Title of Article: Institute for African Culture and International Understanding. Africa Regional Forum on “Mapping the Diversity and Dynamics of African Cultural Expressions: Implementing a Regional Protection and Promotion Agenda

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Abstract: The Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU) organizers of the conference is a UNESCO Category 2 Institute in the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Abeokuta, Ogun State. The Institute’s programme for 2012-2014 is directed towards fostering the implementation in Africa of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The primary objective of the 2005 UNESCO Convention is to strengthen the five inseparable links of the same chain namely: creation, production, distribution/dissemination, access and enjoyment of cultural expressions conveyed by cultural activities, goods and services particularly in developing countries. It emphasizes that in an increasingly interconnected world, each individual can have freer and more immediate access to a rich diversity of cultural expressions from either within or outside his or her country. Unfortunately, in Africa, this potential has not yet been fully realized in the current global context. This was why the IACIU decided to organize the 2012 Africa Regional Forum on the theme: “Mapping the Diversity and Dynamics of African Cultural Expressions: Implementing a Regional Protection and Promotion Agenda”. The objectives of the Regional Forum were to: Foster public awareness of the provisions of the Convention in Africa; Provide an updated mapping of the diversity and dynamics of cultural expressions in Africa; Prepare a regional agenda for sustainable implementation of activities towards the protection and promotion of the diverse cultural expressions in Africa; and Strengthen national efforts at implementing the Convention.