

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

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2022 budget; Partnerships; Africa CDC; and 2021 theme among the key issues as the AU starts preparing for the 3rd Mid-Year Coordination Meeting



The virtual 42nd Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) kicked off on 28 September 2021, ahead of the 3rd Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Mechanisms, scheduled to take place on 16 October 2021 under the theme of *"Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want"*. It will conclude on the Friday, 1st October.

Addressing the Ambassadors in his opening remarks, the Chairperson of the AU Commission (AUC), H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat reiterated that the institutional reforms of the AU are taking place within the framework of justice and equity among all Member States and in accordance with the rules of the Union.

"This will be for the renewal of staff according to professional skills and qualifications, but also according to justice and equity among all the Member States, in accordance with our regulations and our basic principles. These principles are the cement of our unity within the same organization where no member state will feel left out", he said.

The AUC Chairperson noted that the PRC will discuss key issues, among which are: the Report of the sub-committee on budget that includes the 2022 budget of the Union; Partnerships and the need to develop a strategy for all partnerships; Operationalization of the Africa CDC which is an urgent and vital issue with regard to health and security; and the Mid-term evaluation of the theme of the year 2021.

He also expressed appreciation for the good collaboration which exists between the PRC and the AU Commission. "This cooperation is enhanced by the common will to place the institutional reforms on a solid basis that will lead to the attainment of the strategic objectives enshrined in Agenda 2063", underlined Mr. Moussa Faki. He reiterated the full availability of the Commission to work tirelessly with the PRC. The full speech of the AUC Chairperson is on the AU website: <https://au.int/en/node/40882>.

On his part, H.E. Jean Léon Ngandu Ilunga, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and Chairperson of the Permanent Representatives' Committee, in his opening speech, commended the efforts made by the Bureau of the AU Assembly, the Commission and

the Africa Centre for Disease Control (CDC) for their tireless efforts in the response against the COVID-19 pandemic and the role played in acquisition of the vaccines.

The official opening ceremony of the 42nd Ordinary Session of the PRC virtual meeting, was attended by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Commission, the AU Commissioners, and Representatives from AU Organs and AU officials. The ambassadors will deliberate on different reports including: the activities of the PRC Sub-Committees; The Report on the COVID-19 Pandemic and its socio-economic Impact on African Economies; Reports of the AU Commission; the mid-term activity report of the theme of the year 2021 on arts, culture and heritage, and other reports from AU Organs and the AU Specialized Agencies. They will also discuss the Report on the Division of Labour between the AU, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, before adopting their report as well as the draft decisions of the 39th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled to take place from 13 to 14 October 2021.

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