

AFRICAN UNION		UNION AFRICAINE
الاتحاد الأفريقي		UNIÃO AFRICANA
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 11 551 7700 / +251 11 518 25 58/ Ext 2558 Web site: www.au.int		

Directorate of Information and Communication

PRESS RELEASE N°257 / 2014

ECOSOCC: TUNISIAN CIVIL SOCIETY AGREES TO TAKE PART IN ECOSOCC ELECTIONS AND SEEKS PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

Tunis, Tunisia - October 1st 2014 - More than seventy organizations and nearly one hundred participants attended the Awareness Day organized by the Commission of the African Union on Monday, October 1st in the meeting room of the Centre for Information, Training, Studies and Documentation Associations (IFEDA), located in El Menzeh 7 in Tunis, as part of the awareness campaign of civil society in the elections of the Second General Assembly of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union (AU).



Speaking on behalf of the Tunisian government, Mr Anwar Ben Khelifa, the Tunisian State Secretary in charge of Governance and Civil Service, congratulated the representatives of the African Union, who came directly from Addis Ababa, headquarters of the Union, in order to sensitize the Tunisian civil society about the conditions of participation in the upcoming elections of the General Assembly of ECOSOCC. He thanked the representatives of Tunisian civil society who responded in such numbers to the call of the African Union, inviting them to submit their applications on time and within the requirements.



The Tunisian Secretary of State also urged the Tunisian civil society to persevere along this path and to give all necessary attention to the African dimension, drawing in Tunisian women and, youth to support the AU to ensure qualitative presence within its structures. In his opening message, Ben Khelifa also invited the Tunisian media to be the voice of the African Union in helping to communicate information to civil society stakeholders.

Mr. Jalel Chelba, Chief of the Division of Civil Society Commission of the African Union, for his part, hoped that after this campaign, many Tunisian organizations will respond to the call of duty by taking part in the forthcoming elections of ECOSOCC. He said Tunisian civil society has demonstrated its commitment to noble causes and should be well represented in the next Assembly of ECOSOCC.

He, moreover, expressed the appreciation of the AU to the Tunisian government for hosting this meeting and for guaranteeing all conditions of its success. He also welcomed all representatives of Tunisian Civil Society Organizations, who came to take part in the meeting, and officials of the IFEDA Center for providing the appropriate framework to meet and for having mobilized in a very short space of time, a large number of CSOs.

Earlier, Mr. Ridha Kozdoghli, General Director of the Centre IFEDA had welcomed the delegation of the African Union by ensuring the availability of the IFEDA Centre to continue to provide all necessary support for the success of the campaign, and ensure Tunisian representation in international and continental assemblies.



During the interactive session, the Tunisian organizations, like other African civil society consulted as part of the awareness campaign, pointed out that the 50-percent financial contribution would be difficult for many of them to honor.

Mentioning the delicacy of the post-revolutionary context in which they operate, many organizations, especially those born after January 11, 2011, requested that "preferential treatment" should be conferred them, especially with regard to the criterion of the three years existence. "The majority of Tunisian associations were born after the revolution," explained the speakers in the debate, calling on the African Union to consider the Tunisian context by providing more support and assistance to youth organizations. The discussion also focused on the Electoral College and the practicalities of voting.

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Jalel Chelba | Head of Civil Society Division | AUC | E-mail: <mailto:Jalelc@africa-union.org>

Mrs. Habiba El Mejri Scheikh | Director of Information and Communication | Directorate of Information and Communication AUC | E-mail: habibaM@africa-union.org

Contact us:

Directorate of Information and Communication | Commission of the African Union | E-mail: dinfo@africa-union.org

Website: www.au.int | Addis Ababa | Ethiopia

Follow us:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AfricanUnionCommission>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/_AfricanUnion

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/AUCCommission>