

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

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COMMEMORATION OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE RWANDA GENOCIDE  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA  
7 APRIL 2013

## CONCEPT NOTE

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The commemoration of the Rwanda Genocide is an annual event of the African Union held following the decision to commemorate 7 April as a day of remembrance of the victims of the genocide and reaffirmation of Africa's resolve to prevent and fight genocide on the Continent. It is also in accordance with the objectives and principles of the African Union on the promotion of good governance, human rights, rule of law and ending impunity as enshrined in its Constitutive Act.
2. The purpose of the commemoration as firmly indicated on the declaration adopted by the African Union Permanent Representatives Committee during its special session on the Commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda, is to continuously awaken greater awareness of the African peoples and the international community about the value of life and Humanity, and helps us renew our collective commitment to protect and uphold the fundamental human rights.
3. The event will be commemorated by the African Union in collaboration with the authorities of the Republic of Rwanda and attended by Member States, AUC Officials and AU Organs, Non-African States, UN Agencies, Intergovernmental organizations and Civil Society Organizations as well as students from local Universities and Schools.
4. Besides statements that will be delivered, the Department of Political Affairs will organize a short story and a musical drama competition involving students from the Addis Ababa school children. The students will be expected to write a short story reflecting the commemoration theme, which is ***"LET US COMMEMORATE THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE BY STRIVING FOR SELF RELIANCE"***.
5. Students will be encouraged to write real stories but they can always use their imagination to raise awareness through their fictional tales. The stories will then be reviewed by the DPA and those ranking top three will be read during the Commemoration at the AUC Plenary Hall, Addis Ababa by the students themselves.
6. The Commemoration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Rwanda Genocide is scheduled to take place on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2013** at the Africa Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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DRAFT PROGRAM

***“LET US COMMEMORATE THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE BY STRIVING FOR SELF ELIANCE”***

- 1100 Arrival of Staff and Guests and Documentary movie
- 1120 Arrival of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Commissioners, Directors and Ambassadors
- 1125 Lighting of Candles/Song
- 1130 Prayers by Representatives of Catholic Community Prayers by Representatives of Orthodox Community Prayers by Representatives of Muslim Community Prayers by Representatives of Protestant Community
- 1140 Address by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- 1150 Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia **(tbc)**
- 1200 Observe one-minute of silence
- 1201 Musical Break
- 1205 Reading of Short Sorties by School Students
- 1220 Musical Break
- 1225 Statement by the Chairman of the Interim Board of the AUHRM
- 1230 Musical Break
- 1235 Statement by the Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda
- 1245 End of the Programme and Refreshments