

Press Release No. 81/2011

AU Commission Handovers Visibility Materials in Honour of Nelson Mandela to South African Embassy in Addis Ababa



Addis Ababa – 29 July 2011 – To mark the anniversary of Nelson Mandela’s and the International Day in honour of Nelson celebrated in Africa and observed worldwide on 18 July 2011, the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission (AUC-DREA) collaborated with the South African Embassy to plant trees on the Mount Entoto in Addis Ababa. As a follow up to this exercise, AUC-DREA formally handed over a number of

caps and T-shirts to the Embassy of South Africa as a symbolic gift to be forwarded to Mr. Nelson Mandela. The visibility materials were symbolic as they carried the logos of Nelson Mandela, the African Union (AU), the European Union and the ACP-MEAs logos. The materials were produced by the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) Project and also distributed to participants at the tree planting exercise.

The handing over ceremony was presided by Dr. Abebe Hailegabriel, Director of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC on 29 July 2011, in the presence of Ms. Clara Keisuetter, Charge de Affair, South Africa Embassy; and staff from AUC-DREA and South African Embassy, at the Embassy of South Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

During the ceremony Dr. Abebe said the spirit of Mandela is an inspiration to all Africans in the process of bringing change and democracy in the continent.

Worth recalling that the AU Commission, particularly the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, participated in the tree planting exercise in Addis Ababa on 18 July 2011, and distributed over 100 T-shirts and hats.

Speaking later, Ms. Keisuetter, expressed her appreciation to the AUC for its participation in the commemoration of “Nelson Mandela’s International Day”. She recalled that more than 2,300 trees contributed by different organizations have been planted in Addis Ababa to mark Nelson Mandela’s International Day. She noted that since 2009 South Africa took this initiative to commemorate Mandela’s spirit of change in the continent.

The two institutions discussed on better coordination for the celebration and commemoration of Nelson Mandela's International Day in the future.

Meanwhile, the Day was decided in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/Res/64/13 of September 2009.