

**CIRCULAR LETTER****Ref: DSA/SP1/24/****Date : 15 July 2016****TO: ALL AU MEMBER STATES****Excellency,****SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES TO PREVENT IMPORTATION OF ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

Africa Union pays a great importance in Health and Social well-being of its inhabitants as a main contributor to safer, healthier, integrated, and prosperous Africa.

On the 16th Extraordinary session of the Executive Council on Ebola held on 08 September 2014, the council requested the Commission to fast-track the establishment of the Africa Centres for Disease Prevention and Control (Africa CDC). This is in conformance to the decision made by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government during the 22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopian in January 2014 (under Decision/AU/Dec.499 (XXII)) on the establishment of the centres. In January 2015, the Assembly of the African Union in its decision (Assembly/AU/December 554 (XXVI)) endorsed the establishment of the Africa CDC.

The mission of Africa CDC is to address priority public health concerns in Africa; first through prevention and where needed, through detection and response. The Africa CDC will also serve as a platform for Member States to share knowledge, exchange lessons learned, build capacity, and provide technical assistance to each other.

In line with Africa CDC establishment mission, African Union wishes to inform its Member States on the ongoing outbreak of Zika in the world, including two African countries which have been affected (Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau). African Union would also like to inform the Member States on important precautions for preventing importation of infection through travellers in Africa visiting affected areas; as well as possible spread of the disease in Africa. A special attention is made to the upcoming Rio-de Janeiro 2016 Olympic event in Brazil which has an ongoing outbreak of Zika with a significant number of athletes attending the event.

Kindly find attached herewith the document with recommendations on preventive and public health measures to be taken by Government of African Union Member States and travellers visiting affected countries.

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