



Dear colleagues:

Centre for Citizens' Participation on the African Union -CCPAU, Open Society Foundation-OSF, OXFAM Pan African Lawyers Union-PALU and State of the African Union-SATU, will hold a press briefing on Monday 27 January at the AUC headquarters Media Briefing room.

What:

ECOSOCC:

The distinctive character of the African Union's ECOSOCC is one which presents an opportunity for civil society to play an active role in charting the future of the Continent, organizing itself in partnership with African governments to contribute to the principles, policies and programmes of the Union. After various attempts the 2nd Permanent General Assembly still has not been constituted. What should be the focus on transformation of ECOSOCC to ensure the formal space for civil society is effectively used? And do efforts by the Peace and Security Council present some insights and opportunities for the transformation of ECOSOCC?

Advisory Board on Corruption:

Corruption and weak governance is costing Africa billions. The AU Advisory Board on Corruption is the emanation of The AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. It was created on 26th May 2009 under Article 22 (1) of The Convention. The AUABC bases its work on the provisions of this legal instrument and in this regard, it is the unique continental organization mandated by the African Union to deal with corruption and related themes in Africa. It recently celebrated its 10th year anniversary in December 2013- what should the next decade entail; and specifically what priority actions can be undertaken in 2014 to ensure civil society engages effectively with this institution?

Pan African Parliament:

The Pan African Parliament (PAP) should have been transformed to a legislative entity by 2009 (end of its first term). Debates have been tabled and proposals dispatched. After a decade of existence, the aspirations of attaining an Assembly with legislative powers remain elusive. What can and should civil society do to ensure that Article 17 as defined in the protocol relating thereto is realized?

AU Funding:

The AU's resource challenges undermine its ability to take effective action in conflict resolution, advancing Africa's developmental agenda, promoting human rights and democracy, fighting corruption, as well as adequately support and strengthening AU organs and member states'

institutions. It also hampers its ability to determine its own agenda on the global stage. Where resources have been made available, issues of transparency and accountability over utilisation continue to surface. Can CSOs contribute effectively toward resource mobilization and leverage their comparative advantages toward plugging the resource shortfalls- thus creating a broader space for accountability and inclusion in AU processes? Can CSOs advocate for a more sustainable model of resourcing the AU and its institutions?

When:

18h:00, 27 January 2014

Where:

AUC HQ Media briefing room

Speakers:

Jeggan Grey-Johnson and Ibrahima Kane- OSF

Carnita Earnest- CCPAU

Selemani Kinyunyu and Donald Deya-PALU