



ICRC



PRESS RELEASE

ICRC President, Peter Maurer, expected to pay a high-level visit to the African Union Headquarters

Addis Ababa, 15 October 2012 - Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), is expected to hold an official visit to the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Thursday 18 October 2012.

During his visit, Mr. Maurer will meet with different AU officials to discuss a range of matters of common concern regarding the situations of armed conflicts and internal violence on the continent and their humanitarian consequences. Mr. Maurer will also participate in a special session of the AU Peace and Security Council where he is expected to brief Member States' representatives on ICRC activities and exchange views on humanitarian issues and challenges in Africa.

Talks will mainly highlight the added-value of independent and neutral humanitarian action in today's armed conflicts as well as on the challenges of assisting and ensuring protection of the civilian populations in conflict zones, in particular internally displaced persons, women and children.

The President is further expected to meet with the AU Partners Group Ambassadors to brief them on the ICRC's humanitarian operations and concerns in the African continent but also to brief them on its global operations in different contexts (Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq...)

The visit of the President falls at a time when the ICRC Delegation to the AU is marking the 20 years of cooperation with the African Union. Hence, the occasion is expected to provide an opportunity to take stock of ICRC contributions to AU initiatives during the past 20 years and further discuss on the ways to strengthen the cooperation between the two institutions.

Since May 1992, the ICRC has established its cooperation with the AU to exchange views on humanitarian concerns in Africa, promote better knowledge and respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by AU Member States, provide legal support to the AU Commission for the mainstreaming of IHL into its decisions and policies, reinforce and maintain the multilateral network with African States Parties to IHL-related Treaties and Protocols.

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