

## DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

Press Release

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

What: Press conference on the impact of the theme of the year on the AfCFTA implementation

Who: H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General of the AfCFTA Secretariat

When: Sunday 18 February 2024

Time 15:00-15:30

Where: Briefing room 3 at the African Union Commission,

## Background:

Following the African Union (AU) Decision Assembly/, the AU Theme of the Year for 2023 was launched as 'Acceleration of the AfCFTA implementation'. The ultimate goal was to accelerate the effective implementation of the AfCFTA in a manner that truly benefits the people of the Continent and achieve the aspirations and goals of Agenda 2063. As a flagship project of Agenda 2063 "The Africa We Want", the AfCFTA has been poised to lead the economic transformation of the continent.

## Objective

The overall objective of this press conference is to provide an overview and update on the impact of the AU Theme of the year towards the successful implementation of the AfCFTA. The main topics to be addressed are as below:

- 1. Update on advocacy and sensitisation programmes
- 2. Role of strengthened stakeholder relation
- 3. Advanced operational and institutional work on the implementation of the Agreement

The AU theme of the year 2023 has been a unique opportunity for the AfCFTA to be brought to the fore of priorities surrounding economic development of the continent. As notable achievements have been realised in regards to the AfCFTA, this platform will be an avenue to obtain the latest progress updates and insights on next steps pertaining to ensuring its effective implementation and positive benefits to all Africans.

## For further information, please contact:

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