

**Press Release N°242/ 2014****AU mission arrives in Asmara to mobilize Eritrean Civil Society to participate in ECOSOCC****Asmara, Eritrea, 24th September 2014 –**

The African Union (AU) Mission for the sensitization of the African Civil Society Community to register and participate in the process of elections into the 2nd Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) General Assembly arrived in Asmara, Eritrea, yesterday.

Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea and other relevant Authorities officially received the AU mission to express their support for the program.

Subsequently, the AU delegation held fruitful consultations with various relevant actors to build effective stakeholder support for the sensitization meeting which will be held at Asmara Hotel Palace on 25th September 2014. The meeting will be followed by media, radio and television interviews as well as a courtesy call to Mr. Yemane Ghebremeskel, Director of the Office of the President of the State of Eritrea.

Eritrea represents the final leg of the sensitization campaign in East Africa following successful stopovers in Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Seychelles. Parallel missions are currently being conducted in Central and Lusophone Africa.

The delegation is composed of Ambassador Lazarous Kapambwe, Advisor to the AUC Chairperson, Dr. Jinmi Adisa, AUC Director for Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) that is overseeing the program, Mr. Joseph Chilengi, IDP, Zambia - Member of the 2nd ECOSOCC General Assembly as well as various focal persons for other relevant Departments particularly the Directorate for Information and Communication (DIC).

The Campaign is part of the determined effort of the AU Commission to ensure the faithful implementation of the directive of the Executive Council of the AU that mandated the Commission to undertake a continent-wide sensitization campaign within three months and to establish a 2nd ECOSOCC General Assembly before the end of 2014.

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