

**PRESS RELEASE N°148/2014****DREA holds retreat on the implementation of its Strategic and Operational plan 2014-17 and on strategies of delivery of relevant Decisions and Declarations of the Malabo AU Summit**

Nairobi, Kenya, July 3, 2014- The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) is holding a staff retreat, to review progress and plan for enhanced implementation of its 2014-2017 Strategic and Operational Plan as well as to plan for the implementation of relevant decisions and declarations of the just ended 23rd AU Summit in Malabo.

The DREA Strategic and Operational Plan is based on the AUC's Strategic Plan 2014-2017, endorsed by the AU Heads of State and Government during their Assembly on May 26, 2013.

Opening the retreat, DREA Commissioner H.E Tumusiime Rhoda Peace welcomed and thanked staff for attending the retreat which she said was timely and pertinent in DREA's pursuit of strategic areas of intervention towards contributing to the realization of the overall AUC priority goals. She also commended their continued hard work and dedication.

DREA has a renewed spirit and is actively implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) while looking ahead to the next 50 years of African integration, self-reliance and prosperity within the framework of Africa Agenda 2063.

"This year has been particularly important for the department as the champion of 2014 which is the Year of Agriculture and Food Security and also the commemoration of 10 years of CAADP," said DREA Director, Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel.

DREA is further cognizant that its role on the continent will contribute to Africa's pursuit of the goal of agricultural transformation and development, food and nutrition security, environmental sustainability and contribution to socio-economic stability.

Attending the retreat are all DREA staff from the headquarters and the six specialized technical offices of the department.

For further information contact:

Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel

Director, Rural Economy and Agriculture

AbebeHG@africa-union.org

Ms. Carol Jilombo

CAADP Communications Officer

Jilomboc@africa-union.org