



## DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

MEDIA ADVISORY/ 30<sup>TH</sup> AU SUMMITTENTH (10<sup>th</sup>) AFRICAN UNION GENDER PRE-SUMMIT TO DISCUSS IMPACT OF  
CORRUPTION ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND RELATED ISSUES

## INVITATION TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

- Theme:** "Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa"
- What:** The African Union Assembly declared 2018 as the African Anti-Corruption Year with the theme "*Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation.*"
- When:** 17 to 18 January 2018  
**Time:** From 09h00 to 17h00
- Where:** Small Conference Hall 4 - African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Who:** Under the leadership of H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), **the 2018 Gender Pre-Summit (GPS) is organized by the AUC Directorate of Women, Gender and Development (WGDD)** of the AUC in collaboration with the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC), in partnership with the Civil Society and the UN, supported by International Development Partners.
- Why:** As it is practice, the AU-Gender Pre-Summit (GPS) will be aligned to the 2018 theme and will provide the forum to discuss the impact of corruption on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The 2018 GPS will also focus on AU's gender multi-stakeholder policy platforms with a view to re-define them in accordance with the imperatives of Agenda 2063 and the proposals in the report of the AU Reforms by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda.

Additionally, the year 2018 also marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AU-GPS, which has played a significant role in influencing and shaping African Union (AU) policies on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and ensuring the inclusion of the critical voices of women and their perspectives in AU. The

meeting will deliberate on the preparations for celebration which will take place in May 2018.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the 10<sup>th</sup> AU-GPS are three-folds as follows:

- a. Examine the impact of corruption on the achievements of gender equality and women's empowerment and to propose concrete actions to accelerate the fight against gender related issues notably in the areas of corruption;
- b. Define the strategic positioning of WGDD multi-stakeholder policy platforms within the context of the new AU Reforms and Gender strategy; and
- c. Prepare for the celebrations of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AU-GPS

**Expected outcomes:** The expected outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> AU-GPS are:

- a. The impact of corruption on gender equality and women's empowerment examined and concrete strategies to accelerate the fight against corruption are proposed;
- b. Strategic positioning of WGDD multi-stakeholder policy platforms defined;
- c. Implementation roadmap for the 10<sup>th</sup> celebrations of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AU-GPS developed.

**Participants:** Participants for the 2018 Gender Pre-Summit will be drawn from African Union Member States; representatives of the Specialised Technical Committee meeting on Gender, AU women ambassadors; AU Organs, Representational and Liaison offices; Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and RMs; Civil Society Organizations & Diaspora organizations; UN Partners and International Development Partners.

## **Background:**

The African Union Commission (AUC)'s through the Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) is convening the annual gender pre-summit in the margins of the 30<sup>th</sup> AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

This year's gender pre-summit will have three pronged objectives including defining actions to rally women around fighting corruption and furthering understanding on its impact on gender equality, defining a road map to align policy platforms on gender equality with the AU reform and preparing for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gender Pre-Summit in May 2017.

The year 2018 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AU-GPS, which has played a significant role in influencing and shaping African Union (AU) policies on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and ensuring the inclusion of the critical voices of women and their perspectives in AU . This 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary will also take place against a background of a new strategy for gender equality for the AU which will provide a clear and results oriented roadmap for the effective implementation of existing commitments and of emerging issues policies.

Over the decade, some of the milestones achieved as a result of women's advocacy through the AU-GPS, include, among others, the adoption of the first AU Gender Policy in 2009; the establishment of the Fund for African Women (FAW) in 2010; the adoption of the African Women's Decade (AWD) 2010-2020; the appointment of the first African Union Commission Chairperson's Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security in 2013 and the

Declaration of the AU Heads of State and Government of 2015 as the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Agenda 2063, and 2016 as the Year on Human Rights, with a special focus on the rights of women in Africa.

The commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> AU-GPS provides an opportunity to reflect on progress made thus far, in terms of lessons learned and challenges encountered as well as to identify opportunities, especially on the low hanging fruits on gender equality and women's empowerment that still require policy definition or implementation. This will also be an occasion to determine the shape and nature of the AU-GPS, particularly within the context of Agenda 2063 which requires delivery of results and acceleration of action on all commitments and the new AU reforms which call for more effectiveness and efficiency at financial, political and operational levels in the work of the AU.

**Media representatives are invited to cover the Gender Pre-Summit to be held on 17 to 18 January 2018 as from 09h00 to 17h00 at the AU headquarters.**

**For further information, please contact:**

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