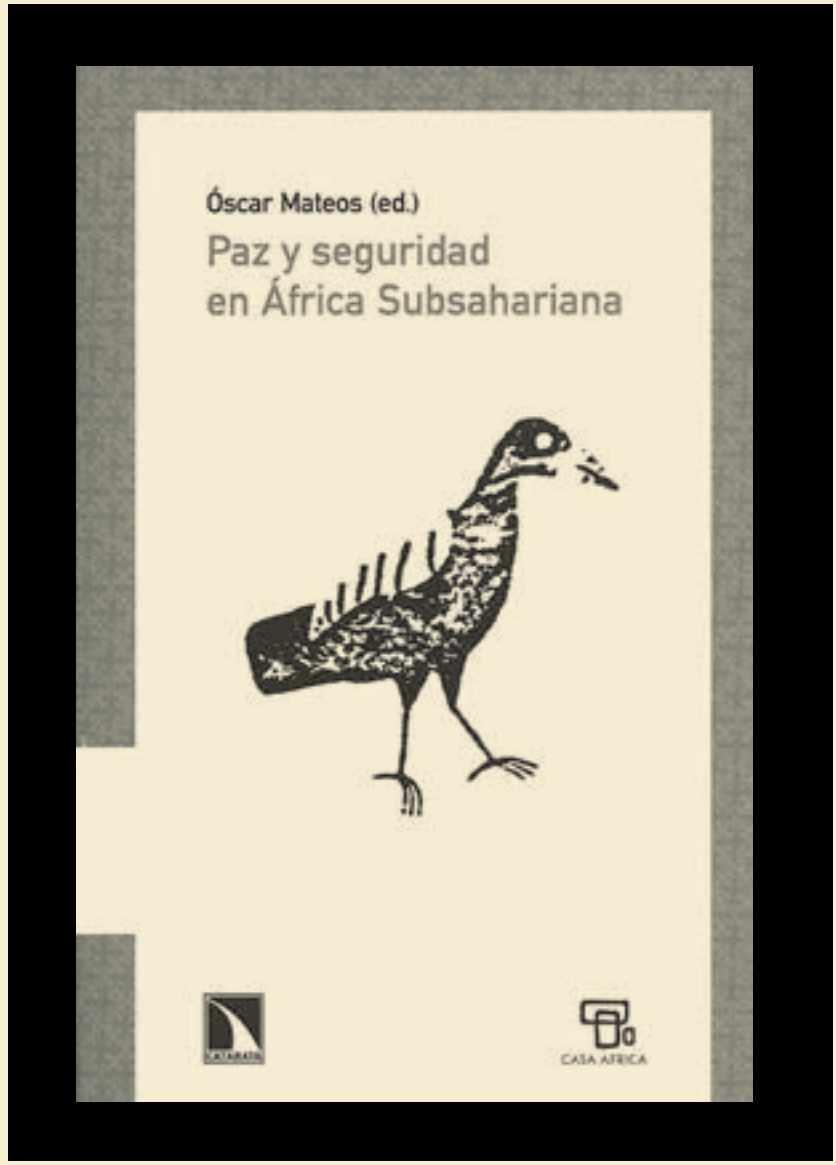
Casa África works with African immigrants in Spain and with the public and private organisations and institutions working on integration, paying particular attention to minors. It seeks to produce an evaluation of the African community in Spain to study and propose formulas to facilitate and improve their integration in society and improve the coordination of their initiatives. One of the formulas proposes channelling participation of associations into activities of a cultural nature that are open to the public, such as *África Vive*. Support is also given to initiatives from African Embassies in Spain and associations interested in improving the way they operate and are organised by providing meeting rooms and advice when requested. Furthermore, whenever activities targeting children are organised, Casa África ensures that children from shelter care facilities take part so they can enjoy the richness of their culture and give their Spanish companions a sense of what it is like.

Development

The Economic and Social Development Unit supports programmes and initiatives from international bodies, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Spanish Government, the Regional Government of the Canary Islands and other regional

Pages 68/69
Traditional attire from Korhogo (Ivory Coast).

Book cover of *Paz y Seguridad en África Subsahariana*, (Peace and Security in Sub-Saharan Africa) part of Casa África's Collection of Essays and Thought, published in collaboration with the *Los Libros de la Catarata* publishing house.



Photograph by Ángel Luis Aldai
from the *Soutoura* exhibition.

Portrait of Ayanda Makhuzeni
by Nontsikelelo Veleko in *Bienvenidos al Paraíso* (Welcome to Paradise).

governments and civil society organisations. The main point of reference in this area is the *Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation* and the corresponding *Canary Islands Plan*. Specific lines of action include Casa África as the headquarters for the Secretariat of UNIFEM's network of African and Spanish Women for a Better World, with whom it collaborates through parallel and complementary programmes, disseminating their activities and carrying out joint actions. Collaboration has also been started with the UN-Water Decade office in Zaragoza, with a view to improving monitoring and coordination of development policies being carried out in this area in Africa.

With regard to collaboration with AECID, Casa África hosts training seminars and other types of workshops, in addition to mixed committees and activities in the context of programmes such as *Nauta, Vita* and *Municipia*. Finally, Casa África supports the Canary Islands Regional Government in its development initiatives, endeavouring to foster synergies between Casa África activities and regional government action, as well as action taken by other Spanish regional governments.

Culture and Education Unit

Films, music and the performing arts

Casa África has started a programme to promote African films and generate the foundations and synergies which will give birth to a genuine African film industry. Casa África hopes to consolidate this initiative and make it a cultural benchmark and showcase for African films in Spain.To that end, the institution is working with the most outstanding national and African initiatives. In Spain it has supported the *African Film Festival of Tarifa* (FCAT), organising parallel activities, helping to subtitle films and improve exposure. Similarly, Casa África has taken over the *Cine Nómada* (Nomad Films) programme which provides a long series of African film cycles in various Spanish cities throughout the year in order to reach a wider public.

The institution's commitment to films also extends to the neighbouring continent and so it collaborates with Africa's most important film Festival, the Pan African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) which takes place every two years in the Republic of Burkina Faso and confers the *Casa África Award,* among others.

