

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

The 3rd Africa-Arab Summit

MEDIA ADVISORY

Arab-Africa economic cooperation forum - The start of a strategic partnership

INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

- What:** The 1st - Arab-Africa Economic Forum
- When:** 11th -12th November 2013
- Where:** JW Marriott Hotel Kuwait City
Al Shuhada Street P.O. Box 26302 · Safat, Kuwait City, 13124 Kuwait.
- Who:** Organized by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, African Union Commission, and League of Arab States, in partnership with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and Direct Aid Society of Kuwait, under the theme “Beyond the Promise: *Moving forward toward an effective Africa- Arab partnership*”.
- Objectives:** The Economic Forum aims to highlighting opportunities in both regions and promoting collaboration between African Union Commission’s Member States, the Arab region and the world at large. Specifically, its aims to:
- Get a better assessment on the investment opportunities and implications associated with doing business in the region involving all key stakeholders allowing them to make informed decisions about investment and reform.
 - Identify the frameworks which are driving growth and contributing to a favorable business environment in both regions

- Forge sustainable partnerships between the African private sector actors and their counterparts from Arab with a view to enhancing trade and investment between the two sides
- Create an opportunity for business leaders to explore the challenges and opportunities in areas such as energy, transport and communication infrastructure, manufacturing and agri-business and agro-industry
- Provide a platform for African and Arab business actors to meet directly with policy makers at national, regional and continental levels with a view to sharing ideas on ways of improving the business climate
- Create the opportunity for business actors to discuss ways of enhancing competitiveness by exchanging views on issues such as access to finance and external markets
- Create opportunity to showcase product and service ideas within the framework of the trade fair.

Participants: The participants in this forum are public sector leaders, Arab, African, regional and international organizations, specialized Arab and African institutions, Arab and African intellectuals, leaders of the prominent private sector establishments, and the civil society in both Africa and the Arab world

Background A long process of historic, cultural, economic and social interactions formed the basis for the cordial relations between African and the Arab world today. On the basis of this historical fact, geographic interdependence and common political and economic interests, the African and Arab countries held their first summit in Cairo, in March 1977, and the second summit in Sirte, Libya in October 2010, to define the principles and framework of collective and individual actions that need to be taken by them to further promote their cooperation relations. Both Summits called upon the specialized African and Arab development and financial institutions, to take all necessary measures to support Arab-African Joint Programs of cooperation. On the occasion of the 3rd Arab-African Summit scheduled to take place in the state of Kuwait during 19-20 November 2013, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development will organize an economic Forum to discuss economic development issues in the two regions and to identify areas of cooperation between them.

Journalists are invited to cover the Economic Forum in the State of Kuwait on 11th and 12th November 2013.

For Further Information consult the AU website: www.au.int , and the 3rd Africa - Arab Summit page on: <http://pages.au.int/afroarab> \ <http://www.kuwaitsummits.gov.kw>

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