



SPECIAL SUMMIT ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA



PRESS RELEASE No 7

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RECOMMENDS ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT CONVENTION AND OF THE KAMPALA DECLARATION ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Kampala, Uganda 20 October 2009 – After two-days of deliberations, the Executive Council of the African Union (AU) has adopted the Draft AU Convention on protection and assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) and the Draft Kampala Declaration. African Ministers of Foreign Affairs were meeting at an Extraordinary Session within the framework of the AU Special Summit on refugees, Returnees and IDP's in Africa which is being held in Kampala, Uganda from 19 to 23 October 2009.

During this extraordinary session, the Executive Council adopted the recommendations made by experts at their meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (5 - 7 November 2008) in preparation of the upcoming Summit. The recommendations include how to prevent forced displacement, given that it is a symptom of underlying crises that afflict many societies in Africa. Effective protection of victims of forced displacement, meeting the specific needs of displaced victims of natural disasters and rebuilding communities emerging from conflicts and disasters were as well topics on which experts recommended specific actions to member states in order for them to be addressed in a sustainable way.

The Draft Convention was also adopted by the Executive Council and will be submitted to the AU Assembly. For the Convention to come into force after it is endorsed by the AU Heads of States, fifteen (15) ratifications are necessary. The role of the AU will be to advocate and to create awareness at national levels to reach this point.

The Kampala Declaration was also adopted by AU Foreign Ministers today. It is now incumbent on AU leaders to commit themselves to more responsibility, more protection and more assistance to IDP's, those living like refugees in their own countries and to keep the promise of sustainably eradicating mass displacement in Africa, which is avoidable. Worth recalling that, the theme of this gathering is "African Union addressing the challenge of forced displacement in Africa".

The African Union Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) in Africa will kick off on Thursday, October 22, 2009.

Journalists are invited to attend the opening ceremony of the AU Summit on Refugees, Returnees and IDP's in Africa on Thursday, October 22 at 10h00 at the Victoria Hall of the Munyonyo Speke Resort.

Programme attached



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(REV 3)

**SPECIAL SUMMIT ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES
AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT
KAMPALA, UGANDA
22 – 23 OCTOBER 2009**

DRAFT PROGRAMME

**Theme: “African Union Addressing the Challenge of Forced Displacement
In Africa”**

22 OCTOBER 2009

09:30 HRS - ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

10:00 HRS - OPENING CEREMONY

- Welcome Remarks by a Representative of the Government of the Republic of Uganda
- Documentary Video on Forced Displacement in Africa
- Address by the Representative of the United Nations Secretary General
- Statement by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- Opening Remarks by the Chairperson of the African Union
- Keynote Address by H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda

11:30 HRS - COFFEE/TEA BREAK

12:10-12:20 HRS - Organization of Work
Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Programme

12:20 HRS - PRESENTATION BY REGIONAL CHAMPIONS ON THE
FOLLOWING SUB-THEMES

12:20-12:50 HRS - **Prevention and Root Causes**

12:50-13:20 HRS - **Burden Sharing and Protracted Situations**

13:20-13:50 HRS - **Reconciliation and Post Conflict Reconstruction**

13:50 HRS - LUNCH BREAK

15:45-16:15 HRS - **REFUGEES IN MIXED MIGRATORY MOVEMENTS**

16:30-17:00 HRS - **NATURAL DISASTERS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND
FOOD SECURITY**

17:00-17:30 HRS - CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL

17:30-18:00 HRS - PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT AU CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED
PERSONS IN AFRICA, BY THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

18:00-19:00HRS - CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AU
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE OF
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA

19:00 HRS - END OF DAY ONE

23 OCTOBER 2009

10:30 HRS - CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT KAMPALA
DECLARATION ON
REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED
PERSONS IN AFRICA

11:30 HRS - CLOSING CEREMONY

- Remarks by the Chairperson of the African Union
- Commission
- Remarks by the Chairperson of the African Union
- Closing Remarks by Chairperson of the Bureau of the
- Meeting

~~~~~ **End of Business** ~~~~~