

AFRICAN UNION

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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

MEDIA ADVISORY

Press Conference on The Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative

Invitation to Representatives of the Media

When: Tuesday 31st July 2018

Time : As from 10 am

Venue: African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Who: High level African Union officials on climate change, **Betty G**, an Ethiopian pop star and UNHCR ambassador and Malian musician and activist **Inna Modja**.

What: The African Union and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) have partnered to film a documentary on the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI).

The African Union officials, during the press conference, will provide key insights on where the Great Green Wall stands today, what it will take to achieve this urgent African dream and how this Continent-wide movement to combat desertification. Betty G and Inna Modja, will be recounting their experiences across the Sahel, as well as hopes and ambitions for the future of the Great Green Wall.

A meeting to present the event will hold in the Nelson Mandela Hall, New Conference Center, AUC followed by the Press Conference.

Background

The Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative is a pan-African initiative launched in 2007 by the African Union (AU) and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The initiative aims to grow an 8,000km-long line of trees and plants across the entire Sahel, from Atlantic coast of Senegal to the east coast of Djibouti in order to; reverse land degradation and desertification in the Sahel and Sahara region, boost food security and support local communities to adapt to climate change.

The initiative bringing together more than 20 countries from the Sahelo-Saharan region including Algeria, Burkina Faso, Benin, Chad, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, the Gambia and Tunisia.

JOURNALISTS ARE INVITED TO COVER MASSIVELY AND TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW

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