

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: <http://www.au.int>

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

MEDIA ADVISORY

The 17th General Assembly of the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA)

INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

- WHAT:** The 17th General Assembly of the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA).
- WHEN:** General Assembly (open session) 18 July 2016 at Kigali Convention Center, MH3, 08h30-11h30
- THEME:** “Advancing Sustainable Partnerships to end pediatric AIDS and improve Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights”
- WHERE:** Kigali Convention Center, MH3
- WHO:** Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS
- OBJECTIVES:** On 14 and 15 July, meeting of the Technical Advisors will discuss matters related to financial and activity reports of the OAFLA Secretariat. The meeting will review Member States programs implemented in line with OAFLA strategic direction. The Technical Advisors deliberate on the outcome of the ‘High Level meeting on HIV/AIDS’ which was held in June 2016 as well as on the ‘Girls’ Rights’. The African Union has declared the year 2016 as the “African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women”. In partnership with Plan International, the film entitled “He named me Malala” will be screened and discussed on 16 July 2016 as part of side events of OAFLA.

In a closed session of the General Assembly, First Ladies will deliberate on recommendations of the Steering Committee and on open session, First Ladies will share experiences as well as have an interactive discussion with partners on the theme of the year.

BACKGROUND:

Since its establishment in 2002, OAFLA has served as a strong voice for Africa's most vulnerable, women and children through sustained advocacy, sensitization and mobilization of key stakeholders at various levels. Under the umbrella of OAFLA, African First Ladies have championed the cause of a people-centered development with women and children at its core, at the national, continental and global levels. Inspired by the understanding that sustained and inclusive growth will only be achieved if women, including young girls and all children are empowered to reach their full potential, OAFLA's mission has been "to advocate for effective policies and strategies towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS, reduction of maternal and child mortality and the empowerment of women and children, through strategic partnerships in the spirit of solidarity".

In this regard, OAFLA has created and sustained strategic partnerships with key stakeholders at a country, continental and global levels and played a central role on greater initiatives such as the Campaign on the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa and most recently the "All-In to End Adolescent AIDS" campaign. OAFLA continues to use its convening power and to draw the attention of policy makers at the highest level in issues affecting women and children including engagement with Heads of State and Government, Heads of UN agencies, development partners, donors, and civil society organizations, etc..., as stipulated in its 2014-2018 Strategic Plan.

Journalists are invited to attend and cover the event on Monday, 18 July 2016 at 8:30am in MH3 Meeting Hall at the Kigali Convention Center, Kigali, Rwanda.

The draft programme is attached.

For further information and media inquiries please contact:

Mrs. Nardos Berhanu

Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA)

Tel: +250 785 924 617; E-mail: nardos@oafla.org

Esther Azaa Tankou

AUC Directorate of Information and Communication,

yamboue@africa-union.org

Directorate of Information and Communication AU Commission

Tel: +250 785 923 794; E-mail: rahela@africa-union.org

