



Press Release N°277/2014

AU DELEGATION MEETS MAURITANIA AUTHORITIES



Nouakchott, Mauritania, 15 October

2014 – Upon their arrival in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the AU delegation held a working session today with the Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H.E.Amb Sidi Mohamed Ould Hanene to brief him about the mission and to discuss on the need to involve the civil society as much as possible into the activities of the ECOSOCC. Mauritania is the last country of the ongoing sensitization and motivation campaign for the election of the 2nd General Assembly of the

ECOSOCC billed for the end of this year. The AU campaign has been undertaken in more than 25 African countries following an Executive Council Decision adopted by the Malabo Summit held in June 2014.

Ambassador Ould Hanene welcomed the AU delegation on behalf of the government of Mauritania and assured the delegation that his Government will continue to support the activities of the AU and ensure the effective participation of the civil society organizations in the upcoming ECOSOCC elections. He expressed gratitude to the AU leadership for sending a team to interact and exchange views with the Mauritanian civil society with respect the wellbeing of African citizens.

The meeting was attended by Mme Ba Aminata, Head of Division of African Union and Specialized Agencies in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation as well as Mr Gamal Ahmed A. Karrar from the Directorate of Information and Communication, African Union Commission (AUC).

Worth recalling that, the AU sensitization and motivation campaign is aimed at encouraging greater participation the African civil society organisations (CSOs), particularly the least represented countries, to take part in the elections of the ECOSOCC General Assembly.

Established under the provisions of Articles 5 and 22 of the African Union's Constitutive Act, ECOSOCC is the vehicle for building a strong partnership between governments

and all segments of African civil society. The Statute of ECOSOCC, adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2004 defines it as an advisory organ of the African Union composed of different social and professional groups of the Member States of the African Union Assembly/AU/Dec.42 (III)].

These CSOs include but are not limited to the following: a) Social groups such as those representing women, children, the youth, the elderly and people with disability and special needs; b) Professional groups such as associations of artists, engineers, health practitioners, social workers, media, teachers, sport associations, legal professionals, social scientists, academia, business organizations, national chambers of commerce, workers, employers, industry and agriculture as well as other private sector interest groups; c) Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and voluntary organizations; d) Cultural organizations and e) social and professional groups in the African Diaspora in accordance with the definition approved by the Executive Council.

Interview requests should be addressed to Mr. Gamal Ahmed A. Karrar, Directorate of Information and Communication, African Union Commission (AUC), E-mail: gamalk@africa-union.org / gamal90@gmail.com

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