



CASA ÁFRICA

2009-2012 STRATEGIC PLAN

20 October 2008



INTRODUCTION

Casa África is a body governed by Public Law, with legal personality and composed of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Government of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, the Island Councils of Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and Tenerife, and the Municipal Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Officially established on 26 June 2006, it began activities when its facilities were inaugurated by the King and Queen of Spain on 12 June 2007.

Casa África aims to be the visible pillar of Spain's determined effort to become a factor for peace, stability and development in the world and its earnest commitment to the priorities of the international agenda and fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals; this necessarily implies that special attention be paid to Sub-Saharan Africa.

As set out in the 2006-2008 Africa Plan, Casa África is therefore a vital element in Spain's new foreign policy for Africa, a privileged instrument for State diplomacy in the African countries. It is also meant to be an open and comprehensive space through which the respective civil societies of Spain and the African countries can enhance their mutual knowledge, contributing towards more robust and in-depth relations with the neighbouring continent.

This 2009-2011 Strategic Plan aims, based on the Consortium Statutes, to specify the mission of the Casa África, orienting its evolution and setting the guidelines and strategic priorities for the next three years. This comprehensive vision should enable coherent preparation of the programmes and budgets, and define the scope of activity and natural space of the Casa África.

MISSION

The mission of Casa África is to foster relations and contribute towards mutual knowledge between Africa and Spain by:

- programming and carrying out its own activities;
- channelling initiatives by other players;
- raising awareness among different intermediaries and bodies.

Its vocation is to be a useful, flexible and dynamic institution at the service of institutions and for African and Spanish societies.

This mission emanates from the Casa África Statutes, specifically:

1. To create a space for meeting and interchange between public and private institutions and the civil societies of Spain, Africa and Europe, from the privileged Atlantic enclave of the Canary Islands;
2. To encourage the comprehensive development of Hispano-African relations and to promote all sorts of institutional, economic, scientific, cultural, educational, training and development activities, to improve mutual knowledge between Spain and the African continent;
3. To facilitate the respective citizenships' access to information about the situations of Spain, particularly the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, and the African countries, especially through the new information technologies, and with specific programmes for the school-age population and young people;
4. To promote the Canary Islands as a meeting point between Spain, Europe, Africa and America;
5. To promote knowledge and enhanced relations between the EU and the African countries;



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6. To support the regional integration processes in the context of the European Wider Neighbourhood Action Plan for the ultra-peripheral regions;

7. To serve as a forum for African diplomatic delegations based in Spain to publicise the situations of their countries.

The challenge of the Casa África is to be a public diplomacy reference for Spain and Europe in their relations with Africa, while working together to ensure that the neighbouring continent gains the place it deserves in the common imagination and is understood for what it really is: a continent facing major challenges, yet at the same time endowed with huge potential, full of wealth and opportunities.

Casa África will specifically work to:

- identify and involve top experts on Africa;
- encourage and produce studies and knowledge about the African continent;
- create a source of information about Africa;
- contribute towards creating networks for cooperation and collaboration in economic, cultural, academic and social contexts;
- become a useful institution for channelling African interests towards Spain;
- support the drawing up of public policies that favour the development of Africa.

BASIC STRATEGIC LINES – 2009-2011

The specific strategic lines setting out the mission of the Casa África represent the priorities determining the Consortium's activities, and are summarised in the following points:

- 1.- To systemise a working dynamic with the top Africa experts in international cooperation and development, culture, the academic and university world, business and diplomacy, incorporating their knowledge into the Casa África's activity;
- 2.- To promote studies and knowledge about the African continent;
- 3.- To create a major information portal about Africa;
- 4.- To help create cooperation and collaboration networks in the economic, cultural, academic and social fields, etc.;
- 5.- To be a useful institution for channelling African interests towards Spain;
- 6.- To contribute in the drawing up of public policies, based on policy coherence;
- 7.- To explain and present Casa África in the appropriate forums, in both Africa and Spain.

All of them will continually bear in mind the special attention to the Canary Islands and the statutory mandate to help enhance its status as a privileged platform for Spanish exterior action in Africa.

1. To systemise a working dynamic with the top Africa experts in international cooperation and development, culture, the academic and university world, business and diplomacy, incorporating their knowledge into the Casa África's activity.



In this strategic line the work will focus on topics such as the identification of experts on relevant subjects and current themes associated to Africa, the development of a working methodology, constitution of the consultative bodies (Advisory and Economic Councils), support for consolidation of the Africa Table promoted by the Foreign Ministry, and the organisation of conferences and debates with the participation of experts.

2.- To promote studies and knowledge about the African continent.

To improve African studies and knowledge priority will have to be given to the collaboration between Spanish and African universities to promote studies about Africa, foster interchanges among teaching professionals in both continents' educational and training sectors, stimulate the publishing of relevant titles by African authors and the production of major works about Africa, particularly in Spanish, and also to help develop specialised training modules in the Spanish educational sector, conduct awareness-raising activities primarily addressed to young people and children, produce rigorous and up-to-date reports on relevant subjects meant to enhance knowledge about the situation in Africa and eventually create a number of Casa África dossiers, work with other similar bodies and research or public diplomacy institutions to help introduce or promote the African viewpoint in their study departments, and create synergies in the framework of the Alliance of Civilisations or ensure that more media attention is paid to Africa.

3.- To create a major information portal about Africa.

This implies developing an ambitious website that includes all sorts of references and links, with a database on persons and institutions of interest in Africa and a very complete online media centre, besides providing an information and services portal for Africans in Spain, among other objectives.

4. To help create cooperation and collaboration networks in the social, economic, cultural, academic and development fields.



The efforts in this section concern the organisation of conferences, seminars and debates with the participation of experts, as well as the organisation of cultural activities and meetings with the participation of Spanish and international institutions dedicated to Africa. It will support the establishment, consolidation and sustainability of networks and relationships such as twinning.

5.- To be a useful institution for channelling African interests towards Spain.

In this strategic section Casa África will seek to carry out activities with the organisations representing African immigrants, serve as a forum for African diplomatic delegations accredited in Spain, act as a channel for African civil society and public and private institutions, organise activities to mark the national days of the various African countries, together with the embassies accredited in Spain, or assure that the commemoration of Africa Day is highly publicised.

6.- To contribute in the drawing up of public policies, based on policy coherence.

This will specifically involve participation in coordinating and routing proposals concerning Africa when the institutions so require, and help to ensure the compliance, identification and formulation of public commitments by the government or public authorities, as well as the development of proposals and activities in major initiatives such as the Alliance of Civilisations or fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, the availability of the Casa África headquarters and its team for institutional meetings and public acts (meetings of ambassadors, commercial and cultural advisors, cooperation coordinators, joint committees, etc.), and the promotion of co-responsibility and African participation along the lines set by the Paris Declaration, etc.

7.- To explain and present Casa África in the appropriate forums, in both Africa and Spain.



First of all, contacts will have to be made with the Spanish Autonomous Communities and other sections of Public Administration interested in Africa, as well with African and Spanish civil societies, particularly involving the Canary Islands. The

Casa África will also be presented in African countries and organisations (African Union, NEPAD, ECOWAS), and in other international organisations (EU, UN, etc.), within the framework of priorities set out in the Africa Plan and the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation, or per the dissemination of information through Spanish embassies.