CONCEPT NOTE

THE 25TH COMMEMORATION OF THE GENOCIDE AGAINST TUTSI IN RWANDA

ON THE THEME:

“REMEMBER-UNITE-RENEW”

NELSON MANDELA HALL
AT THE AFRICAN UNION HEADQUARTERS
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
07 APRIL 2019
09H30-13H00
INTRODUCTION

1. The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) of the African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Ethiopia and Permanent Mission to the African Union is organizing the 25th Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda at the AUC on 7 April 2019.

2. Over a period of one hundred days, one million Rwandans perished during the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in 1994. The AU has been commemorating this tragedy since 07 April 2010. The year 2019, therefore marks the 25th commemoration of those dark days, an important occasion to remember the lives lost, show solidarity with survivors and unite to ensure it never happens again – in Rwanda or elsewhere in Africa and beyond. It is also a chance to learn about Rwanda’s story of reconciliation and nation building.

3. Each year’s commemoration activities are guided by a theme and this year’s theme is: “Remember-Unite-Renew”. We should all remember what happened in Rwanda in 1994 in order to learn lessons so as to avoid such tragedies. We should unite in order to pay our respects to those who lost their lives and offer our solidarity to the survivors. We should renew our commitment to our solemn declaration that never again shall such tragedy recur in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

4. Remember: The annual Commemoration co-organized by the African Union Commission is an opportunity to refresh our minds that genocide is a crime against humanity that deserves the harshest punishment. It should be prevented by all means and strategies possible.

5. Unite: The annual Commemoration is indeed an opportunity to galvanise all efforts at national, regional, continental and international levels against genocide ideology and collectively fight against all forms and manifestations of denialism of genocide.

6. Renew: The annual Commemoration is also an opportunity for all Africans as well as citizen of the world to renew their commitment to ensure that genocide never happens again - anywhere.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

7. The overall purpose of this annual commemoration is to continuously awaken greater awareness of the African peoples and the international community about the value of life and humanity, and to renew our collective commitment to protect and uphold fundamental human rights.

8. The specific objectives are:
   a. To remember the atrocities wrought by the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda;
   b. To unite together in our fight against genocide; and
   c. To renew our resolve to ensure that Genocide does not happen ever again.

PROGRAMME OF THE EVENTS

9. The 25th Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda will include a series of events:
   a. Symposium on the Genocide against Tutsi on 25 March 2019 at the AUC from 0900-13h00;
b. Open Session of the Peace and Security Council in April 2019;
c. The 25th Commemoration of the Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda on 07 April 2018 from 09h30 – 13h00;
d. Exhibition at the AU Commission from 7 – 13 April 2019;
e. A Walk to Remember on 13 April 2019 from 07h30 - 10h00

PARTICIPATION

The 25th Commemoration is organized by the African Union Commission in collaboration with the authorities and members of the Rwandan community and attended by Officials from the AUC, AU Member States, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, AU Organs, Religious Institutions, Human Rights Institutions, Intergovernmental organizations, Civil Society Organizations, UN Agencies, Think Tanks, International Organizations, Schools and Academic Institutions in Ethiopia.

MEDIA INVITATION

Journalists are invited to cover and participate during the commemorative event on 7 April 2019 at the African Union Headquarters. The event will be live streamed on www.au.int

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