

[last revised on May 2024]

CONCEPT NOTE

CELEBRATION OF AFRICA DAY 2024 JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY THE AFRICAN UNION PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UN, AFRICAN GENERAL CONSULATES AND THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF NY

AU theme of the year 2024: *“Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa”.*

Date: 31st May 2024 | **Time:** 2 – 6 pm (TBC) | **VENUE:** TBC

I. Introduction:

On 25th May 1963 Africa’s continental organisation, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (now the [African Union](#)) **was created and to mark the occasion, 25th May was declared Africa Day which is celebrated annually across Africa and in the Diaspora.** Africa Day celebrate Africa’s history, and culture as well as reflect on the progress made in achieving Africa’s Development [Agenda 2063](#). The event in New York, will be organized by the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the UN, in collaboration with the UNAASG, the African Group and the Office of the Mayor of NYC.

Education is a key lever for achieving Aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063 which envisions a continent with *“well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation”* and to promote greater focus on education, 2024 was declared as the [Year of Education](#) by the African Union with the overarching theme: *“Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa”.*

II. Objectives:

Africa Day offers a platform to engage with its partners and different stakeholders, raise awareness, advocate for the AU theme of the year on “Education”, showcase African rich cultural diversity and engage with the diplomatic community.

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III. **Expected Outcome:**

- Promotion of the importance of **Education** which is the AU theme of the year 2024 as well as the development Agenda of the African Union, notably the flagship projects of Agenda 2063.
- Build awareness on the linkages between access to education, and youth empowerment.
- Build awareness and long-term diaspora support for the key AU continental programmes and initiatives.

IV. **Participants:**

- African Group Permanent Representatives to the UN
- AU-UN Officials
- Spouses of Ambassadors (UNAASG) and families
- African General Consulates and families
- Office of the Mayor of NYC
- NYC Diplomatic Community
- NYC schools
- NYC public
- African Diaspora

V. **Format:**

Exhibition/Fair – book/food fair.

Participants will be invited to discover the cultural items and taste the different variety of African cuisines.

VI. **Date and Venue**

- Friday, **31st May 2024**
- **Venue** to be confirmed.
- **Dress code:** Participants will be encouraged to wear traditional attire to showcase African diversity and cultural identity as per Aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063
- **Ambiance:** Music from Africa and African Diaspora as background music representing the different regions.