



Directorate of Information and Communication**Press Release No 252 /2013****AU 3rd Conference of Ministers Responsible For Mineral Resources Kicks Off in Maputo**

Maputo, Mozambique 16th December 2013: African Mineral Resources Ministers and other stakeholders will discuss Africa development for its mineral resources through the African Mining Vision. This comes within the framework of The Third Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development, which kicks off today 16th December 2013 in Maputo, the Republic of Mozambique, under the theme “*Leveraging the Africa Mining Vision for Africa’s Renaissance towards broader ownership*”.

Jointly organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), Republic of Mozambique and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The two-day Ministerial meeting will brainstorm on how African countries could design and implement effective strategies and policies of Mineral Resources through the African Mining Vision (AMV).

Addressing the opening ceremony, AUC Commissioner for Trade and Industry H.E. Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl in her opening remarks stressed that Africa’s success will be measured by the way it translates, through leadership, transparency, and accountability, its wealth into meaningful benefits for African citizens." It is high time to use revenues from mineral resources to significantly improve the welfare of African people", she added.

The Commissioner expressed her wish that this Conference be a wakeup call to all decision makers for the need to develop effective and equitable policies and to make the right decisions those present and future generations will remember. (Please find the full speech of the Commissioner on www.au.int)

The 3rd Session of the conference will propose to the African leaders approaches and policy options on the execution of the Action Plan for AMV, with the aim to promote sustainable development in Africa in line with 2015 Development Agenda and 2063 Africa’s agenda. Additionally, it will reflect on the adequacy, relevancy and gaps in the Business Plan for the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC), as an institutional framework, which seeks to support the implementation of the AMV, enhancing ownership and participation of Member States and RECs in the implementation of the AMV Action Plan, launch AMDC as a project, and considering modalities to strengthen

forward planning and information exchange on the AMV Action Plan among Member States and stakeholders.

The African Ministers are expected to consider the report and recommendations of the Meeting of Senior Officials, which took place on 13-15 Dec. It will also consider and adopt of the AMDC Business Plan, draft Ministerial declaration and report, and a briefing on the African Union Agenda 2063.

On sideline of the meeting, AUC Commissioner for Trade and Industry H.E. Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl along with other African Ministers will take part in the lunching ceremony of AMDC. The Center is initially be established as a five year project of the AUC while a sustainable institutional framework for its future is being developed.

The Conference was attended by the African Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for mineral resources development, AUC and RECs' officials. Participants were also drawn from a broad spectrum of stakeholders including, Development Partners, representatives of UN agencies, African private sector, African Chambers of mines and industry, NGOs and CSOs, AfDB.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Conference will serve as inputs for the preparation of a Draft Declaration and Plan of Action for the management of Africa's mineral resources.

For Further Information consult the AU website: www.au.int

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