



DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

MEDIA ADVISORY**AFRICAN UNION TO COMMEMORATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION****INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA**

- What:** Commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) 2017.
- Theme:** *Home Safe Home, Reducing Exposure, and Reducing Displacement*
- When:** Friday, 13 October 2017 at 9:00am
- Where:** African Union Commission (Old Plenary Hall)
- Who:** Organized by the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- Objective:** The main objective of the IDDR 2017 commemoration is to provide a platform to AUC, Ethiopia and other AU Member States and partners to draw on lessons learned and tap into a wealth of experiences and best practices in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and its Africa Programme of Action with a particular focus on reducing the numbers of people affected by disasters.

Participants:

The IDDR 2017 commemoration will be attended by the African Union Commission, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and representatives of Civil Society Organizations.

Background:

The African Union has a number of instruments, including the Africa Programme of Action (PoA) for the Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted by its Member States, including Ethiopia, which, if implemented effectively, can enable the continent to reduce the number of disaster affected people meaningfully, thus achieve target (b) of the Sendai Framework and that of the Africa Programme of Action-Reducing the number of people affected successfully.

International Day for Disaster Reduction is an opportunity to acknowledge the substantial progress being made towards reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, business, communities and countries. Such an outcome is the aim of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and that of the PoA for the Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa.

The successful implementation of the Sendai Framework is critical to the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Likewise, effective implementation of the PoA is crucial to achieving the AU Agenda 2063 while successful implementation of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy is fundamental to realize the country's vision of becoming a middle income country by 2025.

Journalists are therefore, invited to cover the commemoration event on Friday, 13th October 2017 at 9:00am; at the African Union Commission.

The draft programme is attached:

For additional information on the STC:

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