Casa África also wants to make the most of the enormous potential of traditional and modern African music. Organising concerts is a way of showcasing the musical variety of the continent's different regions, since music is one of Africa's most effective socialising tools. African music is being disseminated in Spain by including young African groups in consolidated platforms, such as the main music festivals at national level. Other examples include a night dedicated to Africa in festivals such as *WOMAD* (in Las Palmas and Cáceres), *Fuerteventura en Música*, *Territorios Sevilla Festival*, *Pirineos Sur*, and *La Mar de Músicas* (Cartagena).

Cheveux de paille 3. **Photograph by the Cameroon artist Angèle Etoundi Essamba that forms part of the *Desvelos* exhibition.**

KURZWEIL

In the performing arts, a strategy has been started for both dance and theatre for the exchange of artists between Africa and Spain, and the creation of working networks, such as collaboration with the Choreographic Centre in La Gomera, aimed at promoting contemporary African dance in Spain. To begin with, exchange programmes are being promoted through residential placements, using renowned centres in Spain and involving African artists. Subsequently, works which might be well-received in other Spanish cities are identified.

Literature

To improve knowledge and dissemination of classical and modern African literature, an itinerant programme called *Letras Africanas (African Literature)* has been started. Through this programme, an annual selection is made of African writers of recognised prestige whose works have been translated into Spanish, in some cases by Casa África.

Casa África has also undertaken to support *Kosmopolis*, one of the most important contemporary literature forums at an international level organised by the Contemporary Culture Centre in Barcelona (CCCB).

Plastic arts

The most avant-garde contemporary art is becoming more consolidated in Africa and is also becoming better known. Casa África is committed to young talent and offers its space and support for exhibitions which subsequently travel through Spain and Africa, in an attempt to promote exchange between artists in several countries.

The various initiatives undertaken to date include, for example, the *African Photography Encounters* (Mali) and the *Biennale of Contemporary African Art, Dak'Art* (Senegal). These examples include the parallel organisation in Casa África of four annual exhibitions and their subsequent transfer to various Spanish cities. Another of the initiatives in this field is participation in the International Contemporary Art Fair in Madrid, ARCO.

Educational and universities

Casa África considers it fundamental to work very closely with academia given that it is the area *par excellence* that can best contribute towards raising awareness and improving knowledge of the African continent in Spanish society. Based on this conviction, AECID and Casa África collaborate in organising *International University Meetings with Africa*, proposed by Spanish universities.

These meetings are intended to promote cooperation formulas between universities in Africa and Spain by forming networks of experts and starting projects to enable the transfer of practical know-how. In addition to this initiative, Casa África is adding to university bibliographic collections on Africa to ensure that they have sufficient material for the informed elaboration of academic modules about the continent in the fields of literature, history, society, economics and politics.

Pages 76/77
Concert stage in Madrid at the *África Vive* festival.

Image from the *Enseñar África* initiative,
a didactic project of a group of specialists from the University of Las Palmas
de Gran Canaria and the University
Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, presented in Casa África.

The African author Moussa Konaté in a literary soirée in Casa África.

A short of the awareness act *El Camino de Muzu*,
held in the University of Las Palmas on World Aids Day.

Communications Department

The Communications Department enables one of Casa África's main objectives (that of raising awareness of Africa in Spanish public opinion) to be met as it helps to provide a less distorted vision of Africa, a continent usually associated only with major crises, poverty and illegal immigration. To this end, this department publicises all of Casa África activities, making the institution a meeting place for people from Africa, Spain and Europe and the main source of information on Africa in Spain.

The department's functions include providing advice to all Casa África departments and units on communication-related matters; providing the Programming Department with ideas; producing, directing and supervising the content and consistency of institutional material (catalogues, books, leaflets, programmes, reports, videos and photographs), and publishing Casa África promotional material and other activities such as *África Vive*. In conjunction with the Programming Department, it also produces the communication protocols for each activity.

To meet its objectives, the department has specified its own lines of action. Firstly, the creation and upkeep of an ambitious website on Africa with all types of references and links, in addition to a database of people and institutions of interest in Africa, Europe and Spain. In short, the idea is to offer information (either directly or through a reference guide to the appropriate sources) on Africa for anyone who needs it. The website also has a very comprehensive online media library to offer Spaniards and Africans a service that enables them to find literature, music and films made in or about Africa.

Casa África's media library also organises the Casa África Essay Prizes each year, with a view to promoting interest in and research on current affairs on the African continent, thus favouring enhanced mutual knowledge. The winning essays are subsequently published.

The second line of action for the Communications Department is to publicise Africa as a continent brimming with opportunities and enormous potential through the mass media. It must be remembered that Casa África's main objective is to bring Africa closer to Spain and there is no better way of doing that than through the mass media, the real generators of opinion and diffusers of knowledge.

Communicating all of Casa África activities not only helps the institution to become a benchmark for Spanish-African relations, it also helps to provide a more appropriate, realistic image of the continent that focuses less on its victims and more on positive aspects. To achieve this objective, ongoing relations are maintained with the mass media, facilitating their work of offering truthful information to viewers and readers.

Website and online Media Library Unit

The Website and online Media Library Unit was created on the basis of the conviction that websites are a basic instrument for communication and awareness raising. The recent update was based directly on compliance with one of the strategic lines for Casa África,

which is the creation of a major information portal on Africa. It must therefore be understood as an instrument which feeds off the work of all Casa África Units and which in turn feeds back into them, identifying information of special interest. In addition, the Casa África website is an extremely effective tool that will help the institution to achieve its mission, as it can be used to energise networks with different interlocutors such as universities, African associations in Spain, national and international institutions and in general Spanish and African civil society.

The website, which was launched in Spanish, has now also been translated into French, English and Portuguese. It has been conceived as a major portal for news and information on Africa in all areas (be they social, political, cultural or economic) and aims to become the benchmark website for Africa in Spain.

It is also intended to be a practical tool at the service of Africans in Spain so that, in addition to having a new internet site to extend their sources of information about what is happening on their continent and in Spain, they can also access specific guidance on legal procedures and issues, the formation of African associations in Spain, employment opportunities and shelter care facilities.

Thirdly, www.casafrica.es offers information on all the institution's activities in addition to those being promoted by related institutions. It does this through the diary and press room sections and through the Newsletter which includes weekly events and is sent to the mass media and other interested agents.

Www.casafrica.es also has a database of personalities and institutions of interest in Africa, Europe and Spain and has proved to be a meeting place for users to exchange information and experiences of Africa. As a social network, it is fully up-to-date with recent internet trends (Web 2.0). Casa África is present in Facebook, Twitter and Youtube and from these platforms it interacts with its users, providing the opportunity to access updated information at all times, as well as videos of its activities and other services.

