



JOINT PRESS RELEASE:

AUC RETREAT FOR DIRECTORS AND HEADS OF LIAISON OFFICES ON RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT OPENS IN BAHIR DAR

Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, 21 March 2016; African Union Commission Directors and Heads of Liaison Offices are attending a two-day retreat in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia that is focused on reforming their respective Departments and Liaison Offices' performance management systems, measurement and reporting approaches using the Results Based Management (RBM) system. The retreat has been organised jointly by the Peace and Security Department (PSD) and the Directorate of Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Resource Mobilization (SPPMERM) of the African Union Commission, in conjunction with International Alert.

RBM is a management strategy aimed at achieving important changes in the way organisations operate, with improving performance in terms of results as its central orientation. Its primary purpose is to improve efficiency and effectiveness through organisational learning, and secondly to fulfil accountability obligations through performance reporting. The intensive two-day orientation and consultation aims to deepen the understanding among the AUC managers represented on the use of RBM competencies, skills, and tools, to develop, manage and coach their staff in their workplace as well as to effectively review progress reports before approving them.

Speaking when he opened the Retreat, the Acting Director of the Peace and Security Department, Dr. Admore Kambudzi said that entrenching a culture of Results Based Management within the Department as well as in the AU Liaison Offices was critical to realising the goal of a conflict-free Africa. He said that contrary to common perception, the AU Liaison offices were established in order to serve not just the PSD, but the entire Commission, adding that more efficient and accountable Liaison Offices would in-turn enhance the ability of the whole of the AUC to deliver holistically to the Continent. *"It is time that the AUC begun to deliver as one, particularly in the fragile conflict and post-conflict areas where you are based. Therefore the principles of RBM should only serve to strengthen the way we plan our projects, implement them, monitor performance and report across the broad scope of delivery at the AUC."*

Speaking during the opening, the Acting Director for the Directorate of Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Resource Mobilization (SPPMERM), Christopher Cyprian Kachiza said that this RBM retreat is timely and crucial because it is anchored in the AUC's first ten-year implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, the Continent's blueprint for a prosperous and united Africa. *"In implementing the Executive Council Decision calling for improved programme management as well as the AU Agenda 2063, the SPPMERM sees the RBM as an opportunity for us to streamline our internal processes, plan together, set standard indicators, and break away from the silo-approach to working at the Commission,"* he added.

Dr. Lulseged Abebe, Senior Advisor to the AU at International Alert thanked the participants for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend this important retreat. *“I have no doubt that through sharing experiences and building on our knowledge of RBM we will go a long way towards strengthening the capacities of our AU Liaison offices and their interaction with the Headquarters to conduct joint strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation and reporting. I hope you will identify with, and embrace as your own, the various RBM tools and approaches, and that you will find them useful for making strategic policy and programming decisions,”* he concluded.

The training is part of a joint project between the Peace and Security Department of the AUC and International Alert meant to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of AU Liaison Offices to engage with multiple actors, including civil society, academic institutions, the media, and parliamentarians, contributing to increasing the AU’s profile as well as supporting citizens’ demands for transparent and accountable institutions. The three-year project is funded by the Government of Sweden.

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org