

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

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OPENING OF THE 17TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

Members of the media are invited to cover the opening session of the 17th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union to take place at 10:00 on 30 June 2011 at the Sipopo Conference Center in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

Speakers at the opening session will include Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission; Ms Asha Rose Migiro Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations; Mr. Ahmed Ben Helt Deputy Secretary General of the League of Arab States; Mr. Lula Da Silva, former President of Brazil and special envoy of the Brazilian President; and Mr. Teodoro Ibiang Nguema, and President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and Chairperson of the African Union.

The opening session will also see the launching of the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) activities in the Central African region.

There will also be a ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone for the African Observatory for Science, Technology and Innovation.

The opening ceremony is expected to end at 11:45 am.

Discussion on the theme of the summit

At 15:00 the same day, the Heads of State and Government and other high ranking executives will start discussing the theme of the summit i.e. Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development.

Speakers on the theme will include Prof Jean Pierre Ezin, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology at the African Union; Mr Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia; Mr Amadou Toumani Toure, President of Mali; Mr Armando Emilio Guebuza, president of Mozambique; Prof Babatunde Osotimehin, Director of the United Nations Population Fund; Dr Frannie Leautier, Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation and representatives of youth from the Central and Northern African regions.

Heads of State and Government and 6 youth representatives from the 5 geographical regions as well as the host country will intervene during the summit theme debate.

Media personnel are invited to cover both the opening session and the discussion on the summit theme.

Media enquiries should be addressed to Wynne Musabayana on Malabo number +240 222051742

Requests for interviews with the leadership of the AU Commission should be addressed to Esther Tankou on +240 222056569

For more information, please visit the AU Summit web page at <http://www.au.int/en/summit/17thsummit>