

## **The Director's Mission to the United States of America**

The Director/ Head of Mission, Dr. Masamba Sita has just concluded a two week mission to the United States of America where he attended the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). After addressing the Third Committee Session of the UNGA on Crime Prevention, he had occasion to visit the Open Society Initiative Institute (New York) and the Transnational Law Institute of Washington and Lee University (Lexington, Virginia). This visit was aimed at enhancing collaboration with prospective partners in the envisaged execution of joint programmes for the benefit of strengthened crime prevention prospects.

### **1. General Assembly**

The Head of Mission was in New York to attend the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, precisely the 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee Session on Crime, where he presented a statement on UNAFRI to supplement the Secretary General's report on UNAFRI.



*The Head of Mission delivering his statement on UNAFRI during the Plenary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee Session on Crime.*

Citing Paragraph 6 of Resolution 63/196 of the United Nations General Assembly

on UNAFRI that: “Urges the Member States of the Institute to continue to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute”, he was pleased that twelve Member States had made total/partial payment of their financial contributions to the Institute for the biennium 2008/2009.

He reported that the Member States which had paid during the said period are Burkina Faso; Gambia; Ghana; Kenya; Libya; Malawi; Mozambique; Nigeria; Tanzania; Uganda, nothing further that two countries had made upfront payments, with Senegal in 2004; while Sudan paid in 2008 and 2009.

He expressed gratitude to the Governments of Kenya and Sudan, through their Excellencies the Ministers of Justice in both countries for having executed the duties of Chair of the Governing Board in turns, leading to the perceived improvement status of Member States contributions during the above period. This has been an indication of strong support to the continuing effort by the Host country-Uganda.

Dr Sita informed the delegates that measures have been put in place following the Resolution of the Governing Board of UNAFRI to reinforce the collection of arrears. The board had resolved to adopt a regional initiative, giving mandate to Governments Members of the Board, to mobilize more support to the Institute; as well as strategizing for the collection of funds in their respective regions; namely

- Kenya for countries of East Africa;
- Sudan for countries of the North;

- Nigeria for countries of the West; and
- Malawi for countries of the South.

Besides, the Head of Mission had appealed to the UNGA, and requested the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5th Committees thereof to support the Board's request on increasing the amount of the grant given to the Institute in order to facilitate it to offer to its Member States and partners the needed technical assistance in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

He asserted that Crime is a major impediment to the harmonious and sustainable socio-economic development in the different parts of the world including Africa. He further indicated that the Institute in the execution of its programme of activities is at the same time; usefully contributing to the various efforts focused the reduction of poverty, with particular reference to poverty arising from the different forms of crime, in the regions seriously affected by the vice.



*Different sections of Members of the African Group listening to the UNAFRI's Head of Mission briefing on UNAFRI.*

