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African Academy of Languages *Hamdallaye ACI 2000, Porte 223 Rue 394, Bamako-Mali*, email : [acalan@acalan.org](mailto:acalan@acalan.org)  
[www.acalan.org](http://www.acalan.org) Tel+223 20290459 Fax +223 20290457

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## *Draft Terms of References*

**Capacity Building Workshop for the Kiswahili and Lingala Vehicular Cross-Border Language Commissions**

**Date: 05 -06 November 2012**

**Venue: Brazzaville, Republic of Congo**

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## **Background:**

The African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) is a specialized Institution of the African Union, assigned with the task of developing and promoting the use of African languages as a pragmatic means of fostering African integration and development. To obtain that objective ACALAN organised five regional conferences between 2006 and 2009, which identified forty-one (41) Vehicular Cross-border Languages. Out of these forty-one Vehicular Cross-Border Languages, twelve were selected for the first phase. Consequently, Regional Operational Workshops were held in Central, East, Southern and West Africa, in partnership with the Regional Economic Communities and the Departments of Culture in the regions, to establish Vehicular Cross-border Language Commissions as one of ACALAN'S working structures.<sup>1</sup> ACALAN has already established ten (10) out of the first batch of twelve (12) Vehicular Cross-Border Languages Commissions, and is continuing to establish the rest.

The Planning Workshops that followed the operational workshops identified priority areas and prepared plans that would guide the activities of the Vehicular Cross-Border Language Commissions during their three-year mandate. It is considered necessary to put together these plans and to reinforce the capacity of the members of the Commissions in order to function effectively. This workshop is therefore part of a broader process of achieving the Khartoum Decision regarding African Renaissance and African Pan-Africanism.

## **Objectives:**

The aim of the workshop is to unify and coordinate the activities of the Vehicular Cross-Border Language Commissions. It equally aims at building the capacity of the Vehicular Cross-Border Language Commissions for optimal performance, to fashion out strategies for monitoring and evaluating projects and activities throughout the three year tenure of the Commissions.

## **Outcomes:**

- A unified program of activities for achieving the objectives, vision and mission of ACALAN in establishing the Vehicular Cross-Border Language Commissions has been fashioned out.
- A sound evaluation and monitoring device or strategy has been proposed and adopted for use.
- A binding legal working document on the functioning of the commissions has been prepared and adopted for use by the commissions.

## **Participants:**

The workshop brings together members of the Kiswahili and Lingala Vehicular Cross-Border Language Commissions, in East and Central Africa respectively, and staff of the Executive Secretariat of ACALAN.

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<sup>1</sup> The second working structure of ACALAN is the National Language Structure in each member state designated by the Ministry of Culture, as institutional Focal Point.