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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

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AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION RENEWS MOU ON AFRICA FACTBOOK



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 22 January 2019: The African Union Commission has renewed the Memorandum of Understanding with Book of African Records for the joint publication of The Africa Factbook. Mrs Leslie Richer, the AUC Director for Information and Communication signed on behalf of the Commission whilst Ambassador Kwame Muzawazi represented Book of African Records.

The Africa Factbook will contain useful facts about Africa and the African peoples for the purpose of information dissemination, education, entertainment, reference, statistics and documentation. The African Union Commission has deemed the project to be in line with the AU Pan African Vision of Agenda 2063 and Aspiration Five (5), which seeks to enhance the strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics of Africa

The first MOU was signed in December 2016 and since then significant progress has been made towards the realisation of the first edition of the much-awaited publication.

African Ministers responsible for communication also backed the need for Africa's own home-grown source of reference information. This was in November 2017 at the Second Ordinary Session of the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT (STC CICT-2) where Ministers reiterated the African Union's commitment to the project and also called upon "Member States to adopt the Africa Factbook as an educational tool, to enhance their knowledge of and pride in Africa."

In March 2018, an international conference on The Africa Factbook was convened in Harare, Zimbabwe and attended by over 200 delegates from across Africa. These included African regional economic communities, African countries who are member states to the African Union, experts on African history and culture among others.

The first edition is expected to be presented to the African Union Assembly in January 2020 and research work is underway in Zimbabwe where the Africa Factbook is based.

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