

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN
CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS AND EQUIVALENT INSTITUTIONS

TOAST SPEECH BY

**THE HONOURABLE SYLVAIN ORÉ, PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN
COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS ON**

WELCOME RECEPTION

SEOUL, 30 OCTOBER 2017

- Honourable Justice Kim Yi-Su, Acting President of the Constitutional Court of Korea, in your capacity as host of the present symposium
- Honourable Presidents, Chief Justices and Justices here present
- Head and Officers of the AACC Secretariat for Research and Development
- Distinguished guests

IN MY COUNTRY WE SAY “AKWABA”, IN SOUTH KOREA, YOU SAY “CHUN-MAN-AE-YO” – WELCOME TO SEOUL

When I was requested to make the toast speech on the occasion of this welcome reception, I wondered whether it was as the expression of South Korean culture to ask a guest to make a toast. Coming from Africa where we have a deep seated culture of warmly welcoming foreigners no matter their culture and origin, I feel deeply honoured and profoundly humbled to be requested to make a toast at such an important event where I am only a guest. I am most grateful to the Honourable Justice Kim Yi-Su for giving me such opportunity that extends over this week to speak severally before the most prestigious judicial gatherings both within South Korea and across Asia's constitutional sphere.

Allow me now as guest speaker to locate my very short speech in the unavoidable framework of socio-judicial dialogue. As I will expand on in my forthcoming speeches during the week, I remain strongly convinced that, in the construction of open and democratic societies that support human development around the world, dialogue is key. Dialogue among those who administer justice and oversee compliance with constitutional orders and the rule of law is even paramount against the well-known background that without justice, peace can only be fragile; and without peace, development is an illusion.

I therefore have no doubt that our engagement in the forthcoming days of this Symposium will yield the most benefiting outcomes for the strengthening of judicial and social dialogue. The fact that you have as an Asian judicial network invited the African Court to be part of this venture is the sign that dialogue is the key and can thrive only if it surpasses regions, cultures or political systems. I congratulate the AACC Secretariat for Research and Development for such a great initiative.

My toast is therefore to dialogue, to unlimited dialogue, to border-less dialogue and to an emerging cooperation between the South Korean and Asian judicial and constitutional networks and the African Court on Human and Peoples' rights – should such dialogue and cooperation bring about stability around the world through sustainable social and constitutional orders.

GAM-SA-HAM-NI-DA, I thank you for your attention and wish you a great dinner.

Hon. Sylvain ORÉ