

## Directorate of Information and Communication

## Press Release N° 109 /2013

## Senior Officials Discuss Policies and Their Implementations towards the Development of the Great Lakes Region



**Monday 18 July, 2013** - The Conference on Regional Approaches to Development in Great Lakes Region began officially today, Thursday 18 July 2013. Although the conference is to be held officially from Friday 19 July 2013, it was preceded today by a preparatory meeting of Senior Officials involved.

Moderated by Dr René N'guettia Kouassi Director of Economic Affairs, AUC; the session was opened with statements by co-organizers beginning with Mr.

Babacar Cisse, Acting Regional Director, Bureau for Africa, UNDP. He began by underlining how critical this meeting is in building on the momentum of the signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region on February 24, 2013. While also listing key regional objectives to be met by the meeting, he stated that along with medium and long term efforts, sustained political leadership and ownership would be necessary for the success of the new framework.

The Country Director for DRC, World Bank; Mr. Eustache Ouayoro gave his opening statement saying that "It is clear that without security and stability there can be no development, but it is also true that without development, there can be no security and stability." He concluded on the fact that although all issues discussed during the meeting are important, there will be a special focus on women's empowerment and combating sexual and gender based violence.

The final opening statement was by H. E. Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl, Commissioner for Trade and Industry, AUC. She spoke on behalf of the Chairperson of the AUC, Dr. Dlamini Zuma and her colleague, H. E. Dr. Anthony Maruping, the Commissioner for Economic Affairs, AUC,. Affirming that the commission has now embarked on a journey towards achieving the Africa 2063 vision, she held that the issues of inadequate physical structures and improved involvement of women and youth in the region's growth need to be addressed among other things. She called on the delegation to generate implementable proposals towards the provision of essential services to the citizens as their lack thereof is a recipe political instability. Her final point centred on the significance of the role of the private sector in the region, calling it "the engine of development".

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