

**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION****MEDIA ADVISORY**

**The African Union organises Stakeholders Validation Workshop on the Draft AU Policy Framework on Human Rights and Business**

**Invitation to Representatives of the Media**

**What:** Stakeholders Validation Workshop on the Draft AU Policy Framework on Human Rights and Business.

**When:** 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 18:00 p.m.

**Who:** Co-organized by the African Union Commission's Department of Political Affairs (AUC, DPA) and the European Union (EU).

**Where:** AU New Conference Building (Small Conference Room 4)

**Objective:** The main objective is to facilitate the development of Draft AU Policy Framework on Business and Human Rights by incorporating inputs and comments from representatives of member states, CSOs, businesses and other concerned stakeholders and validate it for presentation to the AU policy organs for consideration and adoption.

***Specific Objectives:***

1. Present the Draft Policy on Business and Human Rights to Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other key stakeholders for deliberation and consideration.
2. Make high quality inputs and comments into the draft Policy Framework on Business and Human Rights; and
3. Agree on an Action Plan for the popularization and implementation of the Policy Framework.

***The expected Outcome:*** Finalize the African Union Policy Framework on Business and Human Rights and its adoption by the Policy Organs of the African Union.

**Participants:** Representatives of AU Member States from capital level, RECs, National Human Rights Institutions/Commissions, Businesses, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Academia, Media and Human Rights Expert.

**Background:**

1. Business and Human Rights has become one of the evolving thematic areas with significant implications for human rights work in Africa. Africa is currently the world's fastest growing continent, and GDP is expected also to rise over the next decade, as foreign direct investment continues to grow. Many African countries have significant wealth of extractable natural resources and the continent continues to be a key source of minerals to the rest of the world. These developments provide a timely opportunity for promoting the integration of the Human Rights Guiding Principles into regional governance frameworks and State and business practices with a view to addressing business-related human rights challenges in Africa.
2. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights therefore presents opportunities to the African Union Commission to strengthen its work on business and human rights by developing its own policy framework which will be integrated in its relevant policies and strategies.

***JOURNALISTS ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT ON 21-22 MARCH 2017 AT THE AU HEADQUARTERS, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA***

**For more details on the meeting, please contact:**

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