The online Media Library is one of the most outstanding sections in www.casafrica.es and responds to the need to adapt Casa África's objectives to the new technologies to offer added value. The fact is that at the moment society lacks online media libraries specialising in the African continent. This initiative, however, enables the institution to provide society with access to digitalised African publications, films and music, thereby helping to disseminate knowledge among more people and promote African studies.

The online Media Library aspires to become a benchmark instrument on the African continent for researchers, specialists and the general public. It is a multidisciplinary space conceived as an instrument for energising and disseminating Africa's broad cultural, social and scientific heritage. The particular resources it will be offering are: specific bibliographies, musical and film resources and African television channels.

***Crisis*, by Otobong Nkanga, from the *Re/presentaciones: ellas* exhibition.**

THE POPULAR
AFRICAN
POTATOES
THE AFRICAN POTATOES

Having such an ambitious website involves a significant change in how an institution such as Casa África works as it has availed itself of new technologies in order to optimise resources and provide an appropriate image of a continent which suffers from a significant shortage of online communications. Www.casafrica.es presents a new perspective on the continent and facilitates contact between people in an attempt to transform Spanish society's relationship with Africa.

In addition to www.casafrica.es, it is also worth highlighting the special relevance of the start-up of the www.africavive.es website, a significant virtual project which started with the important annual *África Vive* festival.

Media and Institutional Image Unit

The Media and Institutional Image Unit is responsible for disseminating Casa África activities through press releases and conferences, institutional trips and other communication activities that provide opportunities for access to public opinion and the dissemination of the potential of Africans. The Unit maintains direct, constant contact with the communications departments and press offices of the institutions and organisations responsible for each project, coordinating dissemination activities with them to enhance synergies and optimise efforts.

The Unit advises Casa África employees on producing interviews and reports in response to mass media demands and how to offer subjects and awaken interest in Africa's agenda among information professionals. It also monitors the regional, national and international press on a daily basis and produces cuttings on Casa África and Africa in the media. These are distributed weekly and monthly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and to other members of the consortium on request.

In keeping with Casa África's general objectives, the Media and Institutional Image Unit works to bring Africa closer to Spain, to Spanish and African people, by using social communication media to provide exposure for the situation in Africa, giving a positive image of the continent which is full of expectations and prospects.

The media have, to date, tended to project a negative image of Africa. The aim of this unit is to turn the media into a tool to promote social dialogue about Africa and train communication professionals in developing positive attitudes that help to transmit something more than just the usual clichés.

With this aim in mind, and in order to improve the quality and impact of these actions, the Unit liaises with the Programming Department in the design and start-up of those activities that directly target African and Spanish journalists. The objective is to analyse the media's responsibility for common perceptions and ideas, and reflect on appropriate media treatment for information on Africa. This work also constitutes one of the strategic lines in the *National Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations*. A particular example of this is

Photograph by the South African Obie Oberholzer, part of the *África Plural 3+3* exhibition.

Jorge Dias, Maputo
De camino al museo
Lolo Veleko, Cape To
Sou suficientemente n

the *Communication and Immigration* seminar organised in collaboration with the Regional Government of the Canary Islands.

Along the same lines, the Unit proposes agreements with national and regional news media to facilitate and extend information on Africa and start up original programmes that help to meet Casa África's objectives.

An example of this is the Spanish National Radio programme *El Arbol de las Palabras* (*the Tree of Words*), the only radio programme in Spain specialising in African films. Casa África has a monthly collaboration with the Spanish World Service Radio as this channel broadcasts a weekly programme on the different *Casas* (Casa África, Casa Asia, etc) attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Over the next few years, the list of permanent collaboration arrangements is expected to grow, making Casa África a benchmark for information on Africa for Spanish and European media.

With regard to Casa África's institutional image, considerable efforts have been made to develop a concept which is radically different from the traditional concept of this type of institution, giving it a fresh, approachable and modern image. Work in this area has focused on the publication in various formats of all sorts of promotional material for Casa África and the projects it is working on, including annual reports, books, exhibition catalogues, press packs, institutional videos, leaflets and posters.

Management

Management is the institution's third major department. Its main objective is to ensure internal consistency so that the annual programme of activities can be carried out. Guidelines and procedures have been put in place to provide an operational model for Casa África.

The first service that forms part of Management is the Budgeting and Accounting Service. Casa África's resources come from consortium member contributions, which were planned for a four-year period to ensure the start-up of the consortium and the implementation of Casa África's objectives and activities.

The budget reflects all these activities together with the need to and possibility of carrying them out. The budget is drawn up in collaboration with all the Units, following the *Strategic Plan* and lines of action.

When the annual budget has been approved, the management services and in particular, the Accounting Unit, work to guarantee appropriate budget monitoring, culminating in the rendering of audited accounts, which also require approval from the Governing Council. A correct settlement of the budget guarantees appropriate management, i.e. good use of the available funds.

Management's responsibilities include: managing the Computing, Logistics and Security Services; Casa África's travel for staff and guests; holding events; maintaining the building, and managing suppliers.

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The *Africalls?* exhibition presented in Maputo (Mozambique) of seven contemporary African artists' view of reality using very different materials in various contexts.

Participants in the *Leadership and Empowerment Course for Young Women*, coordinated by Casa África, UNIFEM and the Network of Women for a Better World.

Casa África celebrates the national holidays of the different African countries, together with their Embassies and associations in Spain. Here, we can see the celebration of Ghana's National Day.

Finally, External Services respond to the objective of ensuring that all consortium procedures comply with the legislation in force. In the legal field, all necessary collaboration and sponsorship agreements, contracts and administrative files are produced as necessary to ensure strict compliance with the law. Similarly, in the area of employment, recruitment processes and all staff-related procedures must be open and transparent. Compliance with tax obligations is another area where the consortium has to ensure impeccable action.

In order to meet these obligations, Casa África has taken on three external consultants in the three areas described, firstly, to ensure that it can rely on the best possible professionals and secondly, to keep its structure small in the interests of efficiency and internal flexibility.

Management, in short, works to ensure efficiency and economies of scale at all levels, providing horizontal support services to the Director General's office and the Programming and Communications Departments.

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***Cindy & Nkuli*, 2004. Photograph by Nontsikelelo Veleko included in the *Bienvenidos al Paraíso* (Welcome to Paradise) exhibition.**

***Mon Père* (My father). Photograph by Lamine Coulibaly corresponding to the *Singularidades* (Singularities) exhibition.**

The *África Vive* initiative is an annual event held on Africa Day, 25th May, and that enables the whole of Spain to celebrate this date with the Africans.

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Maputo (Mozambique).

Avenida Eduardo Mondlane. Tete. Mozambique, 2004. Photograph by Obie Oberholzer for the *África Plural 3+3* exhibition project.

Image of the village of Samabougou (Mali).

The *Africalls?* audiovisual project was inaugurated in Mozambique coinciding with the *Dockanema* documentary film festival.

Warning tape (Tout juste poupasser!), 2008. Photograph by Mohamed Konate for the *Singularidades* (Singularities) exhibition that brings together a wide range of expression techniques used by young creators in Mali.

Appendix

Appendix I. Collaboration Agreement for the creation of the Casa África Consortium
Appendix II. Statutes

Appendix I
Collaboration Agreement for the Creation of the Casa África Consortium

COLLABORATION AGREEMENT FOR THE CREATION OF THE "CASA ÁFRICA" CONSORTIUM MADE IN LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA, CANARY ISLANDS, SPAIN ON 26TH JUNE, 2006. BETWEEN. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CO-OPERATION AND THE AECI (THE SPANISH AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION); THE GOVERNMENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY OF THE CANARY ISLANDS; THE ISLAND COUNCILS OF GRAN CANARIA, TENERIFE, FUERTEVENTURA AND LANZAROTE; AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA.

The parties act as follows:

Mr. MIGUEL ANGEL MORATINOS CUYAUBÉ, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, in execution of the powers conferred upon him pursuant to Section 13.3 of the General State Administrations Organisation and Operations Act 6/1997, of 14 April, and Thirteenth Additional Disposition to Act 30/1992 on the Legal Regime of Public Administrations and the Common Administrative Procedure, of 26 November, modified by Act 4/1999, of 13 January.
Mr. ADAN MARTÍN MENIS, President of the Government of the Canary Islands, in execution of the powers conferred upon him pursuant to his appointment under Royal Decree 856/2003, of 4 July, and under Article 18.1 of the Autonomy Statute of the Canary Islands, in relation to Section 9 o) of the Government and Public Administrations of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands Act 1/1983, of 14 April, and Article 4 of Decree 7/2004, of 3 February, on the constitutional regulations of the Presidency of the Government.
Mrs LEIRE PAJIN IRAOLA, President of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, appointed pursuant to Royal Decree 593/2004, of 19 April, who duly represents the aforementioned agency in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the Agency's Statutes, approved by Royal Decree 3424/2000, of 15 December.
Mr. JOSE MANUEL SORIA LOPEZ, President of the Island Council of Gran Canaria, in due representation thereof.
Mr. RICARDO MELCHIOR NAVARRO, President of the Island Council of Tenerife, in due representation thereof.
Mr. MARIO CABRERA GONZALEZ, President of the Island Council of Fuerteventura, in due representation thereof.
Mrs INES ROJAS DE LEON, President of the Island Council of Lanzarote, in due representation thereof.
Mrs JOSEFA LUZARDO ROMANO, Mayoress of the Local Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, in due representation of the Municipal Corporation.

WHEREAS

The African continent, which is located so close to Spain, and especially to the Canary Islands Archipelago, and with which there are an abundance of historical ties and current interests that unite Spain and the African continent, is currently faced with a critical phase of recuperation of its stability, peace, democracy and respect for human rights, through a process of consolidation of its socio-political and economic structures.

Positive economic trends are being observed in the African region, in which many factors are playing an important role, namely the increase in energy resources of Western Africa, among others, and the return of stronger foreign investment, as well as political factors such as the fight against corruption and the efforts in support of good government and transparent governance practices.

Notwithstanding the above, alarming situations of poverty, sickness, food insecurity, injustice, violence and repression still exist that indubitably constitute an evident threat to the stability, peace and to the growth and well-being of African societies.

These situations and the aftermath thereof, including the ensuing massive migratory effects, have caused the Spanish population to become increasingly conscious of such situations and to hold a profound sense of solidarity with the continent.

The majority of the so-called Least Developed Countries are found in Sub-Saharan Africa, and accordingly, Spanish public and private co-operation, is increasing significantly in respect of this region, which is becoming a significant aspect of Spain's global international co-operation efforts.

In this context, the initiatives of the African Union (AU), the strategy of The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the participation of Spain in Global Funds and Programmes committed to the Millennium Development Goals and in the new partnership policy of the European Union, constitute the best methods of strengthening co-operation with Sub-Saharan Africa.

In view of the above, and given that the African region constitutes a new priority for the foreign policy of the Spanish Government, it is now immensely important that Spain promotes strengthened co-operative actions, detailed in the framework of the *Africa Plan 2006-2008*, as well as the creation of global and bilateral relationship instruments with African countries. With this perspective in mind, the Canary Islands, whose close geographical proximity to Western Africa gives rise to special economic, cultural and human points of contact with the region, should become the African gate-way to other regions and should contribute in a significant manner toward the realisation of the objectives of Spanish-African relationships.

CONSEQUENTLY, the establishment of an entity that is to be an appropriate instrument to achieve these goals and that has its head offices in the Canary Islands is proposed, thereby acknowledging and reinforcing the role that the Canary Islands Region plays as a centre for international relations and as a meeting place for different cultures for the development of peace, solidarity and dialogue between countries.

ACCORDINGLY, the parties have resolved to execute this Collaboration Agreement in accordance with the following clauses

CLAUSES

One. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, an entity registered under the former; the Government of the Canary Islands; the Island Councils of Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote; and the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, for the purpose of jointly contributing to the development of the relationships between the countries and societies of Spain, Africa and Europe, and for a better understanding of their respective peoples, have agreed to create a Consortium called "CASA AFRICA".The Consortium will be governed by its corresponding Statutes, that are to set out its purposes and the specific details concerning its constitutional, functional and financial systems, and that are hereby attached as an appendix to this agreement.

Two. The institutions participating in "CASA AFRICA" shall carry out, within the scope of their respective responsibilities, the necessary actions for the achievement of and compliance with the purposes as established by the Statutes thereof. The co-ordination and the monitoring of the performance of the Agreement shall be carried out through the participation of the signatory institutions in the Governing Council of Casa África, in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes thereof.

