

MEETING OF THE FORUM FOR FORMER AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Background:

The Forum for Former African Heads of State and Government, commonly known as the Africa Forum, constitutes an informal network of former African Heads of State and Government and other African leaders and was founded on 11 January 2006. The Africa Forum is essentially designed to support the implementation of the broad objectives of the African Union (AU) and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordination Agency Initiative at national, sub-regional and regional levels. Significantly, the Africa Forum was established with the purpose of harnessing the experience, moral authority and good offices of former African Heads of State and Government. Consequently, the overall objective of the Forum is to contribute and support efforts aimed at social and economic transformation in Africa. Presently the Africa Forum has a total of 41 (forty one) members. Currently the Forum is chaired by His Excellency Joaquim Alberto Chissano, former President of the Republic of Mozambique and the Executive Secretariat is led by Dr. John A. Tesha, a career diplomat and national of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The core-competencies and the roles of the Forum include advisory, advocacy, facilitation, leadership and governance development as well as upholding the deep roots of democracy in Africa. To this end, the Forum is designed to support and complement the work of current African leaders, African inter-governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations in their efforts to address specific problem areas including: *i.* conflict prevention, management and resolution; *ii.* post-conflict reconstruction and development; *iii.* political, social and economic governance; democracy, elections and human rights; *iv.* regional integration and cooperation in Africa and *v.* national dialogue for reconciliation, peacemaking, peace building, and the promotion of a culture of tolerance between and among ethnic groups.

Membership to the Forum is based on an invitation by the General Assembly. The basic criteria for admittance of the members are democratic entry to and democratic exit from the highest position of leadership in the country. Members must have contributed to the advancement of democracy and good governance in their respective countries, sub-region and the continent. The members of the Forum are with impeccable democratic credentials and integrity and committed to sharing their individual and collective experiences for the benefit of African people. The members are also committed to not actively participate or seek offices in their national politics. Two more members are expected to be invited shortly.

Purpose:

The Forum seeks to continuously support the work of the multilateral institutions involved in the Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development through sharing their experiences and good offices. The 8th Joint Annual Meeting will focus on the African Union Agenda 2063.

The schedule of the Africa Forum meetings will be as follows:

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
28.03.15	10:00 – 17:30	Meeting of the members of the Africa Forum (Closed Session)	ECA
28.03.15	13:30–14:30	Official Luncheon for the Members	ECA
29.03.15	9:00–18:30	Meeting of the members of the Africa Forum (Closed Session)	ECA

Target Audience: Members of the Africa Forum and Invited Guests (Closed Session)

Africa Forum Focal Point and Contact Details:

Ms. Lashea Howard-Clinton

Programme Officer

Office of the Secretary of the Commission and Legal Advisor to the Executive Secretary

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Tel. + (251) 11 544 3717 / E-mail: lhoward-clinton@uneca.org

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia