

AFRICAN UNION

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AFRICAN UNION PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM: BANJUL, THE GAMBIA: 22-23 JUNE 2006

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Day 1:	22 June 2006
09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-10:00	Opening Ceremony (Statements by Government Representative, AU Commissioner and a Private Sector Representative of the host country)
10:00-10:20	Coffee/Tea Break
10:20-12:00	Role of the Private Sector in Regional Integration and Development Process and the Rationalization of Regional Economic Communities

Regional integration in Africa has for all along been championed by Governments and non-governmental organizations with limited involvement of the private sector. There is growing realization that the private sector can be a vehicle for strengthening the integration process by contributing to decision making on policy reforms and providing resources for the implementation of community projects and programmes. This session is premised on the fact that the private sector in Africa is small and has not been able to establish a viable dialogue with Governments. Thus it has not been able to influence socio-economic policy formulation and implementation and let alone the capacity to influence the agreements which are signed by the State on market integration or commitments made to regional and bi-regional organizations. The meeting will review the integration process in Africa through the Regional Economic Communities, which are the building blocs of the African Economic Community. The session is expected to examine strategies for empowering the private sector for it to be

effective in policy formulation and the creation of a business friendly environment and market integration strategies.

10:20-10:40	An Overview of the Integration Process in Africa (Opportunities and Challenges for the Private Sector) by Mr. Joseph Atta-Mensah, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA
10:40-11:40	Discussion
11:40-12:00	Rationalization of RECs as a tool for acceleration of integration in Africa by Dr. Rene N'Guttia Kouassi Director of Economic Affairs, AUC
12:00-13:00	Discussion
13:00-14:30	LUNCH BREAK
14:30-17:00	Engaging the Private Sector in the Creation of a Competitive and Integrated African Market This session will focus on the contribution of the Private Sector in creating a competitive and integrated African Market. This session may consider the following points to guide discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Harmonization of trade regimes across Africa, particularly as they relate to rules of origin, transit regulations and procedures; customs documentation and procedures and other trade facilitation issues;ii. Need for a corporate regulatory framework that facilitates the private sector to invest in any African country;iii. Role of the private sector in financial market integration and how Micro, Small and Medium-scale entrepreneurs can take advantage of the broadening financial market integration;
14:30-14:50	A presentation on engaging the private sector in the creation of a competitive and integrated African market by ADB
14:50-15:50	Discussion
15:50-16:10	Coffee/Tea Break

16:10-16:30	Private Sector Perspective on an Integrated African Market Opportunities and Challenges <i>by a Representative of the Private Sector</i>
16:30-17:30	Discussion
17:30	Meeting Adjourns

Day 2	23 June 2006
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09:00-11:00	Creating Effective Public-Private Sector Partnerships in the Development of Infrastructure and Promoting Connectivity in Africa
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The purpose of this session is to discuss ways in which the interest of the public and private sectors in PPP can be strengthened. The overall question to be addressed relates to the investor's expectation to risk mitigation, transparency, profitability and capacity to implement PPP projects effectively and to achieve the desired competitiveness of provision of services especially by public utilities.

09:00-09:20	Priority Sectors for PPPs to enhance connectivity in Africa <i>by Dr. Hespina Rukato, Deputy Chief Executive, NEPAD Secretariat</i>
09:20-10:00	Discussion
10:00-10:20	Pan African Commodity Exchange as an Integrative Tool in Africa <i>by Mr. Antony Adendorff, CEO, Pan African Commodities Platform</i>
10:20-11:00	Discussion
11:00-11:15	Coffee/Tea Break
11:15- 13:00	Preparation of the Report of the meeting
13:00- 14:30	LUNCH
14:30-16:00	Preparation of the Report of the meeting
16:00-16:30	Coffee/Tea Break

16:30-17:00 Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

17:00-17:30 Closing Statements