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## AU CAMPAIGN MISSION ON ECOSOCC SENSITIZATION ARRIVES IN NAMIBIA TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE

**Windhoek, Namibia 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014** -The AU Mission for Sensitization and Motivation of the African Civil Society community to register and participate in the continent-wide process of elections into the 2nd Permanent General Assembly of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC) arrived in Windhoek, Namibia, today on the third leg of its campaign tour of Southern Africa.



On its two previous stops in Zambia and Zimbabwe, the campaign attracted attention and support of a wide variety of civil society networks and organizations and a similar response is anticipated in Namibia.

The involvement of Namibian CSO groups is very critical as Namibia was not represented in the 1st ECOSOCC General Assembly from 2008-2012. The main objective of the campaign in Namibia would be to ensure that the presence and impact of Namibian CSOs would be felt in the next ECOSOCC Assembly. This is essential to enable progressive development of state-civil society relations within the African Union in particular and the continent in general and ensure that the integration and development project of the AU is people -oriented and people driven.

This was the focus of directive of the Executive Council of the African Union through Decision EX.CL/ 849(XXV) of June 2014 in Malabo that mandated the Commission to conduct the campaign and to ensure that a new ECOSOCC Assembly is established before the end of the year 2014. The sensitization meeting with Namibian CSOs is scheduled to be held in Windhoek on 20 August 2014. As in Zambia and Zimbabwe the meeting will be preceded by media and television interviews and interactions.

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