Three. The "CASA AFRICA" Consortium shall have its headquarters at calle Alfonso XIII, number 5, in the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Canary Islands.

Four. The contributions for the establishment and the financing of the operations and programmes of "CASA AFRICA", in accordance with the Statutes of the Consortium, for the financial years 2007, 2008 and 2009, shall be the following: 2,300,000 Euros per annum from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation and the AECI (The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation), broken down as follows: 2,000,000 Euros from the AECI and 300,000 Euros from the State Secretariat for Foreign Affairs and for Latin America; 1,500,000 Euros per annum from the Government of the Canary Islands; and 225,000 Euros per annum from each of the participating Island Councils and the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Accordingly, the total budget shall, in these three yearly periods, amount to 4,925,000 Euros. In respect of future financial years the budget shall be that which is agreed to between the co-participating Public Administrations, as the case may be.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, for the financial year corresponding to the year 2006 and considering the date on which Casa África shall be legally established, the respective amounts shall be as follows: 2,100,000 Euros from the Ministry (2,000,000 Euros from the AECI and 100,000 Euros from SEAEI (State Secretariat for Foreign Affairs and for Latin America)); 1,350,000 Euros from the Government of the Canary Islands and 200,000 Euros from each of the participating Island Councils and the Local Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Accordingly, the budget for the year 2006 shall amount to 4,450,000 Euros.

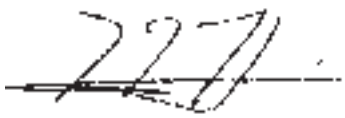
Five. This Agreement shall have an indefinite duration and shall be terminated when the signatory Public Administrations so agree, in which case these Public Administrations shall take the necessary measures to bring to a close any (then) current actions.

Six. The legal system applicable to this Agreement shall be that established for such purposes by the Act 30/1992 on the Legal Regime of Public Administrations and the Common Administrative Procedure, of 26 November, modified by Act 47/1999, of 13 January, its development provisions and other concordant provisions. And in witness thereof, the parties hereto execute this Agreement at the place and on the date detailed herein above.

Appendix II
Statutes

TITLE I

ON BEHALF OF THE SPANISH MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

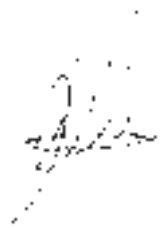


Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé

ON BEHALF OF THE ISLAND COUNCIL
OF LANZAROTE

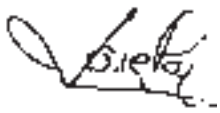
Inés Rojas de León

ON BEHALF OF THE ISLAND COUNCIL
OF FUERTEVENTURA



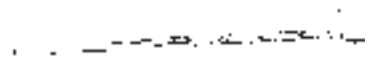
Mario Cabrera González

ON BEHALF OF THE SPANISH AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



Leire Pajín Iraola

ON BEHALF OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE CANARY ISLANDS



Adán Martín Menis

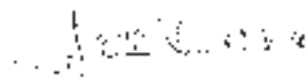
ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

Josefa Luzardo Romano

ON BEHALF OF THE ISLAND COUNCIL
OF TENERIFE

Ricardo Melchior Navarro

ON BEHALF OF THE ISLAND COUNCIL
OF GRAN CANARIA



José Manuel Soria López

Article 1

The *Consorcio Casa África* [hereinafter "the Consortium" or "Casa África Consortium] is constituted as an inter-administrative body governed by Public Law, with legal personality and full legal capacity to act.

The Consortium is composed of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, a body attached to same; the Regional Government of the Canary Islands; the Island Councils of Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote; and the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Article 2

The aim of the Consortium is to administer the socio-cultural and training services, institutional services and those supporting development and economic cooperation envisaged in these Statutes.

Article 3

The headquarters of the Casa África Consortium shall be in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, in the building situated at Calle Alfonso XIII, number 5, although territorial offices may be established in other Spanish cities, in due course and with the agreement of the Governing Council. Said offices would be inherent bodies of the Casa África, without independent legal personality, and be governed by the regulations of Casa África.

Article 4

The general aims of the Consortium are the following:

a) Create a space for meeting and exchange between public and private institutions and civil societies in Spain, Africa and Europe based in the privileged Atlantic enclave of the Canary Islands;

b) Encourage the global development of Spanish-African relations and promote all types of institutional, economic, scientific, cultural, educational, academic and cooperation activities, to improve mutual understanding between Spain and the African continent.

c) Facilitate access to information on Spain and African countries for citizens in both territories and in particular through new information technologies, with specific programmes for school children and young people.

d) Promote the Canary Islands as a meeting place for Spain, Europe, Africa and Latin America.

e) Support regional integration processes in the framework of the *European Wider Neighbourhood Action Plan* for the outermost regions.

f) Serve as a forum for African diplomatic missions based in Spain to disseminate information about their countries.

g) Promote knowledge and intensify relations between the European Union and African countries, especially in the context of the *Cotonou Agreement.*

Article 5

The Consortium's responsibilities are:

a) To promote and coordinate the activities and programmes implemented by its members with a view to providing the envisaged institutional and socio-cultural services, and to carry out the activities and programmes agreed to by its governing bodies;

b) To sign as many agreements with public or private, national or foreign entities as deemed necessary to achieve its aims;

c) To attract as many economic resources as are needed to finance the Consortium's pertinent activities and programmes;

d) Any others that, subject to the legislation in force, may serve to guarantee full achievement of its aims, including amendment of these Statutes or agreement to dissolve and wind-up the Consortium.

Article 6

The Consortium shall be governed by:

a) The provisions of these Statutes;

b) The provisions of article 6 of Spanish Act 30/1992 of 26 November, on the Legal System for Public Administrations and Common Administrative Procedure;

c) The stipulations of Spanish General Budgetary Act 47/2003 of 26 November;

d) Spanish Act 7/1985 of 2 April, regulating the Bases for Local Government;

e) The precepts of the Consolidated Text on the Legal Regulations In Force for Matters of Local Government, approved by Spanish Royal Legislative Decree 781/1986 of 18 April;

f) Those specific regulations that are of pertinent application.

