



**AU Day: African Union Staff Prayer Day
9 September 2020**

Concept Note

Corona virus induced an extraordinary and unprecedented situation and conditions that many have not witnessed in their lifetime. The workplace and work conditions of Staff have drastically changed. The economies, markets, livelihoods, communities, societies, culture and the practice of religion have all been shattered and altered by the catastrophic health emergency of global concern - the Covid-19 pandemic.

All AU Staff, their families and faith formations to which Staff are attached recognize, that without faith, hope and prayer, the drastic life changing conditions imposed by the corona virus will be difficult to navigate. Given the prevailing Covid-19 related circumstances that organizations such as the AU are grappling with, the AU Staff Association is working with interfaith and interdenominational groups and representatives to bring AU Staff, their families and faith formations to a place of cooperative prayer conceptualized as the **AU Staff Prayer Day**.

The AU Staff Prayer Day is envisaged to involve the AU Systems including the AU Ambassadors in Addis Ababa, Permanent Representative Committee, AU organs, the AU Regional Office, and Liaison Offices across the globe. This includes the AU Regional Offices from the strategic geographical locations outside Africa: [New York, Washington DC, Geneva, Beijing and Brussels

The officials/guests from various faith groups who will be delivering the prayers according to the programme of the Prayer Day, together with their congregants across the continent and beyond are invited to join the AU Staff Prayer Day.

Objectives

The objectives of the Prayer Day are to:

- i. Unite AU Staff across the continent and beyond into a place of prayer during the Covid-19 period;
- ii. Praise the Almighty for protection thus far and offer praises to God for safeguarding AU system in recognition that it has been badly affected;
- iii. Pray for continued protection and healing of Staff and their families that are infected and affected;
- iv. Pray for the strengthening of spiritual, physical and psychosocial aspects of Staff and their families;
- v. Pray for frontline workers at the AU Headquarters and at AU Member States national level; and
- vi. Pray for peace in line with year 2020 AU annual theme: Silencing the Guns and Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development.

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