

AFRICAN UNION

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Directorate of Information and Communication

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### AFRICAN UNION SENSITIZATION AND MOTIVATION CAMPAIGN IN THE REPUBLIC OF GABON FOR THE ECOSOCC 2<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

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

**Who:** African Union Commission (AUC).

**When:** Friday 19 September 2014

**Time:** 9:30 AM

**Where:** Meeting room of the Economic and Social Council of the Republic of Gabon

#### Objectives:

The AU Sensitization and Motivation Campaign aims to encourage the civil society organizations in Gabon to participate in the election for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 23<sup>st</sup> 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, Malabo, 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 organisations 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 program of the event.

***Media representatives in Libreville are invited to cover the Sensitization and Motivation Campaign in the Conference room of the Economic and Social Council on Friday 19 September 2014 at 9:30 am .***

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](mailto:Yamboe@africa-union.org) / [esthertankou@yahoo.com](mailto:esthertankou@yahoo.com)

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