Article 7

The contributions of the Institutions comprising the Casa África Consortium shall be the following:

a) The right to use and benefit from the headquarters building, situated at Calle Alfonso XIII, number 5, in the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and the necessary offices, duly equipped for the purposes of Casa África, which shall be contributed by the Regional Government of the Canary Islands. The Consortium member institutions shall also assure the use of auditoriums, exhibition spaces or external venues deemed necessary as the case arises, according to the formula to be agreed in each case;

b) The financing of ordinary spending and that required for the performance of the Casa África's programmes, which shall be contributed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID); the Regional Government of the Canary Islands; the Island Councils of Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote; and the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, as follows:

- 2,300,000 euros, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (2,000,000 euros, AECID; and 300,000 euros, the State Secretariat for Foreign Affairs and for Latin America);
- 1,500,000 euros, the Regional Government of the Canary Islands;
- 225,000 euros, the Island Council of Gran Canaria;
- 225,000 euros, the Island Council of Tenerife;
- 225,000 euros, the Island Council of Fuerteventura;
- 225,000 euros, the Island Council of Lanzarote;
- 225,000 euros, the City Council of Las Palmas.

The budget for ordinary spending and the performance of programmes shall consequently be 4,925,000 euros per annum during the first four years, with the intention that the Consortium member institutions gradually increase the amounts contributed as much as possible, in line with the extent of the consortium's activities and increases in the CPI or annual growth of their respective cooperation budgets.

TITLE II

THE CONSORTIUM'S ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE.

Chapter I High Patronate (Alto Patronato).

Article 8

a) The High Patronate is a collegiate body that encourages, orients and sponsors programmes and activities that help fulfil the general aims of the Consortium;

b) The High Patronate shall be formed by representatives of the Consortium member institutions and by the natural or legal persons who sponsor the programmes of the Casa África, as approved by the Governing Council;

c) The High Patronate shall as far as possible meet once a year or whenever convenient for optimal achievement of the Consortium's aims. These meetings shall be attended by the President, or his/her representative, and the Vice Presidents of the Governing Council, or their representatives, and the Director General.

Chapter II. THE CONSORTIUM'S GOVERNING BODIES

Article 9

The Casa África Consortium shall be overseen by the following governing bodies:

– The Governing Council
– The Delegated Commission
– The Director General

Article 10

a) The Governing Council shall act as a collegiate management body and enjoy superior authority within the Consortium;

b) The Governing Council, whose members shall be designated and revoked by the Consortium Administrations, shall be composed of:

– Twelve representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
– Seven representatives from the Regional Government of the Canary Islands;
– One representative from the Island Council of Gran Canaria;
– One representative from the Island Council of Tenerife;
– One representative from the Island Council of Fuerteventura;
– One representative from the Island Council of Lanzarote;
– One representative from the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Besides said members, the Institutions shall designate replacements for same to ensure at all times the necessary quorum for decision-making;

c) The Governing Council shall have a President and two Vice Presidents elected from among its members;

d) The Presidency shall rotate on a two-yearly basis between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, which shall begin the rotational term, and the President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands. The President may delegate to another member of the Governing Council the powers inherent to said position;

e) The position of first Vice President shall be held by the person due to hold the Presidency in the following two-year period.

Article 11

The Delegated Commission of the Governing Council shall be formed by two of the representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, two of the representatives from the Regional Government of the Canary Islands, one designated on a rotating basis by the local and island bodies and the Director General who shall coordinate the meetings.

The representative of the Institution that holds, in turn, the presidency of the Governing Council shall be responsible for calling and chairing the meetings.

Article 12

a) The Director General of the Consortium shall be the single-person senior executive body. He/she shall be appointed by the Governing Council further to a proposal from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, from among persons of recognised prestige and experience in international relations, particularly in the African environment, by agreement of its members;

b) The mandate of the Director General shall have a term of three years, renewable for equal time periods, which shall always require the consensus agreement of the Governing Council members;

c) His/her separation from the post shall likewise require consensus agreement of the said Council's members.

Chapter III. THE CONSORTIUM'S OTHER BODIES.

Article 13

a) A Diplomatic Council is established as a consultative body to the Consortium, composed of the African ambassadors accredited in Spain;

b) The Diplomatic Council shall act through a Permanent Commission comprising a minimum of three and a maximum of five members, and shall be headed by the Dean of the African ambassadors;

c) This Council shall meet once a year. These meetings shall be attended by the President or his/her representative, the Vice Presidents or their representatives and the Director General of the Consortium;

d) Besides exercising its consultative function, the Diplomatic Council shall be informed of the annual activities plan of Casa África by either the Governing Council the Director General.

Article 14

a) An Advisory Council shall be established, as a body of a consultative nature, composed of figures of recognised prestige in the context of relations with Africa. Its members shall be designated by the Governing Council upon proposal from the Consortium member institutions;

b) This Council shall meet once a year and its meetings shall be attended by the President or his/her representative, the Vice Presidents or their representatives and the Director General;

c) The Advisory Council shall be informed of the annual activities plan of the Consortium by the Governing Council or by the Director General.

Article 15

a),An Economic Council is also established as a consultative body, composed of representatives from economic and business entities and institutions, and figures of recognized prestige and experience in the context of economic and business relations with Africa. Its members shall be designated by the Governing Council upon proposal from the Consortium member institutions;

b) This Council shall meet once a year and its meetings shall be attended by the President or his/her representative, the Vice Presidents or their representatives and the Director General;

c) The Economic Council shall be informed of the annual activities plan of the Consortium by the Governing Council or by the Director General.

Article 16

a) As a specialised Consortium management body, an Assets Management Committee shall exist, whose duties shall comprise the renovation, preservation and maintenance of the Casa África headquarters, in accordance with current regulations;

b) The Regional Government of the Canary Islands shall have majority representation on this Committee. It shall always be headed by the President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands or by the person delegated to this end;

c) The Assets Management Committee shall be comprised of:

- three representatives of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands;
- one representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

d) The Consortium Institutions nevertheless pledge that both the planned use and the procedure by which projects are commissioned shall be established by consensus agreement.

Chapter IV. THE POWERS OF THE CONSORTIUM BODIES.

Article 17

The Governing Council 's powers are:

a) To ensure fulfilment of the Consortium's aims;

b) To approve the ordinary budget and adopt the agreements referred to in article 33 of these Statutes;

c)To exercise internal legal authority;

d) To admit, as appropriate, new Consortium members;

e) To approve the personnel roll and organic framework of the Consortium's services as presented by the Director General;

f) To carry out the recruitment needed to fulfil the Consortium's aims;

g) To organise spending within the limits set by the budgetary rules;

h) To create any special purpose entities needed to carry out the Consortium's activities;

i) To implement the administrative and judicial actions required to defend the Consortium's interests;

j) To make use of the goods and rights included in the Consortium's assets in accordance with the provisions of the applicable regulations;

k) To approve the Consortium's activities programme;

l) To modify the Consortium's Statutes;

m) To establish territorial offices in other Spanish cities under the terms envisaged in article 3 of these Statutes;

n) Any others which, according to the legislation in force, may correspond thereto.

