

CSO ENGAGEMENT CONSULTATION ON THE MARGINS OF THE 36TH ORDINARY AU SUMMIT

FEB 17TH -18TH, 2023
ADDIS ABABA

CONCEPT NOTE

Amani Africa is an independent pan-African policy research, training, consulting think tank dedicated to analyzing and reporting on the work, policies and working dynamics of multilateral processes relating to Africa using the African Union (AU) as a framework. Amani Africa is engaged in the production of evidence-based policy research and analysis as well as communications and media products, the provision of technical support to policy makers, the convening of training workshops and public policy forums on multilateral processes of concern for Africa.

As part of building and mobilizing constituencies for the principles, objectives and policies of the AU among the wider African public, Amani Africa is engaged towards reinvigorating African civil society organization's role in pan-African policy processes. While recognizing AU's rising prominence in policy processes and in coordinating collective response to challenges affecting the continent, there is also a need to revive and expand CSO's engagement with the continental body. This engagement is critical in ensuring ownership and inclusivity of voices of diverse sectors of the African public which will again enhance not only accountability and transparency of the AU and its policy and decision-making process but also ownership by the wider African public.

Amani Africa's work has centered around improving understanding on and around the AU for a better and informed engagement by all stakeholders. Building on the work it has undertaken through its Training Institute towards enhancing knowledge and understanding around the AU, in 2022 Amani Africa conducted its second edition of training on the AU specifically targeting African CSOs. Amani Africa facilitated the training to CSOs engaged in a wide range of policy issues to enhance their role in AU policy processes and in building strong constituency for AU policies and norms among non-state actors. The training equipped participants with practical knowledge and understanding of the AU and facilitated interface between CSOs and key AU actors.

This year, on the margins of the 36th AU Summit Amani Africa within the framework of its partnership with OSF will bring CSOs from across the continent including the ones that engaged in the previous training to deliberate on salient policy issues that would require the attention of policy and decision makers and leaders that will convene in Addis Ababa. The two day summit of CSOs is expected to revive the CSO space and engagement around the AU particularly targeting the Summit period. The consultation will deal with topical policy issues and challenges that the continent is currently confronted with. Beyond identifying and debating on the challenges, through active engagement of participants the consultation will also share successful experiences and practices that provide the basis to chart a way forward on policy action and leadership that is needed to respond to various gaps. The convening will also be a platform to exchange and network not only among themselves as diverse groups that have shared vision of peaceful and prosperous Africa but also with the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa.