

Directorate of Information and Communication

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Experts convened to prepare for the 5th AU Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs

Addis Ababa, 8th May 2013: Ahead of the 5th Ordinary Meeting of AU Ministers responsible for Gender and Women Affairs, which will be held on 14th May 2013, under the theme of the 50th Anniversary of the AU “ ***Pan Africanism and African Renaissance***”, experts from AU Member States convened today Wednesday 8th May 2013, at the AU New Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,



Officially opening the meeting, Ms. Litha Musyimi-Ogana, AUC Women, Gender & Development Director said “ the AU has taken global leadership in advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment since the transformation of the OAU/AU and one of the top priorities of the current Commission is the integration of women and gender perspective into all policies, programmes and activities of the AU”.

She emphasized that Africa is beset by numerous challenges, and the African Renaissance is seen by many Pan- Africanists as a possible panacea for these challenges. It has been seen as a call for the people of Africa to work towards the resurgence of Africa economically, socially and politically, she added. *(full speech of the Director is available on the AU website: www.au.int)*

This preparatory meeting is organized by the AUC Women, Gender, and Development Directorate (WGDD), and is aimed to reflect on *Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance* as AU 50th anniversary theme, and to discuss the Commemoration of 10th anniversary of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa on 11 July 2013.



The meeting will also consider an Annual High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, strategies for enhancing the capacity of women, consider and approve projects for the African Women's Decade (AWD) 2012 Theme, as well as collaboration with UN Women at country level in strengthening the AWD National Coordinating Committees.

The Experts will also consider the report of the Technical Committee of 30 for the African Women's Decade, the Steering Committee for the Fund for African Women and recommend qualifying projects for adoption by the Ministerial Committee of 10 and the Ministerial Meeting as well as consider and make the necessary recommendations on the report of the Joint Strategic Meeting on the Operationalization of National Coordination Committees with UN Women Country Representative.

The meeting was attended by experts from AU Member States, Ministries of Gender and Women's Affairs, representatives of WGDD, representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), and other invited guests.

The meeting will conclude tomorrow, and will submit its recommendations to the 5th Ministerial Meeting which will kick off Tuesday 14th May 2013.

For further information, please visit the AU website: www.au.int

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