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AU KNOWLEDGE FAIR AND CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON GOOD PRACTICES IN GENDER MAINSTREAMING BEGINS IN ADDIS ABABA

Addis Ababa: 22 May 2006- The African Union today began hosting a three day Knowledge Fair and Consultative Meeting on Good Practices in Gender Mainstreaming at its headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Today, the meeting was dedicated to knowledge and information sharing among the 40 participants along the lines of the theme: Good Practices in Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment"

The objectives of the three-day meeting are:

- To share experiences, knowledge, information and good practices in gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment;
- To provide an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute towards the development of the African Union Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan;
- To identify good practices in gender mainstreaming for incorporation into the Strategic Plan;
- To identify effective coordination mechanisms for gender mainstreaming between the AUC, RECs and Member States;
- To discuss papers on Good Practices in Gender Mainstreaming for publication and dissemination.

The African Union Commission has been in the fore front of gender mainstreaming since its formation and it already practices gender equality in the allocation of portfolios. Gender equality is a major goal of the African Union as stated in article 4(1) of the Constitutive Act.

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