

AFRICAN UNION

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UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 11 551 7700 / +251 11 518 25 58/ Ext 2558

Web site: www.au.int

Directorate of Information and Communication

MEDIA ADVISORY

AFRICAN UNION SENSITIZATION AND MOTIVATION CAMPAIGN IN THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA FOR THE ECOSOCC 2ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

What: Sensitization and Motivation Campaign for the election of the 2nd General Assembly of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC)

Who: African Union Commission (AUC).

When: Wednesday 16 September 2014

Time: 9:30 AM

Where: Meeting room of the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Malabo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea

Objectives:

The AU Sensitization and Motivation Campaign aims to encourage the civil society organizations in Congo to participate in the election for the 2nd General Assembly of the ECOSOCC. The Campaign will also; explain ECOSOCC history, role and functions, as well as purpose and objectives of the sensitization process, the application process, eligibility criteria for the election.

Background:

In compliance with the decision EX.CL/Dec.849 (XXV), adopted by the 23st Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, held in Malabo, June 2014, the AU Commission is conducting sensitization and mobilization campaign to encourage greater participation in the ECOSOC election from the African CSOs, in particular the least represented countries.

Similar missions have been conducted in other countries, including; Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Senegal, Benin, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Congo Brazzaville and others. In its previous missions, the campaign witnessed fruitful deliberations and interaction with the civil society communities on ECOSOCC in view to strengthen dialogue and collaboration between the AUC and the civil society communities as well as other non-governmental organizations actors.

Established under the provisions of Articles 5 and 22 of the African Union's Constitutive Act, ECOSOCC is the vehicle for building a strong partnership between governments and all segments of African civil society. The Statute of ECOSOCC, adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2004 defines it as an advisory organ of the African Union composed of different social and professional groups of the Member States of the African Union [Assembly/AU/Dec.42 (III)].

These CSOs include but are not limited to the following: a) Social groups such as those representing women, children, the youth, the elderly and people with disability and special needs; b) Professional groups such as associations of artists, engineers, health practitioners, social workers, media, teachers, sport associations, legal professionals, social scientists, academia, business organizations, national chambers of commerce, workers, employers, industry and agriculture as well as other private sector interest groups; c) Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and voluntary organizations; d) Cultural organizations and e) social and professional groups in the African Diaspora in accordance with the definition approved by the Executive Council.

Attached is the draft program of the event.

Media representatives in Brazzaville are invited to cover the Sensitization and Motivation Campaign.

Interview requests should be addressed to Mrs. Esther Tankou, Head of Information Division, Directorate of Information and Communication, African Union Commission (AUC), **E-mail** : Yamboe@africa-union.org / esthertankou@yahoo.com

For further information please contact :

Mr. Jalel CHELBA, Head of Civil Society Division, African Union Commission

Email: jalelc@africa-union.org

For further information contact

Directorate of Information and Communication | African Union Commission | E-mail: dinfo@african-union.org | Web Site: www.au.int | Addis Ababa | Ethiopia

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