Article 18

a) The Governing Council may delegate the powers indicated in section f) of article 17 to the Director General, under terms to be established;

b) The Governing Council may delegate to the Delegated Commission the powers granted it in sections e), f), g), i) and k) of article 17;

c) Said delegation may at any time be subject to revocation.

Article 19

The powers of the President of the Governing Council are:

a) To ensure compliance with the stipulations of the Consortium's Statutes;

b) To represent the Council in official relations and with private individuals, and in public documents, as well as before authorities and courts of all types;

c) To call the meetings of the Council and to set the Agenda, bearing in mind the requests of the other members formulated sufficiently in advance;

d) To chair the sessions of the Governing Council;

e) To endorse the minutes and certifications of the Council;

f) To set the guidelines and instructions to be followed by the ordinary management acts of the Consortium's administrative bodies;

g) To grant powers of attorney to act in civil and mercantile dealings, in accordance with prior agreement to that end from the Governing Council;

h) To carry out any other duties delegated thereto by the Governing Council, as well as those that are inherent to the condition of President.

Article 20

a) The President shall be automatically replaced by the Vice Presidents, in order, in case of absence, illness or force majeure or by express delegation by the President;

b) The powers of the Vice Presidents are all those responsibilities and functions expressly delegated to them by the President.

Article 21

The powers of the Director General are:

a) To exercise the management and supervision of all activities of the Casa África;

b) To propose to the Governing Council actions of all types that may be necessary to achieve the aims of the Consortium;

c) To prepare the list of items the President shall use to set the Agenda each time the Governing Council is called to meet;

d) To promote the Consortium's institutional and external relations in the political, institutional, social, economic, cultural and scientific environments;

e) To draw up and present the annual draft activities plan, which must be submitted for approval by the Governing Council;

f) To promote and direct the programmes and projects undertaken by the Council;

g) To inform the Diplomatic, Advisory and Economic Councils of the Consortium's annual activities plan and to serve as a channel for permanent relations between the bodies of the Consortium and said Councils. The Director General shall also report monthly on the Consortium's activities to the persons responsible for foreign policy and relations with Africa in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Madrid;

h) To implement the agreements of the Governing Council in accordance with the scope of its powers;

i) To draw up and administer the internal regulations and those for personnel;

j) To inform the Governing Council of appointments in the administrative team, and of dismissals;

k) To represent the Consortium when the President is unable to do so;

l) To present to the Governing Council the draft budget as well as the settlement of same and the status of the accounts and balance sheets;

m) To oversee implementation of the budget and other powers of the Management;

n) To apply in case of emergency those judicial and administrative actions needed to defend the interests and rights of the Consortium, reporting said actions immediately to the Governing Council, by means of its President;

o) Any other so delegated by the Governing Council;

p) The Director General shall attend the meetings of all the Consortium bodies with the right to speak but not to vote.

Article 22

The powers of the Assets Management Committee are:

a) To carry out operations to adapt, preserve and maintain the Casa África headquarters building;

b) To adopt as many complementary measures as deemed necessary for the purposes of point a) of this article.

Article 23

In the fulfilment of their duties, the Governing Council members:

a) Shall attend the Council meetings with the right to speak and to vote;

b) May examine the dossiers and any antecedents related to the matters included on the Agenda, in order to be duly informed before the deliberations;

c) May request any information or documentation from the President and from the Director General;

d) May formulate with sufficient time in advance requests to include matters on the Agenda;

e) May bring to the Governing Council those motions and proposals they deem pertinent;

f) Shall undertake the papers so commissioned and shall form part of the committees set up to study and prepare given matters.

Article 24

The Governing Council shall appoint, upon proposal from the President, a Secretary who shall have the following duties:

a) To draw up, according to the President's instructions, the Agenda for the meetings;

b) To call the meetings of the Governing Council, duly notifying its members;

c) To take the minutes of each Governing Council session and sign them with the President's approval;

d) To certify with the President's approval the agreements of the Governing Council and any corresponding acts and documents;

It shall be the Governing Council's responsibility to decide on his/her replacement in case of vacancy, absence or illness.

Article 25

a) The Governing Council may appoint groups or committees to study and offer advice on certain issues;

b) It may also call qualified persons, not belonging to the Council itself, to attend the meetings with the aim of providing their advice on points or matters of their expertise.

Chapter V. THE FUNCTION AND LEGAL SYSTEM OF THE CONSORTIUM BODIES.

Article 26

a) The Governing Council of the Consortium shall meet, having been duly called by its President, at the latter's initiative or upon request from at least one third of the members of same, as many times as needed to ensure that it functions properly, and ordinarily on a half-yearly basis and provided that the seven Consortium member institutions are represented;

b) If all Council members are present and they unanimously decide to hold a session, no prior call from the Council shall be necessary;

c) Council sessions shall be called, except in cases of emergency as judged by its President, in writing, directly and personally, at least forty-eight hours in advance, and shall be accompanied by the Agenda for the meeting and, when necessary, by the documentation needed for prior knowledge of the matters at hand;

d) The first meeting of the Governing Council shall take place immediately after the Collaboration Agreement constituting the Consortium is signed or, as appropriate, on the closest possible date to said act.

Article 27

a) The Governing Council shall be considered validly constituted when half plus one of its components attend the meeting or are represented by proxies, as long as representatives attend from all the Consortium member institutions;

b) If quorum is not reached, the Governing Council shall meet on a second call thirty minutes after the time indicated for the first one – the meeting shall then be valid with a third of its members, as long as the President or his/her representative is present or, as appropriate, either of the Vice Presidents or their representatives;

c) The Council members may appoint, in writing to the President ,another voting member or another representative from the corresponding Consortium member institution as proxy to attend meetings and vote in their name;

d) The Council meetings may be attended by any person expressly summoned for that purpose, whose appearance shall be limited to the time needed to deal with the matter for which he/she was summoned.

