

**PRESS RELEASE NO. 09/ 19th AU SUMMIT****NINETEENTH AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT OPENS TOMORROW 15 JULY ON THE THEME: BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE**

Addis Ababa, 14 July 2012 – The 19th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) will officially open tomorrow, Sunday 15 July 2012 in the plenary hall of the New AU Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme: “Boosting Intra-African Trade”.

For two days (15 and 16 July 2012) the Heads of State and Government from the 54 Member States of the Union will consider:

The recommendations of the Executive Council on the report of the Commission on the implementation of previous Decisions of the Executive Council and the Assembly;

The report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa, including the activities of the Panel of the Wise;

The report on NEPAD by Mr. Meles Zenawi, Ethiopian Prime Minister and Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC);

The report on Africa’s preparation for the Climate Change Negotiations at the 18th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (COP18), by Mr Meles Zenawi, who is also the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).

The Presidents and Heads of Delegations will also exchange views on the report on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) by Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo and Africa’s Coordinator on the United Nations Conference. They will discuss the report on the UN Reforms by Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the Committee of Ten on the UN Reforms.

The Assembly will further consider the report of the High Level Committee of Heads of State and Government/ Chairs of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on Boosting Intra-African Trade, among others.

One of the high moments during the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU will be the election of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) as well as the appointment of the eight Commissioners of the AU and the three Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights (AFCHPR).

Meanwhile, the 19th Ordinary Session of the AU Summit was preceded by the 24th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) that took place from 9 – 11 July 2012 and the 21st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held from 12 to 14 July 2012 at the headquarters of the AU in Addis Ababa.

ETA/wzm

For more information, consult the African Union website: www.au.int and visit the 19th Summit web page of the AU at the following link: <http://au.int/en/summit/19thsummit>

Journalists are invited to cover the official opening and closing ceremonies of the 19th AU Summit on 15 and 16 July respectively.

Journalists wishing to interview the leadership of the AU Commission during the Summit should submit their requests to Mrs Esther Azaa Tankou E-mail: YambouE@africa-union.org / esthertankou@yahoo.com

Attached is the agenda and program of the 19th AU Summit.

NINETEENTH (19th) ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
15 – 16 July 2012

Venue : Large Conference Hall (NCC)

DAY ONE: Sunday 15 July 2012

10.00 - 12.00 hrs

OPENING CEREMONY (*open to the media*)

- H.E. Dr. Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of Benin and Chairman of the African Union, requests the Assembly to stand for the AU Anthem
- AU Anthem
- Minute of Silence (in memory of late President Bingu Wa Mutharika)
- Statement by H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union
- Statement by H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations
- Statement by H.E. Dr. Nabil Al-Arabi, Secretary General of the League of Arab States;
- Statement by the H.E. Mr. Mohamud Abbas, President of Palestine National Authority (PNA) and Chairman of Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee (PLO)
- Statement by the Right Honourable Motsoahae Thomas Thabane, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho
- Statement by H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal
- Statement by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Morsy, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- Statement by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, Guest of Honour
- Opening Statement by H.E. Dr. Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of Benin and Chairperson of the African Union
- Signing of AU Treaties
- “10 Years in the Quest for Peace in Africa” (Documentary on the 10th Anniversary of the AU under the Make Peace Happen Campaign)
- End of the official Opening Ceremony

12.00 – 12.30 hrs

- H.E. the Chairperson of the Union requests the Heads of State and Government to proceed to the Lobby for a Group Photo

12.30-15.00 hrs

LUNCH BREAK

15.00-18.30 hrs

CLOSED SESSION (*close to media*)

- I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND THE WORK-PROGRAMME
- II. ADOPTION OF THE 2013 BUDGET
- III. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
- IV. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON [Doc. Assembly/AU/....(XIX)] AND THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON [Doc. Assembly/AU/..(XIX)] OF THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
- V. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE AFRICAN UNION
- VI. APPOINTMENT OF THREE (3) JUDGES OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (AFCHPR)

19.30 hrs

BANQUET OFFERED BY H.E. ATO MELES ZENAWI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

DAY TWO: Monday 16 July 2012 (CLOSED SESSION)

09.00 – 13.00 hrs

VII. REPORTS

1. Consideration of the Recommendations of the Executive Council on the Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Previous Decisions of the Executive Council and the Assembly
2. Consideration of the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, including the activities of the Panel of the Wise
3. Consideration of the Report of H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC)

4. Consideration of the Report of H.E. Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the Committee of Ten on the UN Reforms
5. Consideration of the Report of H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo and Africa's Coordinator on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20)
6. Consideration of the Report of H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) on Africa's preparation for the Climate Change Negotiations at the 18th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (COP 18)
7. Consideration of the Report of the High Level Committee of Heads of State and Government / Chairs of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on Boosting Intra-African Trade

13.00 - 15.00 hrs

LUNCH BREAK

15.00 – 16.30 hrs

8. Consideration of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority (item deferred from January 2012 Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
9. Consideration of Legal Instruments as recommended by the Executive Council and Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General
 - a) Draft Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union Relating to the Pan-African Parliament
 - b) Draft Protocol on the African Court of Justice and Human Rights
 - c) Draft African Union Model National Law on Universal Jurisdiction over International Crimes
10. Consideration of the 2012 Report on Assessing Progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa
11. Consideration of the Report of Heads of State and Government Action Committee on AIDS Watch Africa (AWA)
12. Consideration of the Progress Report of the Commission on Maternal New Born and Child Health
13. Consideration of the Outcome of the Global African Diaspora Summit, Sandton, South Africa, 25 May 2012

14. Consideration of the Report of the High Level Panel led by Former President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria on the Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union
15. Communication of H.E. Blaise Compaore, President of Faso, on the Recommendations of the Education Triennium: Ouagadougou, February 2012

VIII. ITEMS PROPOSED BY MEMBER STATES

1. Offer of the Republic of Rwanda to host the Ordinary Sessions of the Permanent Representatives' Committee, the Executive Council and the Assembly of the African Union in June/July 2016 ***(Item proposed by the Republic of Rwanda)***
2. Offer of the United Republic of Tanzania to host the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in June/July 2017 ***(Item proposed by the United Republic of Tanzania)***
3. Integrating the Centre for Tick and Tick Borne Diseases (CTTBD) into the AU Structures ***(Item proposed by the Republic of Malawi)***
4. Support for the Establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO) African Public Health Emergency Fund (APHEF) ***(Item proposed by the Republic of The Gambia)***

IX. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 21ST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

X. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF THE 19TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION

XI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

XII. DATE AND VENUE OF THE 20TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION

XIII. CLOSING CEREMONY ***(open to media)***

- Vote of Thanks by a Head of State or Government
- Closing Statement by the Chairperson of the Union
- AU Anthem

XIV. PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE UNION AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION

