



## DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

**MEDIA ADVISORY****INVITATION TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES**

- WHAT:** Fridays of the Commission under the theme “Building Institutional and Community Resilience in the face of floods, droughts, conflict and economic shocks” in Africa: Lessons from the response to El Nino Eastern Africa and Southern Africa
- WHEN:** **August 19, 2016; 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.**
- WHERE:** African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- WHO:** The Department of Economic Affairs and Political Affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- WHY:** The event will provide a platform for the African Union and its Humanitarian partners to reflect on how countries can effectively mitigate adverse effects of drought and floods in order to curtail the looming humanitarian situation and be prepared for similar events in the future; what early lessons can be drawn from country specific responses to the range of natural and human-induced hazards and associated risks and disasters; and how can human and institutional capacities be in Africa and mind-sets changed to innovate and scale up to reduce the vulnerability of African countries to economic and financial adverse shocks that negatively impact the structural transformation process.

**Objectives:**

- To draw attention to the findings and analysis of the response of droughts and floods (related to the El Nino) conflicts and economic shocks in Eastern Africa and Southern Africa.

- To engage a multi-stakeholder discussion on successes, opportunities and challenges in the response to a combination of drought, flood, conflict and economic shocks in Africa.
- To take stock of country specific and economic shocks and draw lessons to hold scaling up in interventions.
- To reflect on the best ways of breaking the humanitarian-development divide by promoting complementarities between humanitarian assistance and development and community resilience.
- To dwell on insights from reputable experts from lead institutions in development (the NCPA), humanitarian action (UNOCHA) and capacity building (ACBF) and engage in interactive discussions.

### **Expected Outcomes:**

It is expected that these discussions will contribute to building coherence between humanitarian and development interventions and strengthening resilience to shocks and vulnerabilities through bridging the humanitarian-development divide and understanding more how countries can effectively mitigate adverse effects of drought and floods to curtail the looming humanitarian situation and be prepared for similar events in the future.

### **Participants:**

Staff members of the African Union Commission, Diplomatic Mission in Addis Ababa, AU partners groups, Researchers and Academics and Think-tanks in Addis Ababa, members of the UN Liaison Team to the African Union, members of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Sub-cluster (RCM), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), NCPA (NEPAD Coordination and Planning Agency), African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF).

### **Background:**

Since 2015 through 2016, severe droughts and floods triggered by one of the strongest El Niño weather events ever recorded have had devastating impacts on food security and the livelihoods of millions of people across the horn of Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa. Also, compounded by conflict, falling oil and commodity prices and other structural vulnerabilities, they have had a heavy impact on the economic growth and social prospects of countries affected. This Dedicated Fridays of the Commission builds on the Roundtable on “**Current Economic, Financial, Agricultural and Humanitarian challenges facing African Economies**”, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 in Addis

Ababa, Ethiopia, during the Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development Meeting of African Ministers of Finance (CAMFED). It will contribute to building coherence between humanitarian and development interventions and strengthening resilience to shocks and vulnerabilities through bridging the humanitarian-development divide. FA/ ET

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***Journalists are invited to cover the Event.***

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