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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

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KICK OFF OF THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC) OF THE AFRICAN UNION



Khartoum, Sudan, 26th May 2015 – The 1st ordinary session of the standing committee of the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union kicked off today with effective Sudanese CSOs participation.



At the official opening, Dr. Jinmi Adisa, Director of CIDO and Head of ECOSOCC Secretariat in his remarks on behalf of the African Union Commission, welcomed the participants to the inaugural session of the Standing Committee of the 2nd ECOSOCC Permanent General Assembly that is taking place in Khartoum, Sudan from 26-28 May 2015. He noted that the convening of the session is in pursuance of the directive issued by the General Assembly of ECOSOCC as the highest policy making body of the Organ at its meeting in Cairo, Egypt from 27 February to 1st March 2015. “I must also formally welcome the wider members of our constituency in civil society that have come here today in solidarity to observe the workings of their organ

within the AU. This is not an accident. The Constitutive Act of the African Union which serves as the Magna Carta of our regional organization is specific in its commitment to create a people-centred and people-driven African community in the African Union”.



Finally Dr. Adisa expressed the appreciation of the Secretariat in CIDO and the AU Commission for the warm support and assistance of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sudan and the local Organizing Partners in civil society, the National Group for Human Rights for working closely with ECOSOCC to make this event successful.

Speaking on behalf of the various CSO groups and associations, Mr. Ibrahim Abdul Halim, the Chairperson of the National Group for Human Rights, Sudan noted that it was a great pleasure to have the AU delegation of ECOSOCC in Sudan and expressed the hope that the ECOSOCC will receive “enthusiastic support and respect for the noble cause of the (ECOSOCC) Council in Sudan. He stressed that Sudanese CSOs need to have more active participation in ECOSOCC future activities.

Mr. Chilingi, the Presiding Officer of ECOSOCC, informed the participants that in the course of ECOSOCC session, ECOSOCC shall have a wider AU Sensitization program for the Sudanese civil society and collaborate with local organizing partners and the wider Sudanese society by participating in symposia and seminar relating to issues of pressing concern in their Society which includes the use of sanctions among others.



“Sudan and its capital Khartoum, offers us a unique and pleasant venue for this deliberation and the choice of this venue reflects our wish to share the labours of love for the African Union. I wish to thank the Secretariat and CIDO and its Director, Dr. Adisa for working closely with the Bureau of ECOSOCC that I have the honor to lead in making adequate preparations for this meeting” Mr. Chilingi concluded his keynotes remarks..

On behalf of the Government of Sudan, H.E. Kamal Ismail, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sudan noted that “Sudan is a member of the Organization of the African Unity (OAU)

The Minister congratulated Mr. Joseph Chilingi, Presiding Officer of ECOSOCC and the members of Standing Committee of the 2nd ECOSOCC Permanent General Assembly and expressed the hope that ECOSOCC will follow that same spirit of transparency, and honesty in choosing candidates in the future.



H.E. Kamal Ismail noted the support of Sudan for ECOSOCC and CIDO to fulfill its mandate and appreciated the important role of ECOSOCC in finding better conditions to insure better participation in solving issues of African countries.

In conclusion, H.E. appreciated the efforts done by late professor Wangari Maathai, Nobel Laureate and Presiding Officer of the Interim (ECOSOCC) Assembly and wished successful deliberations for the sessions of the Standing Committee of the 2nd ECOSOCC Permanent General Assembly.



The opening session was followed by meeting of the ECOSOCC Bureau on draft Agenda and work programme and report on follow-up actions by ECOSOCC Secretariat and briefs on activities of the Presiding Officer as well as briefs on ECOSOCC participation at various fora and meetings.

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