

Oslo, 28.04.2022

To the attention of the Arts Council of Norway,

It has recently come to the attention of the Group of Francophone Embassies (GAF) and the Group of African Ambassadors in Oslo that CAK - the African Cultural Institute – has lost its financial support from the Arts Council of Norway through the long-term activity grants for 2022. We deeply regret this decision which threatens the survival of CAK and kindly ask you to reconsider your decision.

CAK has indeed been a reliable, long-term and crucial partner for many Embassies (in particular to Francophone Embassies and the African Embassies), as well as to the Francophonie Festival in Oslo.

CAK, beside its own multidisciplinary program, has also implemented on a regular basis the cultural program of many foreign Embassies and of the Organization of Francophonie in Oslo, thus vastly contributing to highlight the diversity of both African and Francophone cultural expressions in Norway and to promote shared values and the common Heritage of Humanity. CAK is an active institution for art, tolerance, mutual understanding, and integration.

With no other actor able to replace CAK, its disappearance due to a sudden cut of subsidies would induce a terrible loss for the Oslo cultural scene, as well as for both the Norwegian public and diasporas in Norway.

Sincerely,

The Group of Francophone Ambassadors in Oslo (GAF)
and the Group of African Ambassadors in Oslo

H.E. Mrs. Betina Alejandra Pasquali de Fonseca
Ambassador of the Argentine Republic

H.E. Mrs. Iwona Liliana Woicka-Żuławska
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland

H.E. Mr. Pierre-Mathieu Duhamel
Ambassador of the French Republic

H.E. Mr. Keith Mc Bean
Ambassador of Ireland

H.E. Mr. Frank Arnauts
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium

H.E. Mr. Bernard Jaggy
Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation

H.E. Mrs. Amel Ben Younes
Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia

H.E. Ms. Eszter Sándorfi
Ambassador of Hungary

H.E. Mr. Pil-woo Kim
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

H.E. Mr Mokaddem Bafdal
Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Ms Tshegofatso Constance Medupe Oslo
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa

Mrs. Igbal Elamin
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan in Oslo

CC: Ms. Tone Elisabeth Bækkevold Allers,
Director General, Department for Culture, Business Relations and Protocol,
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Tore Hattrem,
Secretary General,
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs