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# AU WEEKLY

...keeping you updated

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Oxfam International Liaison Office with the African Union: OI-AU

## AU declares 2015 Year of Women's Empowerment

The 23rd Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Union concluded in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on 27 June 2014. The summit's Assembly, comprising Heads of State and Government of the African Union, was held from 26-27 June 2014 under the theme: "2014 Year of Agriculture and Food Security".

The Heads of State and Government adopted a number of key decisions with a view to enhancing the socio-economic and political development of the continent, notably in the areas of education, health, agriculture, trade, women and youth development.

The Assembly agreed to hold its 24th Ordinary Session at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30-31 January 2015 under the theme: "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063".

The Assembly received an update report on the development of Agenda 2063: the 50 year vision for Africa. The popular version of Agenda 2063; the Africa we Want was tabled, and the Assembly instructed the Commission and the NEPAD Agency, together with the UNECA, the African Development Bank to popularise it widely and solicit further inputs from the African citizenry.

<http://summits.au.int/en/23rdsummit/events/23rd-ordinary-session-african-union-ends-malabo>

### In this issue

- 50 Heads of State recommit to fight AIDS, TB, Malaria
- AU to have Standby Force by 2015
- Central African Republic factions take steps towards peace
- Burkina Faso to hold Youth Unemployment Summit
- AU pledges to sustain peace operations in Mali

## PEACE AND SECURITY

### AU Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan demands mandate extension

The African Union Commission of inquiry on South Sudan conflict wants its mandate, which ended mid-June, extended to allow the five-member team complete its tasks.

"We need an extension because we feel there is a lot to be done in order for the commission to carry out its mission", Pacifique

Manirakiza told reporters ahead of the 23 session of the AU summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

"Once we get an extension through the African Union summit, the commission will come back to Addis Ababa, where the entire commission will sit and take some strategic decisions as to how we will continue to carry out

our mandate," he added. The team visited churches, hospitals and locations where killings of innocent civilians occurred. The team also met members of the local communities, human rights workers, political party members and other actors.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201406280409.html>

## African Union promises to sustain peace operations in Mali

The African Union will sustain its support for peace and development in Mali. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma reiterated this support during a meeting with Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar

Keita.

During the meeting, President Keita updated the Chairperson on the situation of peace and security situation in Mali, and ongoing process to bring peace after the May situation in Kidal. He

paid homage to regional efforts that obtained a cease fire, and resumed dialogue with the armed group. They also discussed the role of the ECOWAS and the UN.

<http://summits.au.int/en/23rdsummit/events/>

## AU to have Standby Force operational by December, 2015

Africa is making progress towards a regional military force by the end of next year.

Ambassador Smail Chergui, the AU's Commissioner for Peace and Security said four of the five regional brigades due to make up the Standby Force were in an advanced state of readiness, including

the North African one.

At a meeting to mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Peace and Security Council, he said "progress is being made to have the Standby Force fully operationalised by December 2015.

Ambassador Chergui said the Peace and Security Council was providing analysts to regional blocs in Africa for a continent-wide early warning system for conflicts, aiming at improving prevention.

[http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=35263:african-union-says-progressing-to-military-force-by-end-2015&catid=56:diplomacy-a-peace&Itemid=111](http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35263:african-union-says-progressing-to-military-force-by-end-2015&catid=56:diplomacy-a-peace&Itemid=111)

## Warring factions in Central African Republic take steps towards peace

The two main factions in the Central African Republic's intercommunal conflict have taken a tentative step towards ending violence that has killed thousands and forced more than a million people to flee their homes.

The mainly Muslim ex-rebel Seleka coalition and the Christian militias known as anti-balaka set up a joint committee of six members each on Thursday to prepare for peace talks under the auspices of conflict-resolution

group PARETO.

The African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) has about 6,000 troops in CAR.

**Further Reading:** <http://www.peaceau.org>

## ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND LIVELIHOODS

### Burkina Faso to hold Summit on Youth Unemployment in September

President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso has briefed the Chairperson on the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma on preparations leading

up to the Summit on Youth Unemployment scheduled for September 2014 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

They also discussed the situation in Mali where

President Compaore is serving as a mediator, and he informed the Chair of the AU Commission of his planned travel to Bamako to pursue the discussions.

<http://summits.au.int/en/23rdsummit/events/president-compaore-briefs-auc-chairperson-upcoming-youth-unemployment-summit>

## 50 African Heads of State recommit to fighting AIDS, TB, Malaria

More than 50 African Heads of State and Government committed Friday to work together to sustain efforts to defeat AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria on the continent. With major commitments including the Abuja Declaration and the African Union Roadmap ending in 2015, the leaders emphasised the need to remain focused on ensuring the gains made,

will be sustained and that Africa moves towards fully controlling the three epidemics.

The AIDS Watch Africa report, which was endorsed by African leaders, has concrete recommendations that include prioritising AIDS, TB and malaria in the new development goals to ensure that the continued international financing of

the response will not be threatened. AIDS, TB and malaria remain major threats to Africa's health and development priorities and should therefore be at the core of the Post-2015 development agenda.

<http://summits.au.int/en/23rdsummit/events/african-leaders-adopt-experts-report-key-actions-defeat-aids-tb-and-malaria>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	DEPARTMENT	CONTACT
July, 9	South Sudan Independence Day Debate and Documentary Screening	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Oxfam International Liaison Office to the African Union	DÉSIRÉ ASSOGBAVI Head of Oxfam International Liaison Office to the African Union Tel: +251 911 20 83 32 E-mail: Desire.Assogbavi@oxfaminternational.org
July, 9	Meeting with civil society and international organisations working with HIV/AIDS	UNECA Compound Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	UNAIDS Liaison Office to the AU	Rosemary Museminali UNAIDS Representative to the AU and UNECA Tel: +251 11 5444042

July, 14-18	Seventh Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration	Ezulwini, Swaziland	Economic Affairs	Director of Economic Affairs Dr René N'guettia Kouassi Tel.: (251) 11-551 77 00 Ext 192 Fax : (251) 11-551 78 44 E-mail: <a href="mailto:deconomic@africa-union.org">deconomic@africa-union.org</a>
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