

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

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### **The 6<sup>th</sup> Training Programme on the AU Humanitarian Architecture Begins**



The Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) organized the 6<sup>th</sup> Training Programme on the African Union Humanitarian Architecture: Law and Policy [The Livingstone Syllabus] in Bujumbura, Burundi from 28-30 August 2023.

The course aims to enable AU decision-makers and AUC departments and senior officials to interface with senior government officials to share experiences and deepen their understanding of standards and state obligations contained in international and regional instruments as a key step to achieving humanitarian effectiveness in Africa by 2025.

During the opening ceremony Professor Julio RAKOTONIRINA, Director of Health and Humanitarian Affairs Directorate of the African Union Commission (AUC) delivered opening remarks on behalf of Her Excellency H.E. Amb. Minata SAMATE CESSOUMA, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs & Social Development (HHS). Prof Julio briefed the audience on the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness (CAP) which called for a ten-year period of transformation to strengthen humanitarian action on the continent that was adopted in 2016 by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. "In 2016, African leaders and decision-makers adopted resolute decisions to change the paradigm of Africa's humanitarian action by providing the continent with a new humanitarian architecture for the future. Against this backdrop, the AU Commission formulated a training programme known as the AU Humanitarian Architecture: law and Policy to build the capacity of Member States. The 6th training session is taking place in this beautiful city of Bujumbura, Burundi. The ultimate impact of the course is to achieve the effective protection and assistance to forcibly displaced persons, through improved understanding and effective implementation of the legal and policy provisions contained in relevant international and AU instruments," said Prof. Julio RAKOTONIRINA, Director of Health and Humanitarian Affairs, AUC.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Mr. Buti Serope Kale, Head of the Representation Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to the African Union echoed the sense of urgency needed for enhancement of the legal and physical protection, the material assistance and contribution towards the realization of the durable solutions of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in Africa. This is meant to be materialized through a myriad of legal instruments and texts adopted by the African Union and its predecessor, the Organization of African Union (OAU), in particular, as well as other pertinent international legal instruments and texts adopted by the international community.

In his welcoming remarks during the opening ceremony, Mr. Mr. Pontien Hatungimana, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights, and Gender, thanked the AUC Department of Health Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development for putting efforts to organize the event in Burundi. He acknowledged the importance of such events that develop common approaches to tackling Humanitarian challenges.

During the training programme, the following topics will be covered: AU governance, humanitarian and peace and security architecture; human rights and basic principles of public international law; international and regional legal and institutional frameworks for the protection and assistance of refugees, the prevention, internally displaced persons protection and returnees, the prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons. Other sessions include international humanitarian law and principles of humanitarian action; disaster laws; mixed migration; root causes and achieving durable solutions focusing on the global compacts on refugees and migration; and monitoring and reporting on implementation of AU instruments.

The 6<sup>th</sup> session will have a dedicated module on modalities for the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency as a vehicle for strengthening the primary responsibility of States in humanitarian action, share new approaches to addressing challenges of forced displacement situations including a focus on inclusion and solutions.

#### **Note to Editors:**

#### **The African Union Humanitarian Architecture: Law and Policy Training Programme**

The Course is an initiative of the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), founded in 2016, as capacity building tool for Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The course is established on a firm foundation of international and regional norms and standards governing the protection and assistance to forcibly displaced populations. The course is also underpinned by African Shared Values and Principles of Pan-Africanism.

The core objectives of the course are to:

- Analyse trends and patterns of forced displacement in Africa to inform AU policy processes.
- Introduce participants to AU's vision, doctrine and new humanitarian architecture.
- Sensitize and teach Member states policy makers, civil servants and practitioners on foundation and principles of AU humanitarian action.
- Popularize and promote the domestication and implementation of AU Instruments.
- Promote the respect on international law, humanitarian law and refugee law.
- Promote dialogue on issues or durable solutions in context of state obligations and emerging policy trends regarding a paradigm shift from relief to development.
- Sensitize participants about new global initiatives and their impact and relationship with Africa's humanitarian action.

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