



BRIEFING IN VALENCIA

aiic Africa News

JANUARY 2018

IN THIS UPDATE

REGION'S ACTIVITIES

Outreach

The Bureau conducted 3 successful outreach activities to sensitise interpreters about aiic. The first took place in Midrand in October 2017 with staff and freelance interpreters and the second, in Ouagadougou in November 2017 with representatives of the *Association des interprètes et traducteurs du Burkina Faso* (AITF). The third outreach, which was attended by staff, freelance and student interpreters, was held in Yaounde in December 2017.

The Bureau expresses its appreciation to members from within and without the Region who generously gave their time to attend, advise and contribute to these activities.

Thank you Elisabeth Kouaovi-Mukengeshayi, Honorine Sindeu, Yvette Illas, Antoine Bousomog, Oscar Hounsou, Martyn Swain, Aatsa Atogho, Esmat Orensa, Eलो Kumodzi, Sita Djerma and Daniel Yogo.

Declaration on the UNCEB-AIIC Agreement

The Bureau in collaboration with our Professional Delegations, (Chantal Mariotte, Emmanuel Petros, Joe Keguro Muhindi and Mesfin Wolde-Giorghis) prepared a declaration rejecting the outcome of the current negotiations thus far.

See <https://members.aiic.net/page/8469>).



Briefing on the UNCEB-AIIC Negotiations

The ND presents the state of the play on the ongoing negotiations.

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Call for Nominations

The aiic Africa Region needs to urgently hold elections for the position of Advisory Board Member.

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Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations

The ExCo approved the amendments to our texts before the Assembly. They will soon be posted on the aiic private members site.

Banque Migros Account - Not out of the woods...

The Bureau has been in touch with the immediate past and former Treasurers and the aiic Secretariat in Geneva to resolve the issue of the Region's dormant account.

We will keep you informed of the progress.

New Faces in the Training Committee

Maria José dos Santos and Thomas Alain Nchinda recently joined the aiic Africa TC. We thank the outgoing members namely Elisabeth Kouaovi-Mukengeshayi (Coordinator), Jibola Sofolahan and Olivier Fléchais for their excellent work! There is still one open position in the TC.



The Bureau encourages the aiic Africa TC to conduct a needs assessment for professional development and refresher courses and continue to provide training, as well as strengthen its collaboration with aiic Training and Professional Training, in this regard.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE TC?

There is still one open position! Send your application and CV to the Bureau.

UN-AIIC Agreement Violations

The Bureau requests members to report violations of the UNCEB-AIIC Agreement to our professional delegations.

Task Force on Sub-Regional Groups

The Bureau looks forward to the Task Force's (Emmanuel Petros, Malick Sy and Ousseynou Tall) recommendations on the composition of the groups and terms of reference of sub-regional coordinators.



AIIC BUSINESS IN VALENCIA!



23 in Valencia

RECORD ATTENDANCE!

More members take interest in aiic-yay!

Hats off to the 23 members from Abidjan, Abuja, Addis Ababa, Cape Town, Dakar, Johannesburg, Nairobi, Niamey, Ouagadougou and Yaoundé who attended the Valencia Assembly and made solid contributions to the discussions!

AIIC ASSEMBLY 2018

Game Changer

The resolution on IT Service Provision (see text) submitted by the Staff Interpreters' Committee (CdP) and adopted by the Assembly was a game changer for the Association. It saw the withdrawal of the candidacies of Angela Keil (former President) and Luis Simon (former Treasurer) and also raises questions on what happens next. The IT service provider has already resigned from various aiic groups and projects.

The Executive Committee will need to decide on a new IT strategy and, possibly, a transition to a new system and website for the period after 2020, including regional websites. This will be part of the ExCo's agenda during their meeting on 2 and 3 February 2018. The ExCo's decision will guide our webmaster on the way forward with Africa Region's website.

Resolution on IT Services

The Assembly decides not to sign further maintenance contracts with Vincent Buck SPRL (VBS) upon the expiry of the current contract in August 2020 and to end the current development contract with VBS as soon as possible.

The Assembly decides to use the intervening period to complete a competitive tendering process resulting in the appointment of a new service provider.



Briefing on the UNCEB-AIIC Agreement

The aiic negotiations with the UNCEB for a new Agreement have been extremely complex. UNNY seems to be the lead voice in the negotiations. The ND is of the opinion that the mandate given to it at the last World Sectoral has left it with very little room to manoeuvre. The mandate was to preserve the Agreement.

The UNCEB sent the ND a new set of amendments to the Agreement on 22 December 2017. The ND informed members that there are many changes, some of which had not been discussed with the ND. The ND may or may not share the text with the broader membership, but will provide an update at the next WS.

The ND Coordinator does not think that the ND can go further. The Coordinator appealed for concrete, innovative ideas from members. The Coordinator and some members have announced their intention to step down during the next WS slated for 7 April 2018 at a venue to be confirmed. Meanwhile, the current Agreement has been extended to 1 May 2018.

The Bureau would like to propose to the ND that the date of the WS be brought forward to mid-March to ensure that we have ample time for consultations on the new draft before the Agreement expiry date given the centrality of the Agreement to our region. If we reject it, as we and other sub-sectors have done with the outcome of the negotiations to date, we need to ensure that the UNCEB is informed as soon as possible, so we chart the way forward. It is also important that as many members of our region as possible attend the WS. Holding the WS on 7 April will be too close to call. In addition, the UNECA will be holding a major ministerial conference between 5 to 10 April 2018 that many of our members will be servicing.

The Bureau looks forward to your views on this urgent matter.



FAST FACTS

- New draft sent to the ND on 22 December 2017
- 7 April 2018: Proposed WS date
- 1 May 2018: Agreement extension expires



Advisory Board Meeting

The AB meeting took place soon after the Assembly.

The following AB project teams were constituted:

1. Improvements to the Assembly
2. IT Transition
3. Regional Websites
4. Compliance with the UN & EU Agreements
5. Branding and Visibility
6. Future and Vision of the Profession

The Africa Region is represented on the Compliance with the UN & EU Agreements and the Regional Websites Project Teams.

Our region's members can also participate in any of the project teams depending on their areas of expertise.

Nominations for the position of Advisory Board Member

Following Emmanuel Ayuk's election as one of the aiic Vice-Presidents, the AB member's position is vacant. Sylvia Amisi, the Regional Secretary, is holding the fort.

Emmanuel's e-mails have not elicited much response from you. It is important, though, that members elect their AB representative as soon as possible so that there is no void.

Already, within the AB, there are some colleagues who argue that no region should participate in project teams or the AB's activities if there is no substantive appointment to the AB member's position.

The ball is in your court!

Region's Representatives in Assembly Committees

A **BIG THANK YOU** to members who served in various Committees and congratulations to those who were elected or re-elected to various positions!

Aatsa Atogho	Outgoing Member of the Private Market Sector (PriMS) Standing Committee
Christina Edwards	Outgoing Chairperson of the Staff Interpreters' Committee (CdP) and incoming CdP Vice-Chairperson
Elisabeth Kouaovi-Mukengeshayi	Elected to the Disciplinary and Disputes Committee (DDC)
Emmanuel Ayuk	Outgoing Advisory Board Member and Incoming Vice-President
Martyn Swain	Outgoing Member of the Committee on Admissions and Language Classification (CACL) after serving for 2 consecutive 3-year terms
Nina Okagbue	Elected to CACL for a 2 nd term

