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To: ACALAN's working structures,

Dear Sirs, Mesdames,

First of all we would like to wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2017.

The theme of the International Mother Language Day (IMLD) declared by UNESCO for 2017 is, "**Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education.**" This is in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and ACALAN's function of promoting the use of African languages as a medium of instruction and a subject at all educational levels in a multilingual context and as a factor of African integration and sustainable development. It is also in line with the theme of UNESCO's Global Monitoring Report on Education, 2016 "**Education for People and the Planet : Creating Sustainable Futures for All.**"

The commemoration of the International Mother Language Day is therefore an opportunity for the world at large to share and promote maternal languages as a vehicle of cultures and a means of education and communication.

As the specialised institution of the African Union mandated to promote and develop African languages in partnership with the colonial languages, ACALAN rejoices and considers the International Mother Language Day as a good opportunity to maintain this noble objective and appeals to the whole of Africa to adhere to the commemoration of this Day.

Our languages being a factor of peace, stability, democracy, and the integration and development of our society, we are strongly encouraging our working structures, as well as civil society organisations on the continent to encourage and organise language, cultural and educational activities relating to the theme to commemorate the Day.

We would be grateful if you sent us reports of your respective activities after the celebrations.

While wishing you a very good Mother Language Day in advance, we thank you very much for your unfailing assistance and support to our efforts to empower African languages.

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