



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN BORDER DAY

**Addis Ababa, 06 June 2011** – The African Union Border Program (AUBP) of the Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the African Union Commission (AUC) will celebrate the first AU Border Day at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Tuesday 07 June 2011. The theme of the day is: **“Uniting and integrating Africa through peaceful, open and prosperous borders.”**

African Ministers in Charge of Border Issues adopted 7 June as a day to popularize the importance of the AUBP in promoting peace and regional and continental integration in Africa.

Besides popularizing the work of the AUBP, the day will also be used to sensitize Member States, African border populations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), civil societies and academics on border issues.

The Border Day will be celebrated in the presence of the Commissioner of Peace and Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Ambassadors of AU Member States, representatives of diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa, representatives of Regional Economic Communities, partners, heads of international organizations, representatives of civil society organizations, staff members of the AUC, and invited guests.

The event will feature a release of a documentary titled **“African Borders; from barriers to bridges”**, a panel discussion on “Reflections on African Borders: Multiple Perspectives,” choreographic performance on “dancing across borders” and a photo exhibition on “the making of African borders.”

#### **About AUBP**

The African Union Border Programme (AUBP) was established by African leaders in January 2007 at the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the African Union. In June 2007, the African Ministers in charge of border issues adopted the Declaration on the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) and its Implementation Modalities.

The mission of the AUBP is to prevent and resolve border-related disputes and to promote regional and continental integration, which constitute a tool in the structural prevention of conflicts in Africa. It aims to do this by facilitating and supporting the delimitation and demarcation of African boundaries where such exercise has not yet taken place; reinforcing the integration process, within the framework of the RECs and other large-scale cooperation initiatives; developing, within the framework of the RECs and other regional integration

initiatives, local cross-border cooperation; building the capacities of member states in border management, as well as in border studies and research; and advising the Commission and other organs of the African Union on border-related matters.

***Journalists are invited to cover the event on Tuesday 07 June 2011 as per the attached program.***

**AFRICAN UNION**

**الاتحاد الأفريقي**



**UNION AFRICAINE**

**UNIÃO AFRICANA**

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**PROGRAMME FOR THE CELEBRATION OF BORDER DAY**  
**TUESDAY, 7 JUNE 2011, PLENARY HALL OF THE AU CONFERENCE CENTRE**

***Theme: "Uniting and integrating Africa through peaceful, open and prosperous borders"***

- 08:45 – 09:00** Arrival of Invited Guests: Ambassadors (AU Member States/Partners), Heads of International Organizations, Regional Economic Communities, Staff Members of the AU Commission, Members of the Media & other invitees
- 09:00 – 09:10** Address by Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner, Peace and Security
- 09:10 – 09:50** Panel discussion:
- **Mr. Anthony Asiwaju** ,President, African Regional Institute Imeko, Nigeria
  - **Mr Martín Guillermo Ramírez**, Secretary-General, Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
  - **Mr Jose Elias Mucombo**, Director, National Institute of the Sea and Boundaries, Maputo, Mozambique
  - **Mr Jean Peyrony**, Director-General, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT), Paris – France
- 09:50 – 10:30** Discussions
- 10:30 – 10:55** Launching of the AU Border Programme (AUBP) Documentary Film
- 10:55 – 11:10** - Tea/Coffee Break  
- Choreography
- 11:10 – 11:30** AUBP Photo Exhibition  
**End of Celebration**