

AFRICAN UNION
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UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Téléphone : 5517 700 Fax : 5511299
website : www.africa-union.org

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

MEDIA ADVISORY

**FIRST EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTER OF
EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION (COMEDAF IV)**

Theme: “PREPARATION FOR LAUNCHING THE PAN AFRICAN UNIVERSIT”

INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

When: May 11th -13th 2011

Where: Nairobi

Who: The African Union, Department of Human Resources, Science
and Technology

Why:

Following July 2010 Summit Decision on the Pan African University (PAU), preparations are underway to ensure that the first three Institutes of the PAU are launched in September 2011. This means key policy documents have to be considered by the July 2011 AU Summit of Heads of State and Government. Before taking the documents to the Summit, they need to be considered and endorsed by the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF).

Expected Outcome :

The Extra-Ordinary session is to consider and endorse key policy documents relating to the Pan African University which include the Hosting Agreement, PAU Act and Statutes, among others. The session will also consider the “Africa Regional Convention for the Mutual Recognition of degrees and qualifications in higher education” (a revised Arusha Convention).

Background:

The Pan African University is the culmination of continental initiatives of the Commission of the African Union to revitalize higher education and research in Africa. It is a project that will exemplify excellence; enhance the attractiveness and global competitiveness of African higher education and research, and establish the African University at the core of Africa’s development. The Pan African University will greatly boost the production and retention of

high level human resources and quality knowledge outputs, and be able to attract the best human resources from all over the world.

The first three Institutes of the Pan African University will be hosted as follows:

1. Western Africa- PAU Institute of Earth and Life Sciences at Ibadan University in Nigeria
2. Eastern Africa- PAU Institute of Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation, at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and technology
3. Central Africa- PAU Institute of Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences at University of Yaounde

All media representatives are invited to the official opening ceremony on May 11th 2011.

Attached is the draft work programme of the event.