

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 11 551 7700 / +251 11 518 25 58/
Ext 2558

Website: www.au.int

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

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AU congratulates Dr Tedros Adhanom on historic win as first WHO Director-General from Africa

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – 23 May 2017: The Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, warmly congratulates Dr Tedros Adhanom on his election as the first ever Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) from the African region.

“The world has chosen a consummate global health statesman with a strong track record of embedding global public health and health security as a vital cornerstone of human development,” said H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission.

Dr Adhanom emerged victorious in a tough election against two strong candidates; Dr Sania Nishtar from Pakistan and Dr David Nabarro from the United Kingdom.

Dr Adhanom was recently at the helm of drafting The African Union Agenda 2063, which represents the strategic framework guiding Africa’s development priorities for the next fifty years (<http://www.au.int/web/agenda2063>), while serving as Chair of the Executive Council of the AU.

H.E. Mahamat wishes Dr Tedros a successful tenure at the helm of WHO robustly working towards a better, healthier future for all people around the globe. The AU Commission

affirms its support of Dr Tedros's priorities which include WHO reform; universal health coverage; health security; women, child and adolescent health; and the health impacts of climate and environmental change.

The AU Commission Chairperson also thanks African Ministers of health for their united and steadfast support for Dr Tedros during the campaign. When Africa speaks with one voice, She wins.