

## **The 10<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the UNAFRI Governing Board held in Khartoum, Sudan**

The Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Governing Board of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) was held in Khartoum, Sudan from the 19 – 20 May, 2008.

The meeting was attended by the following members of the Governing Board: Cameroun, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda.

While declaring the meeting opened, the Chairman of UNAFRI Governing Board, Hon. Abdel Bassit S. Sabderat thanked all the distinguished guests for attending the meeting and conveyed the best wishes from the Government of the Republic of Sudan.

He called upon the African government to facilitate the Institute in all ways to meet the challenges envisaged in crime prevention in our society today and in the future.

He then formally declared the Meeting opened.

Presenting his report that talked on a wide range of issues, the Director of UNAFRI, Dr. Masamba Sita, outlined the status of the programme of work, describing activities implemented and challenges experienced in the course of the period under review.

He expressed concern about the declining trend in remittance of the anticipated support and appealed to the members of the Board to use their political goodwill in the contacts they will make with Member States and other sources of funding to influence a reinvigorated trend in receipt of budgetary support.

The Director, speaking on the future of the Institute, advocated for a diversified approach including non traditional but realistic measures to the initiatives that he noted would strongly alleviate the incidence of budgetary difficulties.

He introduced a proposal for developing the land availed to the Secretariat with the construction of a multipurpose complex to host the Secretariat as a modern Centre of Excellence for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Africa.

This, he said, would facilitate and strengthen professional training, support action – oriented research; modernize the information and crime data sourcing, storage and retrieval. It will also offer relief support to the budget with the prospect of income generated from rent and/ use of these facilities by deserving international sister organizations.

The Host country in her report presented by Hon. Matia Kasaija, Minister of State, Internal Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Uganda, expressed appreciation to the Government of Sudan for hosting the meeting in Khartoum and effectively executing the Board duties as Chair.

The Honourable Minister expressed his country's resolve to continue its contribution to the International Crime Prevention Network, including hosting and facilitating UNAFRI.

He commended the Institute for applying appropriate and researched solutions in response to the calls of countries for crime prevention individually and collectively at regional level.

The Minister called upon the Member States to maximize the utilization of the professional expertise available at the Institute, and also rededicate themselves even at unprecedented levels in the discharge of their obligations in order to give the necessary support to the Institute through financial contributions.

Hon. Kasaija reiterated the assurances of his government to give all the necessary support to the proposed construction of a new and more suitable complex to host the Secretariat in Kampala.

However, he challenged UNAFRI to improve its visibility both in the Host Country and other Member States through relevant activities, and made a call to African countries to be more strategically disposed to assist one another, particularly using regional mechanism such as UNAFRI to address their concerns.

The two day meeting addressed salient issues and found solutions to them as it concerns the activities of the Institute.

One notable highpoint of the meeting was the agreement by the Federal Republic of Kenya to host the Conference of Ministers meeting which will go along with an Extra-ordinary Session to ratify the decision of the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Governing Board.

The Institute was mandated by the Meeting to suggest items for the agenda of the conference of Ministers for Member States to consider.