

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Press Release No: 00000 /2023

Date: 13 November 2023

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

African Union and Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation sign MoU to Harness Sports for Peace Building and Refugee Inclusion in African Games



The African Union and the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13 November 2023 to leverage the power of sports in advancing peace building initiatives and foster the active participation of refugees in the African Games. This strategic partnership reflects a shared commitment to utilizing the unifying force of sports to transcend boundaries, promote harmony, and empower marginalized communities.

Her Excellency Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, emphasized the transformative potential of sports, stating that "This collaboration aligns with the African Union's commitment to using sports as a catalyst for positive change, by integrating sport for refugees into formal sporting structures and eventually, their participation in the African Games. We are not only promoting inclusivity but also sending a powerful message of solidarity and unity. The partnership will culminate in the active involvement of refugees in various continental sporting events, thereby having the opportunity to showcase their talents at international competitions," the Commissioner underscored.

Amb. Tegla Loroupe, renowned Athlete and President of the Peace Foundation, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, indicating that "Sports have the unique ability to break down barriers and bring people together, promotes peace and coexistence. We believe that by involving refugees in the African Games, we can contribute to their integration and showcase the strength that diversity brings to our continent, Africa." The MoU outlines a comprehensive framework for joint initiatives, including the development of sports programs aimed at promoting peace and tolerance, as well as initiatives to facilitate the inclusion of refugees in various sporting activities, "Amb. Loroupe added.

In this landmark collaboration both parties are confident of the precedent set for the future, inspiring other regions and organizations to harness the potential of sports as a tool for social transformation. As Africa unites through the language of sports as a celebration of diversity, resilience and shared spirit of the continent, especially during the African Games, scheduled from 08-24 March 2024 in Ghana. The African Union and the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation are poised to make a lasting impact on the continent's journey toward peace, inclusivity and shared prosperity.

For further information, please contact:

1. **Robert Auguste | Senior Sports Officer** | Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development | African Union Commission Tel: +251 115 517 700 | E-mail: AugusteRO@africa-union.org | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2. **King David Cartey | Strategic Communication Expert** | Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development | African Union Commission Tel: +251 901090899 | E-mail: CarteyD@africa-union.org | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3. **Mr. Gamal Eldin Ahmed A. Karrar** | Senior Communication Officer | Information and Communication Directorate | E-mail: GamalK@africa-union.org

Information and Communication Directorate, African Union Commission | E-mail: DIC@africa-union.org

Web: www.au.int | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | Follow Us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)