

**Press Release N°201/2014****African Union to host emergency meeting of the Executive Council to consolidate collective continental efforts against Ebola**

Addis Ababa, 3 September 2014- The African Union Executive Council will meet in Addis Ababa on 8 September 2014 to adopt a common position and define appropriate strategies to enable Africa to effectively combat the Ebola epidemic. The council's emergency meeting has been necessitated by the need to have a common understanding of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and current status of the response and to come up with a collective continental approach, taking into account the socio-political and economic impact of the disease.

On Monday 31 July 2014, the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) of the AU met ahead of the Executive Council meeting, and discussed various issues in preparation of the meeting, that included direct assistance to Member States affected by Ebola and the need to accelerate efforts towards the establishment of an African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ACDCP). The meeting also highlighted the importance of communication strategies on the crisis, both within and outside the continent, mobilisation of the necessary resources, and building the capacity of Member States in the field of research on vaccines and drugs against Ebola.

Various African countries including Nigeria, Botswana, Malawi, Gambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and South Africa have extended support to Ebola affected countries, such as direct funding, medical personnel and clinics to compliment on-going AU and international efforts.

The Executive Council meeting is also expected to deliberate on the suspension of flights, and maritime and border closures, as well as stigmatization of the affected countries and their nationals. Concern has been raised by some countries that such measures could have serious socio economic and cultural effects, and could ultimately lead to increased suffering of people in the affected countries.

Ebola has largely affected countries in West Africa and there are concerns not only over the fatality rate, but also on the consequences of the disease on the affected countries, many of whom are trying to grow their economies after emerging from conflict.

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union invoked Article 6f of its Protocol and decided on 19 August 2014 to "authorize the immediate deployment of an AU-led Joint Military and Civil Medical Mission against Ebola, comprising of medical doctors, nurses and other medical and paramedical personnel, as well as military

medical personnel. The first deployment of the medical mission is scheduled to start on the 10th of September 2014.

Media are invited to cover the opening session of the Emergency Meeting of the Executive Council on the 8th of September. A press conference will be held on the same day.

The draft programme of work of the emergency meeting of the Executive Council is attached.

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**Emergency Meeting of the
Executive Council
8 September 2014
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Emer/Ex.Cl/Prog (I)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK

10.00 – 10.30 hrs.	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Chairperson of the Executive Council declares the meeting open (2 minutes) - Statement by H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission (10 minutes) - Opening statement by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ould Teguedi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Chairperson of the Executive Council (10 minutes)
10.30 – 13.00 hrs	Closed Session
10.30 – 10.40 hrs	Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
10.40 – 11.00 hrs	Presentation of a Paper by the World Health Organization (WHO) Experts
11.00 – 11.15 hrs	Presentation of the Report by the Commissioner for Social Affairs
11.15 – 11.30 hrs	Presentation of the Socio-economic impacts of the Ebola and ways of minimizing them
11.30 – 13.00 hrs	<p>Discussion of various aspects of the Ebola Crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the policies put in place in different Member States to combat the crisis; • the effects of closing borders and free movements of population across borders; • suspension of flights to affected countries; • stigmatization of nationals from affected countries; • holding/cancellation of AU meetings and its attendant consequences on the programmes of the Union; • Africa's response to the Crisis;
13.00 – 15.00 hrs	Lunch Break
15.00 – 17.00 hrs	Closed Session
	Continuation of the Debate
	Adoption of the Conclusions
17.00 – 17.30 hrs	Open Session
17.30 – 18.00 hrs	<p>Closing by the Chairperson of the Executive Council End of the Meeting</p>