



## Press Release No /2015

### Arrival of Members of the Standing Committee of the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union to Khartoum

**Khartoum, Sudan, 25th May 2015** – Members of the Standing Committee of the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union arrived in Khartoum yesterday for a meeting for the 1<sup>st</sup> ordinary session of the standing committee of the organ. The Standing Committee is the executive organ of the ECOSOCC empowered by statutes for coordinating the work of the ECOSOCC and for preparing and submitting annual reports to the assembly of the union.

The meeting of the Standing Committee will amongst other consider and approve the report that will be presented by the Organ to the 26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary session of the Executive Council and Assembly of the Union in Johannesburg, South Africa from 07 – 15 June 2015. The meeting also coincides with the celebration of the Africa Day which is to be commemorated with a sensitization programme for Sudanese Civil Society Organizations in Khartoum as part of the general programme of activities.

Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sudan, Human Rights Groups and relevant Authorities officially received the AU mission to express their support for the program.

On arrival, the AU delegation including ECOSOCC members and the secretariat in CIDO and others held fruitful consultations with various relevant actors to build effective stakeholder support for the meeting and the sensitization programme. The meeting will be followed by media, radio and television interviews as well as different debates and side events.

The key focus of the meeting is to review and develop an implementation plan and consolidated work programme for the implementation of the ECOSOCC General Assembly Decisions of Cairo in March 2015. The Standing Committee will also review and develop a plan to accompany the budget presentation for 2015 and align it with its projected work programme and related efforts to establish appropriate mechanism for operationalization of Cluster Committees and the popularization of Agenda 2063. Finally, it will review, consider and approve the substance of the ECOSOCC annual report to the June 2015 AU Summit as mandated by Article 10 of the ECOSOCC Statutes.

The delegation is led by Mr. Joseph Chilengi, Presiding Officer of ECOSOCC with the support of the Head of secretariat in CIDO, Representatives of the AU Commission, Chairpersons of Sectorial Cluster Committees, as well as invited guests from other organs of the AU such as the African Commission of Human and People Rights (ACHPR).

Draft rules and procedures have been considered and adopted to govern the operations of the ECOSOCC General Assembly as the highest decision and policy making body of ECOSOCC as stated in Article 9 (1) of the ECOSOCC Statutes. The recognition of the role of the General Assembly as contained in Article 9 of the Statutes will also enable a reflection on ECOSOCC roles and boundaries as well as its duties and responsibilities and its precise relationship with the Commission which hosts its Secretariat as well as other Organs of the Union in coordinate and autonomous spheres of activity.

Previously at the AU 24th Summit held in January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the AU Commission reported on the ECOSOCC and the Executive Council of the Union consequently adopted Decision EX.CL /Dec. 869 (XXVI) on the 2nd Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC. That Decision recognized and endorsed the outcome of ECOSOCC election in Nairobi in December 2014 and gave ECOSOCC certain Union responsibilities. This was followed by the induction and orientation exercise for head members held in Cairo, Egypt from 27 February – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

This Standing Committee meeting will provide support for the work of ECOSOCC General Assembly and set the pace for effective operational activities in 2015 and 2016.

<http://pages.au.int/ecosocc>

For any inquiry, please contact:

Dr. Jinmi Adisa | Director, CIDO and Head of the Secretariat of ECOSOCC | E-mail: [JinmiA@africa-union.org](mailto:JinmiA@africa-union.org) or [jinmiadisa@gmail.com](mailto:jinmiadisa@gmail.com)

Mr. Jalel Chelba | Head of Civil Society Division, | E-mail: [JalelC@Africa-union.org](mailto:JalelC@Africa-union.org)

Mr. Gamal Ahmed A. Karrar | Directorate of Information and Communication | African Union Commission | Tel: +251911361185 | E-mail: [gamalk@africa-union.org](mailto:gamalk@africa-union.org)

Directorate of Information and Communication | African Union Commission | E-mail: [DIC@african-union.org](mailto:DIC@african-union.org) | Web Site: [www.au.int](http://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>

Learn more at: <http://www.au.int>

Directorate of Information and Communication. African Union Commission

E mail: [dinfo@africa-union.org](mailto:dinfo@africa-union.org)

**For further information contact**

Directorate of Information and Communication | African Union Commission | E-mail: [dinfo@african-union.org](mailto:dinfo@african-union.org) | Web Site: [www.au.int](http://www.au.int) | Addis Ababa | Ethiopia

**Follow us**

Face book: <https://www.facebook.com/AfricanUnionCommission>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/ AfricanUnion](https://twitter.com/AfricanUnion)

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

**Learn more at:**

<http://www.au.int/>