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Directorate of Information and Communication

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Commemoration of the African Child**

**Theme: “Eliminating Harmful Social and Cultural Practices Affecting Children:  
Our Collective Responsibility”**

**INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA**

- WHAT:** Commemoration of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of the African Child (DAC)
- TIME:** 09:00 AM
- WHEN:** Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013
- WHERE:** New African Union Conference Centre (AUCC) Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- WHO:** Organised by the Department of social affairs and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)
- PARTICIPANTS:** High officials of the African Union Commission and representatives from the Department of Social Affairs, the Chairperson and members of the African committee of experts on the right and welfare of the child (ACERWC), key representatives of the Government of Ethiopia, Ambassador/Representatives of AU Member States, representatives of UN agencies, Country Directors of international organizations, children and parents, children representing all five AU regions.

**OBJECTIVES:**

The purpose of the celebration of the DAC in 2013 is to draw attention on harmful social and cultural practices against children, and highlight the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. In particular, underscoring the roles and responsibilities of States Parties to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) in order to combat and eliminate harmful practices against children in Africa.

Furthermore, the 2013 DAC’s aim is not only to deliberate and providing recommendations on ending harmful practices, but to also urge stakeholders to take concrete commitments and practical actions on eliminating and preventing harmful social and cultural practices affecting

children. The children and participants present in the event will be aware and millions other people will also be reached through Medias.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Day of the African Child is commemorated every year on the 16th of June by the African Union Member States and its partners in accordance with Resolution CM/Res, 1290 (XL).

It is to be recalled that the Declaration on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child of July 1979 and ratified by 47 African countries as of today, recognizes the need to take appropriate measures to promote and protect the rights and welfare of the African Child.

The Heads of States acknowledged the critical situation of African children due to socio-economic, cultural, traditional and developmental circumstances, and agreed to promote and support Child's Rights and Welfare by all means possible. It is in that framework that the DAC is celebrated each year to raise awareness and urge everyone to make their utmost efforts in protecting the rights and the welfare of the Child.

***Journalists are invited to attend and cover the official ceremony of the event on Friday 14 June 2013 at 9:00am at the African Union Headquarters.***

**The draft programme is attached.**

For further information and interview request please contact:

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