



Reference: **BC/OLC/217/5003.11**

## **REMINDER**

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATURES FOR THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

The Commission of the African Union presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs/External Relations of all Member States and has the honour to refer to its previous Note Verbale BC/OLC/217/4761.11 dated 22 August 2011 on the forthcoming election of Members of the Commission scheduled for January 2012 (copy attached).

The Commission would like to remind the esteemed Ministries that all candidatures for the posts of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Commissioners should be submitted to the Commission through the **Office of the Legal Counsel** in a **sealed envelope** and that the deadlines for submission of candidatures for the election of Members of the Commission are as follows:

1. **Chairperson: on or before 15 September 2011,**
2. **Deputy Chairperson: on or before 15 September 2011,**
3. **Commissioners:**
  - (i) Member States should submit candidatures from their respective regions **on or before 15 AUGUST 2011** through their regional Deans in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, namely **Central: Democratic Republic of Congo; East: Uganda; North: Egypt; South: Zimbabwe; and West: Burkina Faso or alternatively through the Regional Deans at Ministerial level, if different from the above.** The Commission would like to recall that in conformity with Article 13 of the Statutes of the Commission "***The nomination process shall be based on modalities to be determined by the region***".
  - (ii) The regional consultations should be finalized and the regional Deans should submit their candidatures to the Commission **on or before 15 SEPTEMBER 2011.**
  - (iii) The Ministerial panel established in terms of Article 14 of the Statutes of the Commission assisted by a team of Consultants will meet and finalize its work **on or before 10 OCTOBER 2011.**

The Commission would like to draw the attention of the esteemed Ministries on the need to comply with the requirements, in particular in relation to the number and gender of the candidates to be submitted for each portfolio, in order to avoid the difficulties that may arise in view of the fact that the portfolios are not allocated in advance to regions:

- The difficulty or impossibility to compose a complete Commission;
- Non representation of a region: when the elections commence, and male and female candidates start to be eliminated from the list, and a region does not have any remaining candidates and thus might not be represented for lack of candidates. In this regard, the Commission would like to recall that for the July 2003 elections, the post of Commissioner for Economic Affairs could not be filled until January 2004 since there were no male candidates for that post from the Southern Region. For the 2008 elections, the post of Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture could not be filled in January 2008 since there were no female candidates for that post from the Eastern Region and the election had to be carried out by the Extraordinary session of the Executive Council in May 2008 which was convened to consider the Report on the Audit of the African Union in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Commission would like to indicate that should the regions not comply with the requirements of the rules and the modalities by the deadline set, all candidatures received by the Commission will be submitted to the Ministerial Panel for consideration and decision.

The Commission would also like to remind all Member States that it shall circulate the list of candidates for the posts of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson as soon as possible **after the deadline of 15 September 2011**. For Commissioners, the candidatures will be after shortlisting by the Ministerial Panel and at any rate **on or before 26 October 2011** in readiness for election by the Assembly and the Executive Council, respectively in January 2012.

The Commission of the African Union avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs/External Relations of all Member States the assurances of its highest consideration. ○○

**Addis Ababa, 5 September 2011**

**To: Ministries of Foreign Affairs/External Relations of all Member States**

**cc.: Permanent Missions of all Member States  
Addis Ababa**