

**Press Release****The Commissioner for the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture Signs an MOU with SOS SAHEL INTERNATIONAL****Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 01 September**

2014- The Commissioner for the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace Signed an MOU with SOS SAHEL INTERNATIONAL on the 1st of September 2014 at the African Union Commission (AUC) Headquarters, in the presence of Members of Staff from the Office of the Legal Counsel, the directorates of Protocol, and Communication and Information and

from SOS SAHEL International.

The MOU was signed within the framework of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) which is a Pan African programme that was adopted by the Head of State and Government in 2007 for combating land degradation and to alleviate poverty and food insecurity in the Sahara and Sahel regions of Africa. Activities for the implementation of the programme are being undertaken in over 16 countries for now in collaboration with Member states, International and National organizations and CSOs.

SOS SAHEL International, which is French-based International Development Organisation, was founded by the former Senegalese President Léopold Sédar Senghor some 40 years ago and intervenes in the Sahel region of Africa with the main objective of poverty alleviation and sustainable management of natural resources inter alia. SOS Sahel International intervenes in over 1000 Communities in all the focal countries of the GGWSSI and undertakes various activities in support of the Initiative.

During the signing ceremony the Commissioner expressed appreciation of SOS SAHEL's activities on the continent and their interest in the work of the AUC. She also emphasized that the aim of the MOU was to strengthen Partnership to ensure effective and concrete activities are undertaken on the ground to benefit the local communities in

the Sahel. The CEO for SOS SAHEL INTERNATIONAL Dr. Remi Hemeryck thanked the Commissioner for accepting to sign the MOU, recounted some of the activities and achievement undertaken together and promised that his organisation will work according to the terms of the MOU. The ceremony transpired in a cordial atmosphere.

Media contact:

Mr. Molalet Tsedeke, Directorate of Information and Communication, AUC; molalett@africa-union.org
+251-911-630-631

Ms Carol Jilombo

Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC; E-mail: Jilomboc@africa-union.org

For further information contact

Directorate of Information and Communication | African Union Commission | E-mail: dinfo@african-union.org | Web Site: www.au.int | Addis Ababa | Ethiopia

Follow us

Face book: <https://www.facebook.com/AfricanUnionCommission>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/_AfricanUnion

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/AUCommission>

Learn more at:

<http://www.au.int>