

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

MEDIA ADVISORY

What: Press conference on the spread of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa.

The African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with partners cordially invites members of the press for an update on the continental efforts to respond to the Ebola outbreak.

When: 13th August 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1000hrs-1100hrs

Where: African Union Conference Centre and Office Complex Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Media Briefing Room

Why: The African Union Commission will provide an update on the measures that the African Union Member States and the African Union Commission are taking to respond to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

The spread of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) poses a major health and development threat to the African continent and beyond. The current epidemic is the biggest and most complex that the West African region has experienced since the first human outbreak occurred in 1976. The current epidemic has killed 961 people out of 1,779 infected since February according to the latest reports. The Ebola virus epidemic is spreading throughout the Republic of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and ten cases have since been recorded in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. There is a possibility that the outbreak may spread to other countries in West Africa and beyond if effective measures including community engagement are not put in place. Various mechanisms will need to be put in place to ensure that African countries are prepared to deal with the threat. Other nations across West Africa remain on high alert.

To meet this threat, multifaceted actions are being considered by African Union Member States and partners. Efforts by the African Union Commission to mobilise Member states, partners and the international community to complement the efforts of the affected countries, especially in replenishing the African Public Health Emergency Fund are underway. More resources are needed to meet the needs on the ground including the deployment of several hundred medical personnel in affected countries to ease the strain on overstretched treatment facilities.

Who: African Union Commission, Regional Health Organisations in Addis Ababa, United Nations Organisations in Addis Ababa, Bilateral Organisations in Addis Ababa

Further media inquiries should be directed to

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About the African Union

The African Union spearheads Africa's development and integration in close collaboration with African Union Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and African citizens. AU Vision: to accelerate progress towards an integrated, prosperous and inclusive Africa, at peace with itself, playing a dynamic role in the continental and global arena, effectively driven by an accountable, efficient and responsive Commission. Learn more at: <http://www.au.int/en/>