

**AFRICAN UNION**

**الاتحاد الأفريقي**



**UNION AFRICAINE**

**UNIÃO AFRICANA**

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**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

**PRESS RELEASE N°100/2011**

## **THE AFRICAN UNION LAUNCHES THE PAN-AFRICAN MEDIA NETWORK PROJECT**

**Addis Ababa, 15 September 2011** - The African Union (AU) will, from 17 to 20 September 2011, participate in the Pan-African Conference on Access to Information (PACAI) in Cape Town, South Africa. This major event will bring together the cream of journalism in Africa and commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration on freedom of expression.

On the sidelines of the Conference, the AU, as a PACAI partner committed to promoting freedom of expression, access to information and the practice of independent journalism, will, on 19 September, launch the Pan-African Media Network (PAMEN).

The PAMEN platform is an African Union initiative, run by the African Forum for Media Development of the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) and the African Media Initiative (AMI). It will operate as a forum for exchange of information and practices among media professionals. It also aims to promote media development across Africa by fostering synergies between the initiatives of AU Member States, international institutions and development partners, including the media themselves. The network will pool projects for media development in Africa. On the whole, the PAMEN will serve as a reliable source of information for the AU and its partners to enable them to evaluate and monitor the changing media landscape in Africa. The PAMEN will also be a strategic tool that will help the AU to formulate better policies on aid and support to the media on the continent.

A workshop will be dedicated to the launch of PAMEN on 19 September from 09:00 to 13:00 hours. It will be held in partnership with the African Forum for Media Development of the GFMD, the AMI, the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ), the Africa Bureau of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and others.

The commitment of the African Union to respect democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance as well as the promotion of social justice to ensure balanced economic development as enshrined in the Constitutive Act justifies the active participation of the organization at the PACAI.

YNS/HMC

**The Pan-Africa Conference on Access to Information (PACAI)**  
*17-19 September 2011, Cape Town, South Africa*

**Session of the Pan-Africa Media Network**  
**(Workshop 3)**

**19 September 2011**  
**Venue: Hall 240 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**(Follow the signage within the venue)**

**Draft Programme**

**Theme: The Pan-Africa Media Network: A Tool to Promote Access to Information**

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**9h00-10h30: Opening Session - Hall 240 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

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- Welcome address by Gabriel Baglo, Director, Africa Regional Office of the International Federation of Journalists.  
Opening address by Mrs Habiba Mejri-Cheikh, Director of Information and Communication, African Union Commission.
- Presentation of the Concept Note on Pan-Africa Media Network by Mrs Habiba Mejri-Cheikh, Director of Information and Communication, African Union Commission.
- Adoption of the programme of work.

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**10:30 – 11:00: Tea/Coffee Break – Hall 2.44-6 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

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**11:00 – 13:00: Working Session – Hall 240 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

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- Discussion on the finalization of the PAMEN concept note, agreement on a way forward and preparation for the official launch PAMEN. Presentation on the functioning and programmes of the AU:
  - Short presentation of the Pan-African Media Portal;
  - Plan of work of the Pan-Africa Media Network;
  - Relationship with AU structures;
  - Establishment of a PAMEN Working Group.
- Adoption of the Concept Note of the Pan-Africa Media Network

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**13:00 – 14:00: Lunch Break**

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**14:00 – 15:15: Closing Session – Plenary - Hall 2.60 – (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

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- Reports from Workshops.
- Launch of the Pan-African Media Network.