

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

Press Release N°: 049/2021

Date: 25 May 2021

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

## “AFRICA DAY” 2021 WORTHILY CELEBRATED IN OUAGADOUGOU

*Africa Day, commemorating the anniversary of the birth date of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), replaced in 2002 by the African Union (AU), was worthily celebrated this Tuesday, May 25, 2021 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.*



*Dr Elmekass, AU SAFGRAD Coordinator delivering the statement of the CP of AUC*



*HE Alpha Barry (at the center) chairing the ceremony*



*Sana Bob, a popular national artist performing during the ceremony*

An official ceremony was chaired by HE Mr. Alpha Barry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, with notably his counterpart for Culture, the Minister delegate of African Integration, the Coordinator of the African Union SAFGRAD, the Resident Representative of ECOWAS and members of the diplomatic body accredited to Burkina Faso. Several heads of international and inter-African institutions as well as a large audience made up of academics and members of associations also took part in the event.

During his intervention, Dr Ahmed ELMEKASS, AU SAFGRAD Coordinator, first faithfully delivered the address of the Chairperson of the AUC on the occasion of the day. In his address, HE Moussa Faki Mahamat, insisted on the need for Africans to find in their cultural references and their ancestral values the basis of their development while being part of modernity. Africans must "draw from the depths of their cultural and artistic heritage the keys to their development", strongly stated the Chairperson of AUC. After finishing delivering the Pan-African leader's address, Dr Elmekass added some few words in his capacity of the Dean of Interafrican organisations in Burkina Faso. "Africa is not only a land where we are living, Africa is embedded in our DNA", he said. For his part, Alpha Barry, Minister of Foreign Affairs, welcomed in his address these joint commemorations which have now become a tradition for Burkina Faso. He recognized

the remarkable performances that the AU, on the one hand, and ECOWAS, on the other hand, are achieving within the framework of African integration.

Following the speeches of the officials, a panel followed by a large audience was held around the theme of the year of the AU namely "the contribution of arts, culture and heritage to the integration of societies and to the socio-economic development of Africa". Among the speakers, it was noted the remarkable participation of Dr Rita Bissoonauth, Coordinator of AU CIEFFA. The latter brilliantly emphasized the role and place of arts, culture and heritage in promoting the education of girls and women in Africa.

The commemorations, celebrated jointly, between the Government of Burkina Faso, the African Union and ECOWAS, relate both to Africa Day of May 25 but also that of May 28 marking the anniversary of the creation of the regional community body that is ECOWAS. They are spread over several days with the holding of interesting activities including sports games, blood donations and public lectures focusing on the theme of the year, culture, the arts and heritage. Note that some activities will take place in June in the second city of the country that is Bobo-Dioulasso.

---

**For further information please contact:**

**Media contacts:** Mr Youssoupha MBENGUE, Senior Communications Officer, AU SAFGRAD.

Email: [Mbenguey@africa-union.org](mailto:Mbenguey@africa-union.org)

**Directorate of Information and Communication** | African Union Commission | **E-mail:** [DIC@african-union.org](mailto:DIC@african-union.org) |

**Website:** [www.au.int](http://www.au.int) | Addis Ababa | Ethiopia Follow Us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)