

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Date: 24 November 2023

### MEDIA ADVISORY

#### 11<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE AFRICAN HUMANITARIAN SYMPOSIUM THEME: “*Advancing Effective and Inclusive Humanitarian Action in Africa*”

#### INVITATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

**What:** The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Humanitarian Symposium  
*Theme: “Advancing Effective and Inclusive Humanitarian Action in Africa”*

**When:** 27-29 November 2023, EMARA OLE-SERENI Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

**Who:** The Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration AU Humanitarian Partners, namely, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

**Why:** The symposium will focus on strategic approaches to advancing effective and inclusive humanitarian action in Africa, in accordance with the collective commitments of the African Union Member States as encapsulated in the [2016 Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness \(CAP\)](#), the [2022 Malabo Declaration and the Global Compact on Refugees](#). The establishment of the African Humanitarian Agency as Africa’s Institutional pillar in responding to forced displacements and disasters on the continent gives effect to the centrality of African States in humanitarian action on the continent and marks a significant development in shaping Africa’s Humanitarian Agenda and Architecture.

In Addition, the AU has recently revitalized the discourse on the need to integrate humanitarian needs and displacement issues into national and local development plans as well as the need to anchor humanitarian action in appropriate inclusive strategies in order to promote effective and inclusive humanitarian action in Africa. In May 2022, an Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, which resulted in a Declaration setting out broad preventive and responsive actions to humanitarian crises in Africa and, the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights has recently, on 2 August 2023, issued a [Resolution on socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable persons in Africa](#).

The 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the AU Annual Humanitarian Symposium will indeed serve as a platform that promotes coordinated efforts, enhances local and national capacities, and strengthens partnerships to achieve sustainable humanitarian action across Africa.

The Annual Humanitarian Symposium was institutionalized in 2013 as a platform to bring together policy makers and practitioners from Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Donors, UN Agencies, African and International Humanitarian Organizations and other stakeholders including Think Tanks, Academia, Civil Society, Youth, Affected Populations, the Diaspora, Innovators, Social and the Private Sector and the wider global humanitarian community to discuss and review the state of humanitarian action in Africa.

#### **Objectives:**

The symposium provides the opportunity for Member States and all humanitarian actors

involved in humanitarian action in Africa to discuss and exchange experiences and ideas on how they can better implement and support humanitarian action on the continent.

### **Expected Outcomes:**

The following outputs are envisaged from the 11<sup>th</sup> Humanitarian Symposium:

- a. Proposals of strategies and immediate action for effective operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency.
- b. Proposals for synergies, tools, and mechanisms for approach to providing an effective and inclusive humanitarian response in Africa.
- c. Proposals of inclusive approaches to humanitarian response in Africa
- d. Proposals of partnerships and identified resources necessary for improvement of humanitarian governance and response in Africa.

### **Participants:**

Participants will include Senior Officials from, Ministries and National Agencies from AU Member States responsible for Humanitarian Affairs; Ambassadors Members of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees; Regional Economic Communities; Organs of the AU and relevant Departments of the African Union Commission, Humanitarian Partners, Social and Private Sectors; United Nations Agencies and International Organizations; International and Local NGOs, youth, women and affected Communities; Media, Academia, and Independent Experts.

***Journalists are invited to cover the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Humanitarian Symposium.***

**Registration available at:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvCXcMeledEKGAhniLx2Z5K2UWMNpOrQ-TJ7-rn-nY7qI2Eg/viewform>

**For further information about the Symposium, kindly contact:**

**Ms. Rita Amukhobu** | Head Humanitarian Affairs Division, Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development | E-mail: [amukhobur@africa-union.org](mailto:amukhobur@africa-union.org)

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

**Mr. Gamal Eldin Ahmed A. Karrar** | Senior Communication Officer | Information and Communication Directorate (ICD), African Union Commission | E-mail: [GamalK@africa-union.org](mailto:GamalK@africa-union.org)

**Information and Communication Directorate**, African Union Commission | **E-mail:** [DIC@africa-union.org](mailto:DIC@africa-union.org)

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