Article 28

a) Agreements shall be adopted by a majority of votes from the members in attendance. If there is a tie, the President shall have a casting vote;

b) A three-fifths majority of the Council members shall always be required for agreements concerning the:

- Admission of new members.
- Modification of Statutes.
- Dissolution of the Consortium.

Absolute legal majority shall be needed for agreements on the following:

– Approval of the ordinary budget.
– Creation of any special purpose entities needed to carry out the Consortium's activities.
– Use of the goods and rights included in the Consortium's assets, according to provisions of the applicable regulations.

Article 29

a) Minutes shall be taken for each session of the Governing Council, which shall contain indication of the persons present, the time and place where it is held, the matters subject to decision by the Council, the result of the votes and the content of any agreements;

b) The minutes shall be drawn up and signed by the Secretary of the Council with the President's approval, and shall be endorsed at the same or the next session, in which case they shall accompany the latter's Agenda.

Article 30

For anything that is not envisaged in the articles of this Title the rules contained in Chapter II of Title II of Spanish Act 30/1992 of 26 November concerning the Legal System for Public Administrations and Common Administrative Procedure shall be applied on an additional basis.

Article 31

The administrative acts of the Consortium bodies, in the scope of their respective powers, may be contested in accordance with Spanish Act 30/1992 of 26 November, concerning the Legal System for Public Administrations and Common Administrative Procedure.

TITLE III

THE ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL SYSTEM.

Article 32

The Consortium's resources shall constitute:

a) Transfers and subsidies assigned annually from within the budgets of the Consortium member institutions;

b) Goods and securities that comprise the assets of the Consortium, as well as the income and products of same;

c) Subsidies, voluntary contributions or donations that public or private entities grant in its favour. Revenue that may, according to both Public Law and Private Law, correspond to the Consortium as a consequence of its activities and earnings for services rendered to third parties;

d) Any other ordinary or extraordinary economic resources that may be legally assigned to it.

Article 33

With a view to organising the Consortium's financial management a budget shall be drawn up for each financial year, as set out in the budgetary regulations in force.

Article 34

The Governing Council shall annually approve, following the corresponding procedure, the Consortium's ordinary budget, as well as the settlement of the same and the status of the accounts and balances.

Article 35

a) The Consortium's Accounting shall be carried out according to the General Public Accounting Plan and the regulations in force for Local and General Government;

b) The Accounting services shall be the responsibility of the Manager.

Article 36

The procedure for organising the Consortium's spending and payments shall follow the rules applicable to Autonomous Bodies, in compliance with the provisions of Chapter II of Title III of Spanish Act 6/1997 of 14 April.

Article 37

The personnel resources at the service of the Casa África shall comprise:

a) The staff belonging to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation for the purpose of assuring the basic operation of the Consortium's services, as well as those others who, as appropriate, may belong to the remaining Consortium member institutions;

b) Staff of its own, employed in accordance with Spanish Labour Law or by means of Spanish contracts to render services;

c) Staff assigned to other public or private entities with which the Consortium signs the appropriate collaboration agreements and who may perform their duties in the Consortium.

TITLE IV

RECRUITMENT

Article 38

Recruitment for the Consortium shall be carried out by the Governing Council or by those Consortium bodies to which it may delegate said function;

In the implementation of its powers, the Governing Council shall sign as many contracts as necessary to achieve the Consortium's aims, in compliance with regulations in force.

Article 39

a) The contracts signed by the Governing Council shall be regulated by the contents of these Statutes and by the applicable rules in each case;

b) In compliance with the provisions in the Spanish Consolidated Contract Law for Public Administrations, Casa África shall ensure that any contracts it signs are in line with the stipulation of the Public Administrations contract legislation for public entities whose aim is to satisfy the general interest;

c) In particular, for the investments that Casa África may have to make or for the services or supplies it may have to purchase or hire, auction or tender forms of adjudication shall be used. The purchasing or hiring body may nevertheless dispense with such adjudication procedures when there are concurrent reasons of security or urgency or when the uniqueness of the subject-matter of the contract so demands, after presentation of the pertinent technical, legal and economic reports.

Article 40

a) Casa África shall subject its actions to Spanish Public Law when it exercises administrative authorities granted to it by law, and submit in the rest of its activity to Private, Civil, Mercantile or Labour Law;

b) The acts carried out in the exercise of administrative authorities by the Consortium are subject to the administrative appeals envisaged in the Spanish Act on the Legal System for Public Administrations and Common Administrative Procedure; the Governing Council 's agreements shall set the limits to administrative paths, action or solutions.

ADDITIONAL PROVISION

The Municipal Council of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, as it has fittingly manifested, may join the Consortium at a time after its constitution, with the same rights and obligations as the other Local Bodies and as long as it has pledged to immediately make the contribution set for said Bodies in article 7 of these Statutes.

The central courtyard of Casa África, where workshops, concerts and other events are held regularly.

"We share numerous common factors that bring us together and I believe that Casa África will work to strengthen these links of friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Spain and West Africa. Long Live Casa África!"

Mohamed Ibn Chambas
President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Members of the Casa África team.

Casa África

África y España, cada vez más cerca / Parafina ni Espagne, be ka gere gnogon na Africa na Uhispania, karibu kila Wakati / Afrik ak Españ bugana djëgantë Moofindu ni Espagne mina sutuyiandiñ Kân / Africa ne Ispain, ziya sondelana Africa and Spain, ever closer / Afrique et Espagne, de plus en plus proches África e Espanha, a cada vez mais perto / كلّ يوم أقرب وإسبانيا أفريقيا **Spain n'Africa, n'akpụdebe nso ọgẹ ọbụma**

CASA ÁFRICA

Edited by Casa África
Design Ena Cardenal de la Nuez
Photomechanics Cromotex
Printed by TF Artes Gráficas

Photographic credits:
Angèle Etoundi Essamba, 74
Ángel Luis Aldai, 10-17, 20-21, 28-29, 59, 68-69, 72, 98-99
Casa África, 7, 18-19, 33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 49, 50, 52, 53, 56, 62, 65, 66, 76-77, 80, 86-87, 89, 93, 94-95, 100-101, 120-121
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Bamako (Mali)
África Plural 3+3 exhibition. Seydou Keïta
By courtesy of CAAC – The Pigozzi collection, Geneva © Keïta
Workshop in Ségou (Mali)
Participants in the *Leadership and Empowerment Course for Young Women*

Back cover

Casa África Headquarters
África Vive festival
Harrougazanet Village (Niger)

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